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Cast

1 Plays Narrator 1/Father Wolf/Wolf 1/ Baloo/ Monkey 1
2 Plays Narrator 2/Shere Kahn/ Wolf 2/Monkey 2/Vulture 2
3 Plays Narrator 3/Wolf 3/Bagheera/Monkey 3/Vulture 3
4 also plays Mowgli
5 Plays Narrator 5/Mother Wolf/Kaa/Monkey 5

The set is a tangle of ropes and bars suggesting a jungle, the shadows of which are cast against a backdrop lit as an evening sky. The sun a blaze of colours through clouds building to a tropical storm. Percussion builds to a climax and the cast run on and speak to the audience.

3 If you have ever stood in the pouring rain, with your head held high, arms open wide and big fat drops of cooling rain streaming down your face.

1 If you’ve ever smelt the night air, wanted to race out into the darkness to stand under the stars, dance in the shadows and howl at the moon. (Cast all howl like wolves)

5 If you have then this is the story for you. (thunder and the sound of pouring rain)

2 It starts deep in the middle of a jungle on one of those dark nights.

1 The moon has not yet risen.

3 There are no stars to brighten the sky.

2 It is so dark that you cannot see your own hand.
But if you listen carefully,

(We hear various animal noises)

Very carefully.

Amongst all the other sounds of the night.

You might hear

Footsteps.

Footsteps, coming through the darkness.

And there…

There, in the middle of that great jungle.

Alone

All alone

Is a young child, (4 is this child)

A very young child.

Who is stumbling (His lightness of spirit allows him to laugh gently, innocent, unafraid)

Through tangled creepers.

And wading

Up to his chest

In treacherous swamps and clambering

Over fallen trees.
Past slithering shadows *(child stops to look curious but unafraid)*

Watched by wild animals *(sudden alarm cry of an animal)*

One of those wild animals

A tiger *(a quiet growl)*

Is following him.

*(The tiger has a limp)* Lifting and placing his padded paws without making a sound, the tiger, sniffs the air. Tracks the child's scent. Creeps closer. Aaagh! *(his leg pains him, he licks his paw and continues)* and closer, the tiger can almost taste the child as he slinks through the underbrush, the tiger prepares to pounce, to leap and bury his sharp claws in the young child. When suddenly the child disappears. Disappears into the mouth of a cave *(the tiger roars a frustrated roar)*.

Deep inside that cave, a wolf

And her mate

On hearing the tigers roar, *(Shere Kahn roars again)* wake from a deep sleep.

Hackles rising

The wolves arch their backs

Ready to leap

Ready to protect their young

From any danger.

*(Mowgli enters the cave and F/Wolf goes to attack)*
M/Wolf  Wait. It’s a man cub.

F/Wolf  Leave him to me.

M/Wolf  Wait. A young one. He’s no danger to us.

F/Wolf  No danger? At that moment.

Shere Kahn  The tiger thrust his head into the narrow entrance of the cave. *(roars)*

F/Wolf  Shere Kahn. It’s Shere kahn *(M Wolf hides Mowgli)*

M/Wolf  I can see that.

F/Wolf  What do we do?

M/Wolf  What do you want with us?

Shere Kahn  Ehnh… Where’s the man cub? *(M/Wolf puts herself between The man cub and the tiger)*

M/Wolf  The what?

Shere Kahn  The man cub. I was stalking him. He’s mine. Hand him over.

F/Wolf  We’d better do as he says.

M/Wolf  Yours?

Shere Kahn  Yes mine.

F/Wolf  We don’t want any trouble.

M/Wolf  How is he yours? He stumbled into our home.

Shere Kahn  You call this pokey little cave a home.

F/Wolf  Pokey. Its not pokey. Its perfect.
Shere Kahn  I can barely fit through the door.

M/Wolf  That’s the idea.

Shere Kahn  *(Shere kahn squeezes into the cave)* Enough. Give me the man cub.

M/Wolf  Why should we take orders from you.

Shere Kahn  Because, little Miss Wolf, I am Shere Kahn.

M/Wolf  And we are wolves and we have our own ways. We don’t take orders from some flea bitten tiger.

Shere Kahn  I’ll pretend you didn’t say that. But I am not prepared to stand here all day, nosing into your dog’s den to get what already belongs…*(sees Mowgli)* belongs to me.

M/Wolf  Belongs to you.

Shere Kahn  I’m losing my patience.

M/Wolf  In what way does he belong to you.

Shere Kahn  Just give him to me.

M/Wolf  No. I won’t. Look at him. He’s making himself at home here, and here, in our home, we decide what happens, who stays, who goes.

F/Wolf  She’s right about that.

Shere Kahn  You be quiet. I’ll deal with you in a minute.

M/Wolf  And here is where he shall stay, until he chooses to leave.

Shere Kahn  Chooses! He’s a child. How’s he going to choose? Eeeny meeny miny mo? I want him.

M/Wolf  It’s not your decision. It’s ours and his. And I say that for now,
he can live with us, as part of our family, he can learn to run with us, to hunt with us.

Shere Kahn  He’ll never keep up on those chubby little legs. Why don’t you just let me eat them?

F/Wolf  Eat them!

M/Wolf  If you’re hungry go and find some worthy prey, not this young man cub. He is staying with us.

F/Wolf  He is? (M/Wolf growls at him) Yes he is. He’s staying with us.

Shere Kahn  We’ll see what the rest of the wolves think about you bringing up a man cub.

M/Wolf  One day, hunter of little children. You too will be hunted. Your turn will come. Maybe this man cub will hunt you down, maybe he will kill you.

Shere Kahn  Kill me. How? Tickle me to death with his little fingers.

M/Wolf  Get out.

Shere Kahn  I’ll go away, but I won’t go far, I’ll be watching and waiting. Let him out of your sight and he’s mine. Your cute little man cub won’t last long in the jungle. (roars and leaves)

F/Wolf  (Through the following Mowgli is flicking father wolfs nose/ stroking his fur/ generally getting in too close) What have we done? This is a mistake. A terrible mistake.

