



Cubs

The beginning and the Jungle Book

The picture above is probably what you think of when you hear the Jungle Book mentioned. Disney has made Jungle Book a household name. Most of us have all heard Baloo singing “The bear necessities of life”. But did you know that there is much more to the story than that.

By now you have probably read about BP the founder of Scouts, well as it says there in 1916, he started the Wolf Cubs. Rudyard Kipling the man who wrote the Jungle Book, was a friend of his. BP liked the Jungle Book stories they were fun and encouraged an interest in nature and outdoor activities, which appealed to boys as much then as it does today. It also showed the characters strict code of behaviour and loyalty, fair play and clean living which could well serve as a pattern for every day life.



Rudyard Kipling author of The Jungle Book



Wolf Cub Handbook published 1916

So BP asked Rudyard Kipling if he could use the Jungle Book stories as the background to the Wolf Cubs.

Why Wolf Cubs?

On his travels BP had met a lot of people and he had been really impressed by what good scouts Indians were. Every man in the tribe learnt to be a good scout, as a young brave. As they learnt they would be given the nickname “Wolf”, there would be “Grey Wolf”, “Black Wolf” and so on; “Wolf” being the title honour of a really good scout. BP thought this would make a great name and they were called Wolf Cubs, Cubs meaning younger members of the Scouting family. The name Wolf Cubs stayed with the section till 1966, when they became Cub Scouts.

(The term “scout” means a pioneer or explorer; someone who is self-sufficient and able to look after themselves, while “Scout” with a capital S is a member of the Scout Association.)



Wolf Cubs at camp

Right so getting back to the Jungle Book. The story of how Mowgli was accepted into the wolf pack is one you will not have seen in the Disney cartoons. It is very similar to how you will be welcome into your new Cub Pack and taught the ways of Scouting by your Leaders.

Mowgli joins the Wolf Pack

It was seven o'clock on a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest. Mother Wolf lay with new cubs, and the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived.

"Augrh!" said Father Wolf, "it is time to hunt again"; and he was just about to leave the cave when they heard a voice.

"Good luck go with you, O Chief of the Wolves, and remember me for I am so hungry." It was the jackal, Tabaqui, the wolves of India despise Tabaqui because he runs about making mischief, and telling tales. "Enter, then, and look," said Father Wolf, stiffly; "but there is no food here."

"For a wolf, no," said Tabaqui; "but for so mean a person as myself a dry bone is a good feast". He scuttled to the back of the cave, where he found a old bone with some meat on it, and sat cracking the gnawing on it.

"Thanks," he said, licking his lips. "Shere Khan, has shifted his hunting-grounds. He will hunt among these hills during the next moon, so he has told me."

Shere Khan was the tiger who lived near the Waingunga River, twenty miles away.

"He has no right!" Father Wolf began angrily. "By the Law of the Jungle he has no right to change his hunting grounds without fair warning. He will frighten every head of game within ten miles; and I have to kill for two, these days."

"Out!" snapped Father Wolf. "Out, and hunt with thy master. You have done harm enough for one night."

"I go," said Tabaqui, quietly. "You can hear Shere Khan below in the thickets. I might have saved myself the message."

Father Wolf listened, and in the dark valley that ran down to a little river, he heard the dry, angry, whine of a tiger who has caught nothing and does not care if all the jungle knows it.

"The fool!" said Father Wolf. "To begin a night's work with that noise!"

"H'sh! It is neither bullock nor buck that he hunts to-night," said Mother Wolf; "it is Man." The whine had changed to a sort of humming purr that seemed to roll from every quarter of the compass. It was the noise that bewilders wood-cutters, and makes them run sometimes into the very mouth of the tiger.

"Man!" said Father Wolf, showing all his white teeth. "Faugh! Are there not enough beetles and frogs that he must eat Man – and on our ground too!"

The Law of the Jungle, which never orders anything without a reason, forbids every beast to eat Man except when he is killing to show his children how to kill, and then he must hunt outside the hunting-grounds of his pack or tribe. The real reason for this is that man-killing means, sooner or later, the arrival of white men on elephants, with guns, and hundreds of brown men with gongs and rockets and torches. Then everybody in the jungle suffers.

The purr grew louder, and ended in the full-throated "Aarh!" of the tiger's charge. Then there was a howl – and an un tigerish howl – from Shere Khan.

"He has missed," said Mother Wolf. "What is it?" Father Wolf ran out a few paces and heard Shere Khan muttering and mumbling savagely, as he tumbled about in the scrub.

