

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Based on the books of Rudyard Kipling

Adapted for stage by David Morgan

Music by Jaime Ramirez

Study Guide

The Magik Theatre 2009

SUMMARY: THE JUNGLE BOOK

In the forests of India, a female wolf finds a human baby. She wants to raise the boy as her own cub. She names him Mowgli because he reminds her of a little frog. Shere Khan, a tiger, sees Mowgli and wants to eat him. The wolf pack protects Mowgli and gives his new mother permission to raise him as a wolf. Bagheera, a black panther, and Baloo, a bear, volunteer to teach Mowgli the Jungle Law and protect him from Shere Khan. Mowgli's wolf father, Akela, agrees.

Many years later, Bagheera and Baloo are still teaching Mowgli, who would rather play. The Bandar Log, the jungle's monkey tribe, captures Mowgli's attention and he runs away from his teachers. At first, he finds the monkeys' carefree, playful lifestyle much more fun than Bagheera and Baloo's constant teaching. But when Mowgli tries to leave the party, the monkeys won't let him go. Bagheera and Baloo recruit Kaa, a python, to rescue Mowgli from his clever monkey captors.

Shere Khan objects to Mowgli's presence; he thinks that nothing good can come of a man in the jungle. His sneaky stooge, a hyena named Tabaqui, suggests a way Shere Khan can get Mowgli. After Tabaqui leaves to do the tiger's dirty work, Shere Khan threatens Mowgli and his teachers. Mowgli goes to the man village to get fire to scare away Shere Khan. When he sees humans in the village for the first time, Mowgli realizes he is one of them. Mowgli grabs a burning stick and runs to the wolf council. There, he banishes Shere Khan using the fire. Bagheera tells Mowgli he must leave the jungle to live with other mankind. Before he leaves, Mowgli promises never to forget his jungle family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Who are the main characters in the show? Why do you think they're main characters?
- 2) What is the Jungle Law? Why are laws and rules important to communities? What are some of the rules of your classroom?
- 3) What are some advantages to being a man cub in the jungle? What are some disadvantages?
- 4) If you had to protect Mowgli, what would you do differently than Bagheera and Baloo?
- 5) What did Mowgli learn about the Bandar Log?




- 6) How do the personalities of the jungle animals in the story reflect the real-life qualities of those animals? If you were a jungle animal, which one would you be? Explain why.
- 7) In order to live with other men, Mowgli had to give up living with his jungle family and friends. Have you ever had to make a choice like that? What helped you decide?
- 8) Which character would you most like to be friends with? Explain why.
- 9) Is this story fiction or non-fiction? What makes you think so?
- 10) How was the show similar to Rudyard Kipling's stories? How was it different?

GEOGRAPHY

1. The Jungle Book takes place in India, a country in Asia. On the map below, outline India.
2. Locate and mark your city or town on the map. Locate and mark New Delhi, the capital of India. Using a reference tool (like an atlas), find the distance between your city/ town and New Delhi.
3. Choose an animal from The Jungle Book. Using the map below, color the parts of the world where that animal lives in nature.

Be sure to give your map a title, legend, and compass rose!

MAP TITLE:	
	<u>LEGEND</u>
	<u>COMPASS ROSE</u>

ART / THEATRE : Masks

Make your own jungle mask. Materials to use may include paper plates, string, construction paper, yarn, feathers, glitter, tissue paper, fabric, plastic cups, raffia, and glue.

As a class, create a play using your masks . Who are the main characters? Are they friends? Are they foes? Where and when is your story set? Perform your play for other students, teachers, or parents.

Other Books by Rudyard Kipling

Just So Stories for Little Children (grades pre-K – 5)

Captains Courageous (grades 6 – 12+)

Kim (grades 6 – 12+)

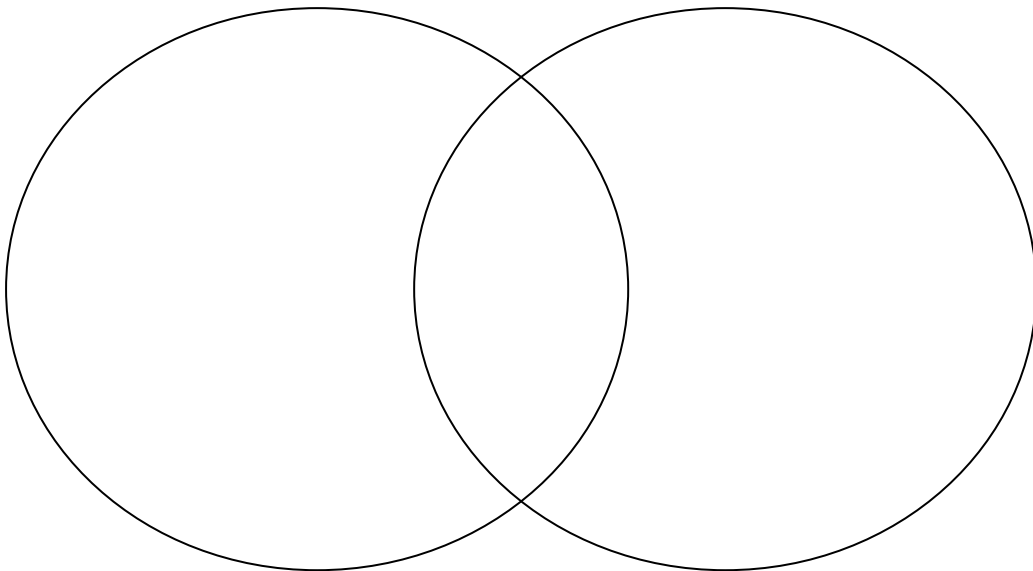
MATH

Choose two characters from *The Jungle Book*. How are they alike? How are they different? Make a Venn diagram to show how the characters are alike and how they are different.