M/Wolf  What else could we do? Hand the man cub over to be eaten. Is that what you wanted? Imagine it was one of our own cubs out there on their own and someone just handed them over to be killed, to be ripped apart and eaten.

F/Wolf  I know, I know, but it’s dangerous to make an enemy of Shere Kahn, he’s mean and vengeful and he’s right. Shere Kahn’s right. (Mowgli tries to climb on F/Wolf’s back) Away! (He pushes Mowgli away) One day the man cub will have to be
shown to the pack for approval. They’ll never accept him. He’s not one of us. He’s smooth skinned and hairless. He’s a man cub, he’s not one of ours. *(Mowgli grabs his arm and tries to pull him away)* Get off! *(bit of a physical to and fro game father laughs despite himself)* stop it now. Anyway he can’t stay here with us, it’s not practical, we’ve got cubs of our own to look after. *(Mowgli plays with his hair)* What’s he….can you….can you get him off?

M/Wolf I think he likes you.

F/Wolf That’s not the point. Maybe we could just *(Mowgli tickles father wolf who laughs)* Come on stop that *(Mowgli stops)* Maybe we could just leave him under a bush for someone else to find. *(M/Wolf looks at him)* He's not our child! *(about Mowgli)* don’t look at me like that, why does he have to look at me like that? Why does he have to be so sweet? *(Mowgli tickles him)* No please, oh no, hey that’s quite enough of that. *(Mowgli does it again)*

M/Wolf *(Laughing warmly)* He is very lovely, let’s call him Mowgli.

F/Wolf Mowgli?

M/Wolf Like the frog.

F/Wolf *(affectionately)* Like the frog.

M/Wolf Smooth skinned and hairless.

F/Wolf *(Warm and loving, mowgli still nestled into him)* I’m not sure it’s a good idea but it looks like he’s here to stay. *(to the audience)* The man cub…

M/Wolf Mowgli

F/Wolf The man cub, Mowgli, stayed with us for several winters

M/Wolf Until he had learnt to run and play with the other cubs.
And we grew to love him like one of our own

(then Mowgli chasing away, the others after him, fighting over something in their mouths, pulling it with their teeth. Mowgli grabs it with his hands, they are flummoxed. The cubs don’t have hands. Mowgli teases them with it, keeps it out of their reach. Again the other cubs can’t do this. They are aware of the difference. A sudden flash of lightning and thunder and Mowgli stands upright and hold his arms out under the rain, howling. The other cubs howl at the sky. As they run away, one of the cubs (2) gets a thorn in its foot.)

What’s the matter? Let me see. Oh no, you’ve got a thorn stuck in your paw. Come on, come on. (she tries to get it out with her teeth) I cant get it, you have to wait for it to work its way out. (Mowgli takes over and picks the thorn put with his fingers, the cub nuzzles Mowgli as if to say thank you)

Mowgli fitted in so well

He felt as if he belonged in the jungle. But one night a few months later, when the moon was full.

It’s time now. The law of the jungle says that all cubs must be brought before the pack when they’re old enough. He’s old enough now. We have to see if they will accept him.

No. I want more time with him, he’s part of our family.

I know, but he can’t stay as a cub forever.

What if they reject him. What if they chase him out of the jungle or worse tear him apart.

They won’t do that.

They might.

He won’t be rejected.
F/Wolf  You can’t be sure.

M/Wolf  Whatever they decide he has to face the pack alone.

F/Wolf  We took Mowgli to the council rock, where the wolf pack met.  
(Mowgli is nudged into the centre by the mother wolf)

M Wolf  It won’t take long. You’ll be alright.

F/Wolf  We’ll be right here. Be strong Mowgli. Just look ‘em in the eye.  
Let ‘em know who you are. That you’re one of us. They’ll love you…..

M/Wolf  It’s time now.

F/Wolf  Mowgli stood alone on the barren hillside.

3/Wolf  Watched by a great circle of wolves.

F/Wolf  I can’t bear it.

M/Wolf  He’s going to be just fine. Take your time wolves. Look well.  
Look well at the man cub. Can he be one of us? Make your  
decision. Does he stay or go?

2/Wolf  And one

3/Wolf  By one,

M/Wolf  The wolves. Crept up to the boy (2and 3 become wolves  
circling, snarling)

F/Wolf  Circled him.

3/Wolf  Sniffed at him.

2/Wolf  But as the boy caught their eye

M/Wolf  Don’t be scared Mowgli.
F/Wolf And held their gaze…

(Mowgli tentatively reaches out his hand and strokes a 2/Wolf’s head, the wolf softens, this happens again with 3/Wolf)

M/Wolf Well done Mowgli.

F/Wolf Then from behind the rocks (A huge roar is heard)

M/Wolf Came the voice of Shere Kahn.

Shere Kahn The man cub is mine. Give him to me.

M/Wolf Hold your ground wolves. He has no right to speak here.

Shere Kahn I’m Shere Kahn. I have every right. The man cub’s playing with you. Kick him out. If you don’t one day he will grow into a man and then you’ll be sorry. He’ll bring trouble down on all of you.

M/Wolf Only you bring trouble.

Shere Kahn Ignore her. Look at my leg. Men did this to me for absolutely no reason and I hate them for it. I limp because of man’s cruelty.

M/Wolf He limps because he killed where he should not.

Shere Kahn No one tells me where I should or should not hunt.

M/Wolf He hunted the animals that belonged to the men of the village. We do not do that.

Shere Kahn What does she know?

M/Wolf You were so greedy, the men had to build fires to protect themselves.
Shere Kahn: Not true.

M/Wolf: They burnt you to keep you away. That’s why you limp.

Shere Kahn: That’s all in the past. Let’s talk about the man cub. Isn’t it one of your wolf laws that a new cub has to be spoken for by two members of your pack, other than his parents? No one seems to be saying anything.

M/Wolf: Wolves. Mowgli is one of you. Remember when you were growing up, how he played with you, like a brother.

F/Wolf: But not one of the wolves spoke up. (to M/Wolf) What are we going to do?

M/Wolf: Stay calm. It’s not over yet.

Shere Kahn: Nothing to say….. I thought not. (advances on Mowgli). So the man cub is mine. Come here little one.