"The fool has had no more sense than to jump at a wood-cutters' camp-fire, so he has burned his feet," said Father Wolf, with a grunt. "Tabaqui is with him."

"Something is coming uphill," said Mother Wolf, twitching one ear. "Get ready."

The bushes rustled a little in the thicket, and Father Wolf dropped with his haunches under him, ready for his leap. Then, if you had been watching, you would have seen the most wonderful thing in the world, for the wolf stopped in mid-spring.

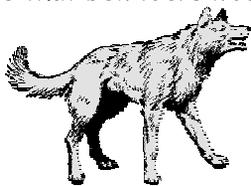
"Man!" he snapped. "A man's cub. Look!"

Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch, stood a naked brown baby who could just walk. He looked up into Father Wolf's face and laughed.

"Is that a man's cub?" said Mother Wolf. "I have never seen one. Bring it here."

"How little! How naked, and – how bold!" said Mother Wolf, softly. The baby was pushing his into the cave to the warmth of the other cubs sleeping.

The moonlight was blocked out of the mouth of the cave, for Shere Khan's great square head and shoulders were thrust into the entrance, Tabaqui, behind him, was squeaking: "My Lord, my Lord, it went in here!"



"Shere Khan does us great honour," said Father Wolf, but his eyes were very angry. "What does Shere Khan need?"

"My quarry. A man's cub went this way," said Shere Khan. "Its parents have run off. Give it to me."

Father Wolf knew that the mouth of the cave was too narrow for a tiger to come in by. Even where he was, Shere Khan's shoulders and fore paws were cramped.

"The Wolves are a free people," said Father Wolf. "They take orders from the Head of the Pack, and not from any striped cattle-killer. The man's cub is ours – to kill if we choose."

The tiger's roar filled the cave with thunder. Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward, her eyes, like two green moons in the darkness, facing the blazing eyes of Shere Khan.



"It is I, Raksha who answers. The man's cub is mine! He shall not be killed. He shall live to run with the Pack and to hunt with the Pack; and in the end, look you, hunter of little naked cubs for he shall hunt you! Now get out!"

Shere Khan might have faced Father Wolf, but he could not stand up against Mother Wolf, for he knew that where he was she had all the advantage, and would fight to the death to protect her cubs. So he backed out of the cave-mouth growling, and when he was clear he shouted; "We will see what the Pack will say to this fostering of man-cubs. The cub is mine, and to my teeth he will come in the end!"

"Shere Khan speaks this much truth. The cub must be shown to the Pack and I don't know what they will say," said Father Wolf.

The Law of the Jungle lays down very clearly that any wolf may, when he marries, withdraws from the Pack he belongs to; but as soon as his cubs are old enough to stand on their feet he must bring them to the Pack Council, which is generally held once a month at full moon, in order that the other wolves may identify them. After that inspection the cubs are free to run where they please, and until they have killed their first buck no excuse is accepted if a grown wolf of the Pack kills one of them.

On the first night of the full moon Father and Mother Wolf took Mowgli and the other cubs to the Council Rock – a hilltop covered with stones and boulders where a hundred wolves could hide. Akela, the great grey Lone Wolf, who led all the Pack by strength and cunning, lay out at full length on his rock, and below him sat forty or more wolves of every size and colour. .

Akela from his rock began, "Ye know the Law – ye know the Law! Look well, O Wolves!" And the anxious mothers would take up the call: "Look – look well, O Wolves!" And each Wolf cub was paraded in front of the pack. At last Father Wolf pushed "Mowgli" (named so because he was naked like a frog), into the centre. Akela never raised his head from his paws, but went on with the monotonous cry, "Look well!"



A muffled roar came up from behind the rocks – the voice of Shere Khan crying, "The cub is mine; give him to me. What have the Free People to do with a man's cub?"

There was a chorus of deep growls, and a young wolf in his fourth year flung back Shere Khan's question to Akela: "What have the Free People to do with a man's cub?"

Now the Law of the Jungle lays down that if there is any dispute as to the right of a cub to be accepted by the Pack, he must be spoken for by at least two members of the Pack who are not his father and mother.



"Who speaks for this cub?" said Akela. "Among the Free People, who speaks?" There was no answer.

Then the only other creature who is allowed at the Pack Council – Baloo, the sleepy brown bear who teaches the wolf cubs the Law of the Jungle, came forward to speak.

"I speak for the man's cub. There is no harm in a man's cub. I have no gift of words, but I speak the truth. Let him run with the Pack, and be entered with the others. I myself will teach him."

"We need yet another," said Akela. "Baloo has spoken, and he is our teacher for the young cubs. Who speaks besides Baloo?"

