

Chapter 14

The Jungle Book

Scene I

[It all begins on a warm evening, when the silence of the jungle is broken by an unfamiliar sound-that wailing of a young one. The cries of hunger and unmistakable, whether of man or of beast.]

Bagheera, the

black panther : Where is this wailing coming from ?

A bird or a tree : Follow the cries, Bagheera. You will soon find out.

Bagheera : Why, it is a man-cub. It must be fed soon, or it will die.

[Bagheera takes the man-cub and leaves it outside the den of the wolves.]

Scene II

[Mother Wolf is busy with her four cubs while Rama the father is all set to go hunting, when they hear the earth-shaking roar of a tiger. It is not just any tiger, it is Shere Khan, the terror of the jungle. Looking out of the cave Father Wolf and Mother Wolf see something brown crawling towards their cave.]



Mother Wolf : Now what would that be, I wonder ? Quick, Father Wolf, bring it to me.

Father Wolf : It looks like a man-cub to me.

Teacher's Note: Ask the pupils to enact the story in the class.

Mother Wolf : How soft and cuddly he is!

[Suddenly the cave goes dark. Shere Khan's great head and shoulders fill the entrance.]

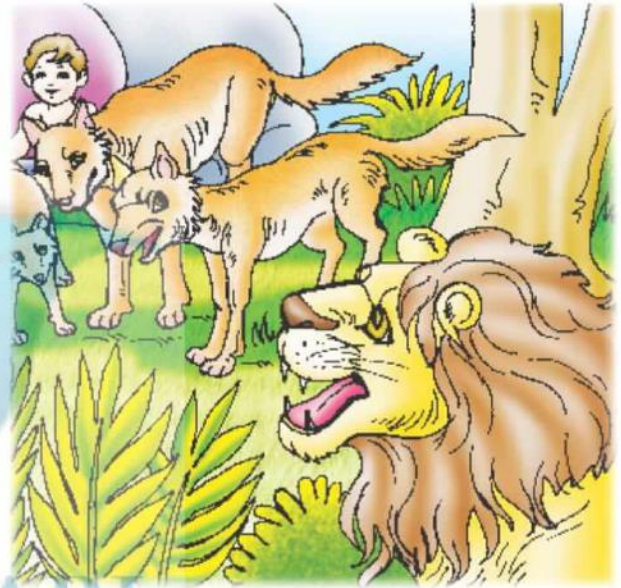
Father Wolf : What do you want ?

Shere Khan : I was hunting a man-cub. Seeing me his parents ran off. I heard the cub wailing close by, but couldn't find him. I see you have taken him. Give him to me.

Father Wolf : The cub is ours now.

Shere Khan : How dare you! Give me the man-cub. At once!

Mother Wolf : The man-cub is mine. He shall not be killed by you. He will live with us, as one of our own cubs. Leave us alone and return to your own part of the jungle.



Shere Khan : Your cave is too small for me to enter. But remember, I shall not forget. The man-cub will be mine one day.

Mother Wolf : We won't let that tiger come near you, man-cub. I will look after you as my own.

Grey Brother (*one of the wolf cubs*) : What shall we name him, Mother ?

Mother Wolf : Let's call him Mowgli.

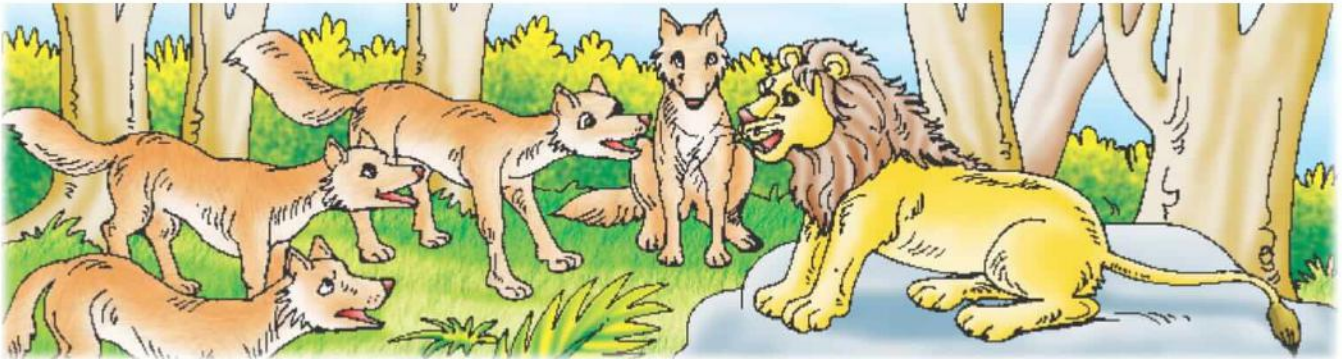
Father Wolf : And when he grows, up, he will hunt Shere Khan.