1/Baloo: (becoming Baloo) The only other creature (yawn) pardon me, allowed at the council, was (yawning and stretching) me, Baloo. The sleepy brown bear. Nite nite everybody. (starts to go back to sleep)

M/Wolf: Baloo!

Baloo: What? What? I wasn’t asleep, I was thinking. What did I miss?

M/Wolf: Baloo, none of the wolves will speak for the man cub. Will you speak for him?

Baloo: Oh my goodness, yeah, yeah sure I will. (curls up to go back to sleep, but M/Wolf bites him and he wakes up) Good morning everybody. What?

M/Wolf: Baloo. This is important. The man cub’s life may depend on it.

Baloo: Wait! The man cub! Did you say the man cub? You mean little
Mowgli.

M/Wolf        Shere Kahn wants him for himself

Baloo         Oh do you indeed? Well then, can you all hear me? I will
definitely speak for the man cub. I’ve seen him running around
with you wolves. He belongs here. You’d all miss him if he
left.

Shere Kahn    Hey Bear. You’re not part of the pack.

Baloo         Hey Tiger, neither are you?

M/Wolf        Baloo’s word means something here.

Baloo         Anyway, where is the little guy? Oh my, (to Shere Kahn) Hey,
Mr. Grumpy, how could you be so mean? Will you take a look
at him? What a little bundle of joy.

Shere Kahn    Joy?

Baloo         He has to stay. He just has to stay. Let him stay, I’m older than
I used to be, of course I am, but I will teach him the ways of
the jungle, just like I taught the rest of you wolves when you
were little tiny cubs, all those years ago.

Shere Kahn    One more member of the pack must speak for him.

Baloo         Hey. It’s Mr. Rules. Where did Mr. Grumpy go? All right.
Somebody else. Let’s hear it for the man cub. Come on.

3/Bagheera    (becoming Bagheera) A dark shadow dropped down into the
circle.

Baloo         Bagheera. The black panther.

Shere Kahn    Everybody knew Bagheera.

Baloo         No one dared cross her path. Mowgli goes straight over to
Bagheera) Oh my goodness no, no, no, no. Don’t do that.
Mowgli, come away! Well what do you know? Oh my, she seems to like the little guy. And look at him, not afraid of anything.

Bagheera I know I have no right to speak here.

Shere Kahn No you don’t.

Baloo *(Quietly to Bagheera)* Why are you here?

Bagheera *(to Baloo)* To spite Shere Kahn. I hate bullies. *(to the wolves)* If you let Shere Kahn kill this man cub it will bring shame on you, shame on all of you. Let him stay and I’ll give you a bull, freshly killed, a big fat bull, very tasty. You won’t need to hunt for days.

Baloo Hungry and excited by the thought of a fat freshly killed bull

2/Wolf The wolves spoke up. *(1 and 2 become wolves)* Who cares about the man cub

1/Wolf With no fur to keep him warm he’ll die anyway in the winter

2/Wolf Or scorch to death in the summer sun.

1/Wolf What harm can he do us? We’ll accept the man cub.

2/1 Wolves Yeah. We’ll accept him.

2/Wolf Where’s the bull Bagheera?

1/Wolf Where’s the bull?

2/Wolf The big fat tasty bull?

1/Wolf Where is it?

Bagheera *(Bagheera points)* And the wolves ran off to fill their wolf bellies. *(1 and 2 become Baloo and Shere Kahn)*
2/Shere Kahn  Leaving Shere Kahn frustrated that once again the man cub had not been handed over to him.

1/Baloo  Baloo, the big brown bear, just laughed. Well peel me a papaya and pick out the pips.

Shere Kahn  *(roars)*

Baloo  Hey don’t roar like that. It’s rude.

Shere Kahn  I will have my revenge. One day, little one, one day. You will be mine, all mine. *(roars and exits)*

Baloo  Not again.

M/Wolf  Thank you. Both of you. You saved my little Mowgli’s life. Baloo, look after him. He needs to learn the ways of the jungle. Make sure he keeps away from Shere Kahn.

Bagheera  He has a dangerous enemy in that tiger.

M/Wolf  Will you promise to keep him safe?

Baloo  I promise.

Bagheera  We both promise.

M/Wolf  Mowgli. Listen to these two, they're wise, they will teach you all you need to know, and if you need me, you know where to find me. Mowgli? Do I get a hug? Goodbye. Goodbye for now little one. *(Mowgli hugs her briefly, then moves away as something catches his interest)* Goodbye you two, and thank you. *(as she exits Baloo is shouting after her)*

Baloo  Dont worry about him. Between us we will show him how to fend for himself, how to keep away from danger, how to respect the jungle...
I'm sure you will..... *(She's gone)*

We had better start straight away. He’s following Shere Kahn!

Oh my goodness, Mowgli! Not that way. *(Steps back, falls over, Mowgli laughs)* Whoops a daisy! Come back here. Come back! Bagheera do something!

*(Bagheera leaps in front of Mowgli blocking his path and firmly pushes him to the ground)* Do what you’re told.

Oh my goodness, Bagheera, gently, gently. Don’t shove him like that. You’ll frighten him.

Sometimes it’s good to be frightened. Keeps you out of harm’s way.

Well, this is not the time. Mowgli, no need to be afraid, I’m just a big old bear.

Bear.

Oh my days! Did you hear that! Did you hear him? He spoke! He spoke! He actually spoke. *(cartwheels and collapses)* Oh my.....Oh my goodness. He said Bear. He actually said bear.

I heard him.

Bear.

He said it again! That’s it. That’s me. Bear.

Big old bear.

Its exhausting bringing up little ones.

That’s you all right. Big old bear.

*(Mowgli looks at audience)* Bear. *(looks at Bagheera)* Bear.
Bagheera: Panther.

Mowgli: Big old bear.

Bagheera: That’s the bear. *(pointing at Baloo)*

Mowgli: *(still looking at Bagheera)* Bear

Baloo: I’m the bear. That’s the panther. You’re Mowgli.

Bagheera: I think he knows that Baloo

Baloo: You’re not helping.

Mowgli: Baloo.