More exercises:

1. Compare/contrast any two wild animals.
2. Compare/contrast common pets to jungle animals.
3. Compare/contrast three characters/animals.

Be sure to label your Venn diagrams! Share your diagrams with your class.



LULLABIES

Lullabies are songs we sing to soothe a person, or to help them go to sleep. Parents often sing lullabies to their children. Rudyard Kipling's poem "Seal Lullaby" appears in *Jungle Book*: a woman in the village sings it to her baby. Some common lullabies are "Hush Little Baby", "All the Pretty Little Horses", and "Rock-a-Bye, Baby".

Sing these songs as a class. What do they have in common? If you wanted to write a lullaby, what kinds of words would you use? How would you sing it? Who would you sing it to?

Write a short lullaby to share with your class. Sweet dreams!

MUSIC TERMS

This show is a **musical**. That means the characters sing as well as speak.

VOICE TYPES

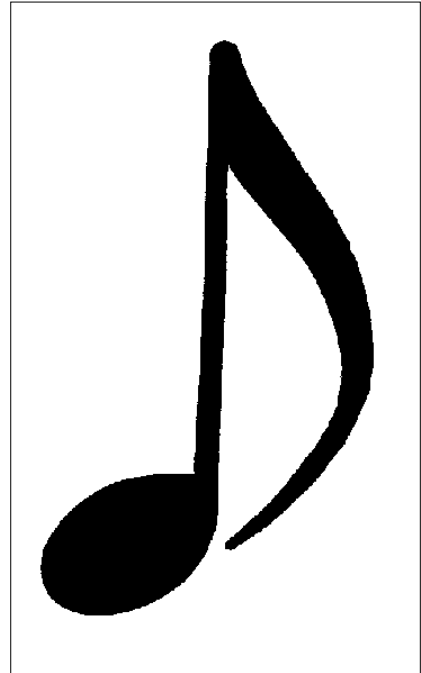
Different people sing differently. Some people sing really high. They are called **sopranos**. They are usually women.

Women who sing lower are called **altos**.

Men who have higher-pitched voices are called **tenors**. The romantic leads in many musicals are tenors.

Men who sing low are called **basses**. These men often play villains or funny characters.

>>>What voice types did the actors in *The Jungle Book* have? How about you? Your parents? Your teachers?



VOLUME

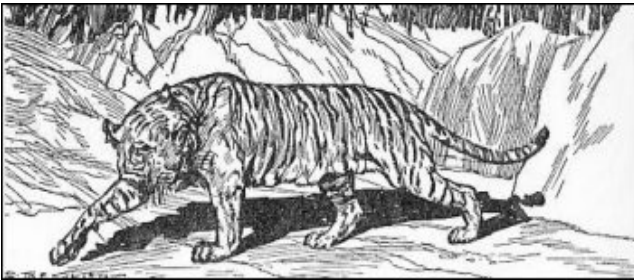
You can also sing at different volumes. If you sing **forte** ("FOR-tay") it means you sing or play loudly. If you sing or play **piano** ("pee-AH-no") it means you sing or play very softly. You can play the piano at *piano* volume! These musical terms are Italian.

When you read music you read it from a book called a **score**. The score tells you who is singing and how they are singing. It also tells the conductor what instruments should play and how loudly or softly they should play.

>>>How did the actors in *The Jungle Book* use volume to tell the story?



SCIENCE: ANIMALS OF THE JUNGLE BOOK



SHERE KHAN

Shere Khan is a tiger. His name means "tiger chief" in some Indian dialects. Very large cats, tigers are carnivores, which means they mostly eat meat. Male Bengal tigers (like Shere Khan) can measure 10 feet in length and weigh up to 600 pounds. The Bengal tiger is currently an endangered species.

BAGHEERA

"Bagheera" means "panther" in Hindustani, a language of India. Like tigers, panthers are a type of cat and are carnivores. Like all cats, they have excellent night vision. They are related to leopards, which have spots. Can you think of a benefit of the panther's black coat?



BALOO

Baloo is a bear, which is the meaning of his name in Hindustani. Described by Kipling as a "sleepy old gray bear", Baloo was probably meant to be an Asian black bear, an animal common in Indian forests. These bears are omnivores, which means they eat plants, meat, and insects. Asian black bears can grow to 6 feet in length and almost 500 pounds.

AKELA

Akela is a wolf. According to Rudyard Kipling, "Akela" means "alone". The Indian wolf has a reddish-white fur coat. Wolves live together in a pack and cooperate to hunt and raise their cubs. Indian wolves are currently an endangered species.

Sources: <http://www.kipling.org.uk>
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

