

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY - MINNEAPOLIS

2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404
612-872-5108
FAX 612-874-8119

The Jungle Book

By
Greg Banks

Based on the books by
Rudyard Kipling

The Jungle Book was originally produced by Children's Theatre Company in the 2015-16 season.

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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.

5 But if you listen carefully,
(We hear various animal noises)

1 Very carefully.

3 Amongst all the other sounds of the night.

5 You might hear

2 Footsteps.

1 Footsteps, coming through the darkness.

3 And there...

2 There, in the middle of that great jungle.

5 Alone

1 All alone

5 Is a young child, *(4 is this child)*

2 A very young child.

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

2 Through tangled creepers.

5 And wading

3 Up to his chest

1 In treacherous swamps and clambering

3 Over fallen trees.

1 Past slithering shadows (*child stops to look curious but unafraid*)

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

3 One of those wild animals

2/Shere Kahn A tiger (*a quiet growl*)

3 Is following him.

Shere kahn (*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*).

5/Mother Wolf Deep inside that cave, a wolf

1/Father Wolf And her mate

M Wolf On hearing the tiger's roar, (*Shere Kahn roars again*) wake from a deep sleep.

F/Wolf Hackles rising

M/Wolf The wolves arch their backs

F/ Wolf Ready to leap

M/Wolf Ready to protect their young

F/Wolf 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 Ehhh... 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.

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...

M/Wolf I'm sure you will..... (*She's gone*)

Bagheera We had better start straight away. He's following Shere Kahn!
Baloo 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 (*Bagheera leaps in front of Mowgli blocking his path and firmly pushes him to the ground*) Do what you're told.

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

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

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

Mowgli Bear.

Baloo 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.

Bagheera I heard him.

Mowgli Bear.

Baloo He said it again! That's it. That's me. Bear.

Mowgli Big old bear.

Baloo Its exhausting bringing up little ones.

Bagheera That's you all right. Big old bear.

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

Bagheera	Panther.
Mowgli	Big old bear.
Bagheera	That's the bear. (<i>pointing at Baloo</i>)
Mowgli	(<i>still looking at Bagheera</i>) 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.

(instantly falls asleep)

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 myOh 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 Mowgli. Come on, come and lie down. Mowgli! Mowgli. Stop that. Settle down. Go to sleep. Sleep. (*Mowgli keeps looking at her*)What do I do? (*Baloo shrugs*)

(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!

Bagheera Nor bear, overtake thee

Baloo/Bagheera *(Baloo joins and sings very loudly, waking Mowgli up)* Asleep in the arms of the sweet jungle breeze

Bagheera He needs to rest and you need to be quiet.

Baloo Sorry.

(Baloo, Bagheera, and Mowgli fall asleep. Shere Kahn enters and sings slowly)

Shere Kahn Hush thee my Mowgli
This tiger will get thee *(He disappears)*

Bagheera *(Waking up)* As the months passed Mowgli grew older and stronger.

Baloo It wasn't long before he could swim as well as he could climb.

Mowgli Watch me. Watch me swim. Watch me.

Baloo Careful. Careful.

Mowgli It's easy. Look *(Mowgli does a huge jump into the water. There is a long wait while Mowgli is under the water)*

Baloo Where's he gone? *(Mowgli splashes Baloo and dives in again)*
Oh my goodness, he's been under too long..... Oh no. Oh no, no no.... Where is he? I can't see him.

Bagheera He's a good swimmer but if you're worried. Dive in and get him.

Baloo Me? Dive in?

Bagheera Quick! *(Bagheera is winding Baloo up)* Maybe he's caught in the weeds...

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.

Bagheera Good. Well done. You learn fast.

Baloo So let's eat.

Mowgli Climb. Can I climb?

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

Baloo Oh my goodness. How on earth does he squeeze all of your instructions into his little head?

Bagheera There is nothing in the jungle that is too little to be hurt? That's why I teach him these things.

Baloo Oh my, you're being a bit hard on him, Bagheera. He's only a kid.

Bagheera Better that I'm hard on him now than he gets hurt because he doesn't know how to look after himself. If he does get into trouble, I've taught him the Master Words of the Jungle so that he can ask for help from any of the animals. .

Baloo You have? Oh my goodness, let's get him back here, I'd like to hear him do those.

Bagheera Call Mowgli. We'll see if he can remember them.

Baloo Mowgli! Mowgli!

Bagheera He won't have gone far. Mowgli!

Baloo Master words!

(They wander away looking for Mowgli. Mowgli reappears up in the trees, followed by monkeys 2 and 3)

Mowgli *(2/Monkey throws something at Mowgli)* Ow! Who did that?

2/Monkey Not me.

5/Monkey Or me. *(throws at Mowgli)*

Mowgli Ow! What are you doing?

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! (<i>To Mowgli</i>) Come on hide! (<i>He does</i>)
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!
2/5Monkey	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 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.

Bagheera Mowgli.

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.

Bagheera 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.

3/Monkey Fun. Fun. 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?

1/3/5 Monkeys 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 Ooooo! 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.

3/Monkey Bored. Bored. Bored.

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*)

3/Bagheera This is no time for chasing. They may push Mowgli out of the tree if we follow too closely.

1/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.
2/1/3/5Monkeys	Angry. Angry. Angry.

Mowgli No I'm not.

3/2/1/5 Monkeys 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?

3/1/5 Monkeys No.

2/Monkey No.

Mowgli I'm hungry.

3/5 Monkey 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.
2/1/3Monkey	<i>(chasing 5/Monkey around)</i> Nuts. Nuts. Nuts. Nuts.
Mowgli	Stop it, stop it. Baloo was right. You're just silly, you don't care about me,
3/Monkey	Who is he?
1/5Monkey	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.
1/3/5Monkeys	Yeah. Our prisoner.
2/Monkey	Don't let him go.
	<i>(Monkeys grab him)</i>
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 Hissssss

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