Baloo: Oh my. Oh my goodness, he said my name. Did you hear that? He said my name. Baloo, that’s me, I’m Baloo, Baloo the Bear, Baloo the beautiful bear! Go on, say it again. Say it again, please, please, please, please.

Mowgli: Bear.

Baloo: No, no, no. Baloo. Ba-loo. Ba…..

Mowgli: Baloo!

Baloo: He said it!! He said it!!

Mowgli: *(Mowgli suddenly says it very loudly and runs around shouting the name)* Baloo! Baloo!

Baloo: Oh my, don’t run away.

Mowgli: Baloo!

Baloo: Hey, come here.

Mowgli: Baloo!
Baloo: Come here.

Mowgli: Baloo!

Baloo: We are going to be friends. Friends. Take my paw. *(Mowgli takes his hand and uses it to suddenly climb onto Baloo's back).* Oh my, he’s a man cub all right. Mind of his own. Quick and funny.

Bagheera: Yes, but he won’t last long like that. Not if he’s going to run with the pack. Not if he is going to survive in the jungle. Not if he is going to stay safe.

Mowgli: *(Mowgli jumps off Baloo’s back)* Safe?

Bagheera: Yes safe. You will need feet that make no noise.

Baloo: Like this *(he tiptoes away, but he treads on a stick that cracks, is surprised and nearly falls over. Mowgli and Bagheera laugh)* Hey you try it. It’s not that easy. *(Mowgli does it and doesn’t make a sound)* Well all right. You did good.

Bagheera: There’s more to it than just dancing around like a fool.

Baloo: Oh my goodness. I know. I know that. You also need er…eyes that can see in the dark. *(closes his eyes and starts toward Mowgli, who moves out of the way)* I know where you are….even though my eyes are shut. I can sense you. *(Baloo grabs Bagheera)* Got you *(Bagheera growls at Baloo, who jumps away)* There you are. *(Mowgli jumps on his back)* You like it up there don’t you?

Bagheera: Mowgli, get down. This is a serious business. The jungle can be a dangerous place, a very dangerous place. You have to respect it.

Baloo: *(puffed out)* Listen to her, she knows what she’s talking about. You show him, I’m just going to have a little lie down.
Bagheera

Mowgli, be still now, be still and listen. Listen…… every rustle in the grass means something. Is it just the wind, or is there danger there? Every breath of the warm night air. Friend or foe? It all means something.

Mowgli

Hungry.

Baloo

(*wakes up suddenly, stretches, yawns*) Hungry? Good morning, everybody, who’s hungry? Let’s eat.

Mowgli

Hungry.

Baloo

Oh my goodness. Did you hear that? A new word. He said a new word. New word! New word! New word! (*leaps up starts dancing around*)

Mowgli

Hungry.

Baloo

He said it again. I am some teacher.

Bagheera

I think he might actually be hungry.

Baloo

Silly me. Right Mowgli. What do you want to eat?

Bagheera

If he wants to eat. First he will have to learn to hunt.

Baloo

Hunt? Oh my goodness, he’s so young. Surely nuts and honey will do until he has grown strong enough to hunt.

Mowgli

Honey.

Baloo

Honey! There’s another one! Another word! We are a good team (*goes to high-five Bagheera, who glares at him, so he high-fives Mowgli instead*)

Bagheera

Now Mowgli, the bees live high up in the trees there and that’s where the honey is. Right up there.

Baloo

I’ll show him how to climb up there.
Bagheera: Are you sure?

Baloo: Of course. It’s easy. Mowgli, watch and learn, welcome to bear climbing school. *(does a very bad job of climbing, slips a couple of times, falls, and ends up upside down)* oh my goodness *(to Bagheera)* Maybe you should do it.

Mowgli: I’m going to find some honey. *(Mowgli starts to climb, and in a pretty crazy fashion)*

Baloo: That was a complete sentence.

Bagheera: Little brother, slow down!

Baloo: Oh my …..Oh my, I can’t look.

Bagheera: I’ll show you how to do it. *(Bagheera and Mowgli climb together)* Always make sure you have a firm hold, before you move ahead.

Baloo: Oh my goodness, don’t fall! Please don’t fall. *(looks up, walking backwards, and trips)* Ooops!

Bagheera: Could you be quiet. We are trying to concentrate.

Baloo: I won’t look.

Bagheera: Just calm down.

Baloo: I am calm.

Bagheera: Keep talking about falling and he’ll think he’s supposed to.

Baloo: I’m calm. I’m calm! *(Mowgli makes as if to fall)* No! *(Mowgli laughs)*. Very funny. Just make sure you’re nice to the bees before you take their honey, or you’re going to get stung.

Mowgli: Honey! I’ve got some.
Bagheera  Say thank you.

Mowgli  Thank you!

Bagheera  All right, all right. That’s enough for today.

Mowgli  Eat more.

Bagheera  No. Come down. You need to rest.

Baloo  Oh my goodness, you’re right I’m exhausted.

Bagheera  Not you. Mowgli.

Mowgli  Eat!


(Bagheera hums. Mowgli closes his eyes, but wakes up when she stops.)

Bagheera  (singing) Hush thee my Mowgli, the night is behind us,

Baloo  Hey, I didn’t know panthers could sing.

Bagheera  And black are the tree tops that sparkled so green

Baloo  You two make a very pretty picture

Bagheera  The moon o’er her shoulder, looks downward to find us. Asleep in the grasses that rustle between

Baloo  Like a mother and child.