A black shadow dropped down into the circle. It was Bagheera, the Black Panther.

"I have no right in your assembly" said Bagheera, "but if I may speak does the Law of the Jungle not say, that if there is a doubt which is not a killing matter in regard to a new cub, the life of that cub may be bought at a price. And the Law does not say who may or may not pay that price. Am I right?"

"Speak," said Akela.

"To kill a naked cub is shame. Besides, he may would surely make better sport when he is grown. Baloo has spoken on his behalf. Now to Baloo's word I will add one bull, and a fat one, newly killed, not half a mile from here, if you will accept the man's cub according to the Law."

Now the wolf pack who were always hungry began shouting "What matter? He will die in the winter rains. He will scorch in the sun. What harm can a naked frog do us? Let him run with the Pack, let him be accepted."

And then came Akela's deep bay, crying: "Look well – look well, O Wolves!"

The Wolves came up one by one to look at Mowgli, who was sitting playing with the other cubs on the ground. Then at last they ran down the hill towards the dead bull, and only Akela, Bagheera, Baloo, and Mowgli's wolf family were left.

Shere Khan roared still in the night, for he was very angry that Mowgli had not been handed over to him.

"Take him, away" said Akela to Father Wolf, "and train him as befits one of the Free People."

And that is how Mowgli was entered into the Sezonee wolf-pack for the price of a bull and on Baloo's good word.



Find five names from *The Jungle Book* then write the names under the pictures.

B	A	L	B	S	H	E	S
D	F	B	A	L	O	O	H
M	O	W	G	L	I	W	E
M	A	R	H	D	O	U	R
L	I	N	E	V	M	O	E
T	A	B	E	K	H	A	K
M	O	A	R	H	C	V	H
E	V	E	A	K	E	L	A
D	J	R	F	H	M	C	N



The Leaders of the Cub Scout Pack are often known by the names of characters in *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling. Here are some of them. How many do you recognise? Can you colour them in?



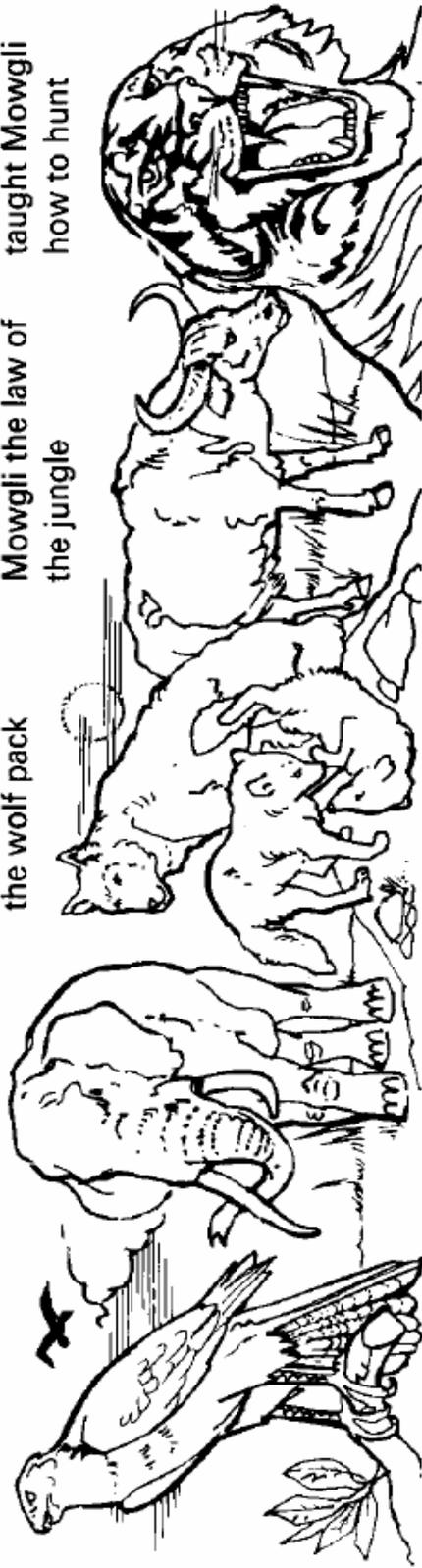
Akela – the leader of the wolves

Kaa – the snake

Mowgli – the boy who joined the wolf pack

Baloo – the bear who taught Mowgli the law of the jungle

Bagheera – the black panther who taught Mowgli how to hunt



Chil – the kite, a bird of prey

Hathi – the elephant

Raksha – the mother wolf

Rama – the leader of the buffalo herd

Shere Khan – the tiger

Colouring pages