Bagheera  The storm shall not wake thee

Baloo  I’m serious!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bagheera</td>
<td>Nor bear, overtake thee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo/Bagheera</td>
<td><em>(Baloo joins and sings very loudly, waking Mowgli up)</em> Asleep in the arms of the sweet jungle breeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagheera</td>
<td>He needs to rest and you need to be quiet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo</td>
<td>Sorry.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Baloo, Bagheera, and Mowgli fall asleep. Shere Kahn enters and sings slowly)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shere Kahn</td>
<td>Hush thee my Mowgli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This tiger will get thee <em>(He disappears)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagheera</td>
<td><em>(Waking up)</em> As the months passed Mowgli grew older and stronger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo</td>
<td>It wasn’t long before he could swim as well as he could climb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowgli</td>
<td>Watch me. Watch me swim. Watch me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo</td>
<td>Careful. Careful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowgli</td>
<td>It’s easy. Look <em>(Mowgli does a huge jump into the water. There is a long wait while Mowgli is under the water)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo</td>
<td>Where’s he gone? <em>(Mowgli splashes Baloo and dives in again)</em> Oh my goodness, he’s been under too long......... Oh no. Oh no, no no....Where is he? I can’t see him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagheera</td>
<td>He’s a good swimmer but if you’re worried. Dive in and get him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloo</td>
<td>Me? Dive in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagheera</td>
<td>Quick! <em>(Bagheera is winding Baloo up)</em> Maybe he’s caught in the weeds...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Baloo       You think so.
Bagheera  Or been swallowed by a crocodile or…..
Baloo       I’m going. I’m going.
Mowgli  *(Mowgli reappears)* Go on Baloo. Jump!
Baloo       Oh my, oh my goodness. I thought you drowned. You scared
            me half to death. Now come here, come here.
Bagheera And he swam almost as well as he could run.
Mowgli And I can run much faster than you Baloo.
Baloo       Oh no you can’t….
Bagheera Oh yes he can.
Mowgli   Go! *(Mowgli dashes off)*
Bagheera Go Mowgli go!
Baloo       Come back here! *(He struggles after Mowgli. Mowgli returns
            first. Bagheera and Mowgli hide. When Baloo returns, they
            jump out and scare him)* Oh my. He is much faster than me.
            Much, much faster *(sits down)*
Bagheera He certainly is, now sit down and rest your bones you big old
        bear
Mowgli     Big old bear. *(Mowgli goes to jump on his back)*
Bagheera Hey come on, leave the old guy alone. Show me what you do
            when you’re hunting? *(Baloo is falling asleep)*
Mowgli  *(jumping down)* When I’m hunting I have to stand really
        still… *(he does)*…like this…..sometimes I have to stand for
        hours… *(it starts to rain) …….even when it rains
Bagheera: Then?

Mowgli: I move really slowly...so slow...I am almost invisible (*he demonstrates*) until I am close up to my prey and then I......

Bagheera: But before all that?

Mowgli: I must use the hunting call.

Bagheera: Which means?

Mowgli: Give me permission to hunt here.

Bagheera: Because?

Mowgli: Because...because I am hungry.

Baloo: (*Wakes up suddenly*) Good morning, everybody! Who's hungry? (*yawns and stretches*) Come on let's eat!

Bagheera: Wait. We're not finished. And the reply is?

Mowgli: You can hunt for food.

Baloo: Good...

Bagheera: But...

Mowgli: But...

Baloo: But what?

Mowgli: You can hunt for food but not for pleasure.


Baloo: So let's eat.

Mowgli: Climb. Can I climb?
Of course you can. Don’t go too high, and any sign of Shere Kahn get straight back here. Look at him go.

Of course you can. Don’t go too high, and any sign of Shere Kahn get straight back here. Look at him go.

Of course you can. Don’t go too high, and any sign of Shere Kahn get straight back here. Look at him go.

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Of course you can. Don’t go too high, and any sign of Shere Kahn get straight back here. Look at him go.

Of course you can. Don’t go too high, and any sign of Shere Kahn get straight back here. Look at him go.
2/Monkey Throw it back *(Mowgli does)* Oh! You got me. See its fun! Look *(Throws at 5)*

5/Monkey Oh! Good shot. *(throws at 2)*

2/Monkey Oh! *(5 throws at 2)* Wow! That really hurt! *(Mowgli throws at 2)*

Mowgli Who are you?

2/Monkey We're monkeys.

5/Monkey Yeah funky monkeys

Mowgli What are you doing up in the trees

2/ Monkey Just hanging around

5/ Monkey Want to hang with us

Mowgli Up here in the trees?

Both Monkeys Yeah. Up here in the trees.

Mowgli Yes I do. I love it up here!

Baloo Mowgli!

Bagheera Mowgli!

2/Monkey Who are they? Those two down there.

5/Monkey Yeah who are they?

2/ Monkey Cos they look old.

5/Monkey Yeah, really, really old.

Mowgli My teachers.
5/Monkey Teacher.
2/Monkey What’s a teacher?
Mowgli They tell you what to do.
2/Monkey I could do that.
5/Monkey Me too! Er Do this, do that and then do it again.
2/Monkey That’s silly.
Mowgli Silly?
2/5/Monkey Yeah, really silly!
Baloo Mowgli!
2/5/Monkeys Hide! (To Mowgli) Come on hide! (He does)
Baloo Mowgli!
Mowgli This is fun
2/5/Monkey Yeah, fun!
Bagheera Time to come down!
Mowgli I have to go
2/Monkey Stay and play!
2/5/Monkey Stay and play, stay and play, stay and play......
Mowgli I want to...
Baloo Come on now, Mowgli
5/Mowgli You can be our teacher, we'll do whatever you tell us!
2/Monkey You can be our leader
Mowgli You promise.

2/5/Monkey We promise! We promise!
Bagheera Mowgli. Now!
Mowgli I've got to go.

2/Monkey Goodbye friend
Mowgli Goodbye. *(He starts to go)*

5/Monkey Goodbye friend.

2/Monkey Don’t forget us. You’re part of our family now.

5/Monkey What’s a family?

2/Monkey Who cares? It’s what you say. Let’s go.

Baloo Mowgli! Mowgli!

Mowgli *(Appears swiftly and silently right behind Baloo)* Here I am.

Baloo Oh my goodness, don’t do that! You gave me a fright! You tricky little fellow. Where have you been all this time?

Bagheera Where have you been?

Mowgli Up in the trees.

Baloo Oh my goodness, you should come when we call you. We were worried about you. We’ve been calling and calling.

Mowgli Why did you call me? I was having fun.

Bagheera We called you down because Baloo wants to hear the words I
taught you. The words you can use if you get into danger and need help.

Mowgli I don’t want to do words today.

Bagheera They’re important Mowgli.

Mowgli My head is buzzing with them. Feels like it’s full of bees.

Baloo I don’t need to hear them now.

Bagheera Yes you do.

Mowgli Do I have to?

Bagheera Yes.

Mowgli Which ones. I can do them all.

Bagheera The ones for the four footed hunters.

Mowgli That’s easy. Ana loooo ka nanda! Ana looo ka nanda! *(There is a response from the jungle, a cacophony of roaring howling and snarling)*

Baloo Oh my goodness. What have you started? Hey! Sorry everybody! False alarm! We’re just practising here! We didn’t mean anything. *(to Mowgli)* What did you say to them?

Mowgli I need help, we are of one blood you and I. If I need help from the birds, any of them. The parrots, the eagles, kites. Kestrels, vultures I call out

Baloo Don’t do it.

Mowgli Ana looo ka nanda ka ka ka! *(there is a sound and shadow of a vast flock of birds taking off with accompanying cries)*

Baloo Stay calm everyone. Just another false alarm.
Bagheera: And the snakes?

Baloo: No more.

Mowgli: Ana looo ka nada Ana looo ka nanda saa saa saaaa! (followed by the sound of a thousand snakes hissing throughout the auditorium. Mowgli sneaks up and slaps Baloo, who jumps)

See. I know them all.

Baloo: You do, you certainly do. Well done, well done.

Bagheera: If he remembers these words he need never be alone. He will always be safe.

Baloo: You won’t have to be afraid of anyone or anything.

Bagheera: Except Shere Kahn and the wolf pack.

Mowgli: The wolf pack?

Bagheera: They’re scared of Shere Kahn. He’s a bully

Mowgli: Who cares about them?

Baloo: Oh my goodness. You mustn’t say things like that. They’re your family, your friends.

Mowgli: Not any more. I’ve got a new family, new friends.

Baloo: What do you mean?

Bagheera: What friends?

Mowgli: Not telling you. They said I could live up there with them

Bagheera: Oh no.

Baloo: Who did?
Mowgli Right at the top of the trees. And if you try to climb up there, we’ll throw things at you, branches and nuts and dirt.

Baloo Oh my, Mowgli, that’s not very nice

Mowgli And we’ll laugh at you, laugh and laugh and laugh.9dcn

Bagheera Have you been talking and playing with the monkeys?

Mowgli The what?

Bagheera The Monkeys.

Mowgli What monkeys?

Bagheera I know you have. I'm not angry with you. I just want to give you some good advice. Listen to me. You have to keep away from them.

Mowgli Why?

Baloo You just do.

Mowgli But they said I could play with them.

Baloo Of course they did, that’s all they ever do. Play.

Bagheera Everything’s a game to them

Mowgli It is and its lots of fun. More fun than I have with you!

Baloo But they just do what they want, when they want. They don’t care about anyone else.

Bagheera Baloo and I, we look after you.

Mowgli They said your lessons are silly.
Mowgli

They are silly. Do this, do that.

Bagheera

Mowgli.

Mowgli

They said I could be their leader.

Baloo

Oh my goodness, their leader?

Mowgli

Yes, and they said they’ll do whatever I tell them.

Bagheera

No, no. whatever they said……

Mowgli

They promised.

Bagheera

Whatever they promised. It won’t happen.

Mowgli

It will. *(2/5/Monkeys sneak in)*

Baloo

It won’t. You can’t trust them.

Bagheera

Those monkey can’t concentrate on one thing for more than two seconds.

Baloo

They will have forgotten all about you by now. *(Monkey throws something)* Ow! Oh my goodness, that hurt.

Mowgli

That’s them. They haven’t forgotten about me.

Bagheera

Ignore them.

Mowgli

I won’t. Hey! *(Monkey throws again)*

Bagheera

Ow!

Mowgli

Good shot. *(he waves)*

Bagheera

You stop that.
Mowgli Why? Why should I? They're my real friends. They're more like me than you are.

Baloo Now that's just silly.

Mowgli It’s not silly. They’re just like me. They climb properly, using their arms. They’ve got long fingers like me, not claws like you two. I belong up there with them.

Bagheera No you do not.

Mowgli Yes I do. Let me go. *(Monkeys throw more, hitting Baloo)*

Baloo Ow! That really hurts.

Mowgli Serves you right! Now let me go!

Bagheera Stop this nonsense, before I lose my temper.

Mowgli Let me go! Let me go! Let me go!

Bagheera No.

Baloo Ow! Stop that! *(He chases the monkeys off)*

Mowgli I hate you! I hate you both!

Bagheera *(long pause)* Mowgli. Listen to me! Listen to me. I don’t want to hear any more about the monkeys and from now on I don’t want you to have anything to do with them. Do you hear me? Mowgli, are you listening? Mowgli, it’s for your own good.

Mowgli Yes, I know.

Bagheera Mowgli.

Mowgli I’m sorry.
Anyway, it seems they really have gone and left us in peace so why don’t we just rest here in the shade until the sun has cooled. *(Mowgli comes to join them)*

Baloo

Did they really say our lessons are silly?

Mowgli

Yep.

Baloo

How are they silly? I’m doing my best, I’m trying to teach you useful things, things you need to know, but if it’s all just silly….

Bagheera

Baloo.

Baloo

All just a waste of time….

Bagheera

Baloo you’re a great teacher, relax, the monkeys have gone. Forget about them. *(They all gradually fall asleep)*

*(The monkeys return. 1 and 3 become monkeys as well)*

2/Monkey

But the monkeys had not gone.

5/Monkey

They were watching from the tree tops.

2/Monkey

Watching

3/Monkey

And waiting

2/Monkey

Waiting for a chance to grab Mowgli

1/Monkey

And steal him away.

3/Monkey

Yeah away from Baloo and Bagheera! Away from Baloo and Bagheera!

2/Monkey

sssh! *(to 3)*

3/Monkey

sssh! *(to 5)*
5/Monkey  Sssh! (to 1)
1/Monkey  I didn’t say anything. (to 5)
5/Monkey  He didn’t say anything (to 3)
3/Monkey  He didn’t say anything (to 2)
2/Monkey  Ssssh! (to 3)
3/Monkey  Sssh! (to 5)
2/Monkey  Stop. Just wait and watch.
3/Monkey  What for?
1/Monkey  For those three to fall asleep.
3/Monkey  Which three?
2/Monkey  Ssssh! (to 3)
3/Monkey  Ssssh! (to 5)
5/Monkey  Sssh! (to 1)
1/Monkey  Don’t start that again.
2/Monkey  Stop. They’re asleep. Very quietly, the monkeys…
1/Monkey  Crept towards Mowgli and his two friends.
2/Monkey  And when they were close enough. Grab him!
3/Monkey  Got you! (grabs 2)
2/Monkey  Not me, the man cub! Get his arms.
3/Monkey        Got them.
2/Monkey        Those are his legs.
3/Monkey        Sorry.
2/Monkey        *(the monkeys grab Mowgli)* And lift.
Mowgli          What’s happening?
All Monkeys     Ssssh!
2/monkey        You’ll wake them up.
Mowgli          What are you doing?
All Monkeys     Ssssh!
2/Monkey        Do you want to come and play with us? *(They put Mowgli down)*
Mowgli          Yes but…
2/Monkey        No buts.
3/Monkey        Except mine!
2/Monkey        Come on, don’t you want to get away from those two.
1/Monkey        We’ll have a lot of fun.
2/Monkey        Stop. Are you coming?
Mowgli          Can I still be your leader?
All Monkeys     What?
Mowgli The leader. You said I could be the leader.

2/Monkey Oh yeah, the leader. Right, yeah. Yeah. Leader of the monkeys.

All Monkeys Leader of the Monkeys.

Mowgli And you’ll do everything I say.

2/Monkey Er, yeah. Everything. Won’t we?

1/3/5Monkeys Yeah everything.

Mowgli I knew you wouldn’t forget.

2/Monkey Lets go, before those two wake up. *(they pick Mowgli up)*

Mowgli Put me down. I can climb on my own.

2/Monkey And break.

1/Monkey Look at him climb.

5/Monkey He’s just like one of us.

3/Monkey Bye Bagheera. Bye Baloo. Time for bye bye’s. *(shakes butt at them)*

2/Monkey Over here.

3/Monkey Ooop. Sorry.

Mowgli Look. *(they don’t)* Look!

All Monkeys Where.

Mowgli Look! Down there. It’s Baloo and Bagheera.

3/Monkey They’re tiny.

2/Monkey They’re not tiny. They’re far away.
3/Monkey Oooo! Baloo!

Mowgli Ssh! You’ll wake them up.

1/Monkey Too late, they’re awake.

Mowgli Don’t let them know where I am.

2/Monkey It doesn’t matter. That bear’s too big and lazy to climb up here.

3/Monkey Ooooo Baloo!

Mowgli Shhh!

3/Monkey But it’s fun

2/1/5Monkeys Yeah! Fun!

1/5/2/3Monkeys Ooooo Baloooo!

Mowgli Bagheera heard you.

2/Monkey (to 3) Quick. Climb higher.

3/Monkey Look how sharp her teeth are.

2/Monkey (to 3) Climb or you’ll feel those teeth in your butt.

3/Monkey I’m climbing. I’m climbing. *(She climbs. Wriggling butt at Bagheera)* We’re better than you Bagheera. We’re better than you!

All We’re better than you Bagheera. We’re better than you. *(all wriggling their butts at Bagheera)*

3/Monkey Bored now.

5/Monkey Yeah
1/Monkey Me too.

2/Monkey And me.


Mowgli How can you be bored? Look where we are. Right at the top of the trees. I can almost touch the clouds. I could stay up here forever. Feel the wind. Open your arms. I feel like I could fly. Am I the leader now?

2/Monkey Yes. You’re the leader.

Mowgli Right. Everybody come here…

3/Monkey What’s a leader do?

5/Monkey They make us look important.

1/Monkey Yeah we’re important. Everyone’ll notice us now.

1/5/2/3Monkeys We got a leader. We got a leader. We got a leader.

1/Monkey Has anyone noticed.

2/Monkey No.

3/Monkey Let’s do it again. Louder.

5/2/1/3Monkeys We got a Leader. We got a Leader. We got a-(Birds fly over) wow!

Mowgli So now I’m the leader. You have to listen to me and do what I say.

1/Monkey You didn’t say anything. Did he say anything?

3/Monkey I didn’t hear him.
2/Monkey  Nor me.
5/Monkey  Nope
2/Monkey  Hey. Let’s go to the ruined city.
1/3/5 Monkeys  Yeah, the ruined city!
Mowgli  What’s that?
2/Monkey  It’s the place for leaders. Do you want to go?
Mowgli  I do.
2/Monkey  Then come on.
1/Monkey  And off we went swinging through the trees
All Monkeys  *(singing)* We’re funky monkeys just hanging around
             Yep funky monkeys just swinging around
             Up in the air
             And down to the ground
             We’re bad
             We’re bad
             And we know we’re bad
             And we’re glad we’re bad
             We’re glad we’re bad
             Yeah we’re bad
2/Monkey  The whole tribe of monkeys swept along the tree tops towards
             the ruined city. Hey guys! Wait for me!
3/Bagheera  *(becoming Bagheera)* While far below them, crashing through
             the jungle came Bagheera.
1/Baloo  *(becoming Baloo)* Followed by Baloo. Hurry, hurry we may
             still catch them *(Stumbling and falling over in his haste)*
Bagheera: This is no time for chasing. They may push Mowgli out of the tree if we follow too closely.

Baloo: They might have done it already. He may be falling at this very moment, bouncing off the branches, about to crash to the ground.

Bagheera: Calm down.

Baloo: Why, oh why didn’t I keep a closer eye on him.

Bagheera: We have to make a plan.

Baloo: What was I thinking? Oh my goodness!

Bagheera: Calm down. You’re not helping Mowgli rolling around on the ground making a fool of yourself.

Baloo: I am a fool. A fat, brown, root digging fool. There’s nothing I can do to help him. We promised we would look after him, we said we would keep him safe. Now the monkeys have him and they’re not afraid of us.

Bagheera: Wait.

Baloo: We can’t climb up there…

Bagheera: I know someone they are afraid of. Someone who could help us.

Baloo: Who?

Bagheera: Kaa, the rock snake.

Baloo: Whoa no. She’s kinda weird. Her eyes are wonky and she’s got no feet. How can she possibly help?

Bagheera: The whisper of her name makes their wicked tails go cold.
Baloo  I know how they feel.

Bagheera  She fixes them with her eyes

Baloo  Her wonky eyes.

Bagheera  They go into a trance. They’re stuck. They can’t move an inch and they are at her mercy.

Baloo  All right all right. Don’t tell me anymore. Do you know where to find her?

Bagheera  Yes. But we had better hurry if we want to see Mowgli again. Those monkeys may be foolish but they can move fast through the trees.

(meanwhile up in the trees)

2/Monkey  Baloo and Bagheera will never find us now.

Mowgli  Are you sure?

2/Monkey  Sure I’m sure.

5/Monkey  We travel too high.

1/Monkey  (1 becoming Monkey) We travel too fast.

3/Monkey  (3 becoming Monkey) Forget about Baloo he’s all in the past

1/Monkey  He can’t catch us,

1/3/5Monkeys  Cos we’re the best.

2/Monkeys  Yeah we’re the best.

1/32/5Mowgli  We’re better than the rest. Yeah we’re the best. Yeah we’re the best….
2/Monkey  This is it. This is the place. The ruined city.

Mowgli  *(looking at the audience)* There’s monkeys everywhere.

2/Monkey  *(to Mowgli)* What are you doing?

Mowgli  I want to go exploring, let’s climb up here.

2/Monkey  No exploring.

Mowgli  I’m the leader now. You have to do what I say.

2/Monkey  No we don’t

1/3/5Monkeys  Not if we don’t want to.

Mowgli  Yes you do.

1/3/5Monkeys  No we don’t.

Mowgli  Stop it.

2/Monkey  If he wants to be the leader put him up there on the special place.

Mowgli  That’s not a special place, it’s just a pile of old stones.

2/Monkey  It’s special to us.

1/3/5Monkeys  Yeah. It’s special to us.

2/Monkey  And that’s where leaders go. *(Mowgli goes where they put him.)*

Monkeys  Leader of the Monkeys!

Mowgli  Now will you do as I say?
2/Monkey Depends.

1/Monkey Maybe.

3/5Monkey Maybe not.

Mowgli That’s not fair, you said.

2/Monkey That was then.

1/3/5Monkey This is now.

Mowgli Look I just want to have some fun. Let’s play a game.

5/Monkey Like what?

Mowgli Hide and seek. I’ll hide and you…

2/Monkey No

1/Monkey Don’t want

3/Monkey Hide and what?

5/Monkey Boring

Mowgli Hide and seek. You close your eyes and I hide. Then you look for me. So close your eyes. Close them. Close your…..you’re not doing it. You’re supposed to do what I tell you.

2/Monkey Look he’s getting really angry.

Mowgli Just do it.

1/Monkey Yeah he is.

3/Monkey Your face is all red.

Mowgli     No I’m not.

3/2/1/5Monkeys     Yes you are

Mowgli     No I’m not. Look I’m the leader and I’m hungry. Bring me some food.

2/Monkey     Say please

Mowgli     I’m the leader!

All Monkeys     Say please.

Mowgli     Please can you bring me some food.

2/Monkey     Er…shall we?

3/1/5Monkeys     No.

2/Monkey     No.

Mowgli     I’m hungry.

3/5Monkey     We don’t care.

Mowgli     I’ll get some myself.

2/Monkey     If you’re going to be like that, I’ll get you some food.

1/Monkey     No I’ll do it.

3/Monkey     Let me.

5/Monkey     No me.

Mowgli     I want to do it.

2/Monkey     You stay there you’re the leader. What do you want? Berries?
1/Monkey Leaves? Nuts?

2/Monkey Nuts?

5/Monkey Who’s nuts?

3/1/2/Monkey You’re nuts.


Mowgli Stop it, stop it. Baloo was right. You’re just silly, you don’t care about me,

3/Monkey Who is he?

1/5/Monkey The leader.

Mowgli I don’t want to be the leader anymore, none of you do what I want or listen to what I say.

3/Monkey I do. He said, he doesn’t want to be the leader anymore.

Mowgli I thought it would be fun, but it’s not.

2/Monkey If you don’t want to be our leader. You have to be our prisoner.

1/3/5/Monkeys Yeah. Our prisoner.

2/Monkey Don’t let him go.

*(Monkeys grab him)*

Mowgli What are you going to do to me?

2/Monkey March him to the old well and throw him in.

Monkeys March! March! March! March!
2/Monkey He won’t be able to get out, it’s too deep and the sides are too slippery.

Mowgli I don’t want to go down there. I thought you were my friends.

2/Monkey You’ll have plenty of friends in there, it’s full of snakes. *(They lower him into the well)*

1/3/5Monkeys Hisssssss

3/Monkey In you go.

1/Monkey Don’t step on the snakes.

5/Monkey They don’t like it.

2/Monkey They bite.

Mowgli I’ll get out of here.

1/2 Monkey Not if the snakes get you first.

3/Monkey Chase me. Last one to the top’s a Monkey.

1/5/2Monkey We are Monkeys.

3/Monkey Oh yeah!

2/Monkey Go!

All Monkeys *(singing)* We’re funky monkeys, just hanging around
Yep funky monkeys just swinging around
Up in the air
And down to the ground
We’re bad
We’re bad
And we know we’re bad
And we’re glad we’re bad
We’re glad we’re bad
Yeah we’re bad……

Mowgli (Mowgli is in the well, his words echo) It’s so cold down here…… smells horrible ……… is anyone up there? …… they’ve gone……… Right. Time to climb out of here. (he tries to climb out but can’t) come on I can do this (He tries again) It’s no good, I can’t do it (slumps down) Hullo!
…..Anybody!…….. No one will ever find me down here. I should have listened to Bagheera….. I wish Baloo was here……Baloo! Baloo! (falls asleep lights fade)

INTERVAL