[Mowgli laughs innocently. He knows nothing yet of the adventures he will have as he grows up in the jungle!]

Scene III

[It is the night of the full moon. Father Wolf and Mother Wolf take their four cubs and Mowgli to the Council Rock. This is a special meeting place. Shere

Khan has returned to their part of the jungle. He still wants the man-cub. Mowgli is a threat to the entire wolf-pack. Akela, the leader of the pack must decide whether Mowgli should stay or go.]



Shere Khan : The man-cub is mine! What do wolves want with a man-cub ?

Other wolves : Yes, yes. We don't want a man-cub in our pack. We want to live in peace in the jungle.

Akela : Are we all in agreement then, that Mowgli must go ?

Other wolves : Yes, yes.

Akela : Now I will have to tell Rama. Rama, come here.

Rama : But why ? The man-cub is like my own child. He is entitled to the protection of the pack.

Akela : I am sorry, Rama. But Shere Khan has sworn to kill the boy.

Rama : But why ?

Akela : You know he hates man, and Shere Khan is not going to allow Mowgli to grow up to be a hunter with a gun.

Rama : We can explain to Shere Khan that Mowgli will not be a hunter.

Akela : No one explains anything to Shere Khan. Even the strength of the wolf-pack is no match for that tiger. The man-cub must leave.

Mother Wolf : Isn't there any way to keep Mowgli, Akela ?

Akela : Well, there is one law of the jungle. If two members of the jungle speak for Mowgli, he may stay.

Mother Wolf : Come, brother wolves, speak up.

Father Wolf : Why this silence ? Won't any of you speak for my man-cub ? Mowgli is just like one of my own cubs. Would you keep quiet if it were Grey Brother.

[Just then there is grunt from the trees.]

Mother Wolf : Look, here is Baloo, the sleepy brown bear. He teaches all the cubs the ways of the jungle. Let him speak. Baloo, will you teach the ways of the jungle to Mowgli also ?

Baloo : I speak for the man-cub. Let him run with the pack. I shall teach him.

Akela : We still need one more to speak for him.



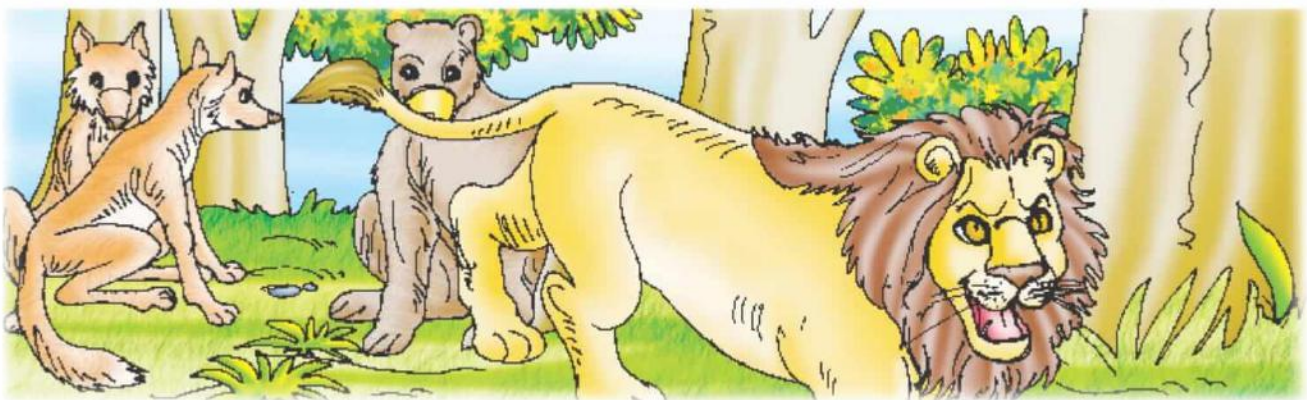
[Just then a dark shadow drop onto the Council Rock. It is Bagheera.]

Bagheera : I come as a friend, Akela. I like the look of this man-cub. If you let him stay in the pack, I will give you a whole bull. I have just killed him, and he is nice and fat.

Other wolves : Yes, yes. We are hungry. A whole bull! What a delicious feast! Let Mowgli stay.

Akela : You are lucky Rama. You may keep Mowgli.

[Shere Khan isn't pleasant. With a mighty roar he vanishes into the jungle.]



Words to Learn

decision

terror

entitled

threat

swarn

Skill Test**WORK OUT****A. Answer the following questions :**

1. What were the wolf family doing when they heard Sher Khan's roar ?
.....
2. Why is a special meeting held at the Council Rock ?
.....
3. Why is Mowgli considered a threat to the entire wolf-pack ?
.....
4. Why does Sher Khan want Mowgli ?
.....
5. Why do the wolves finally agree to let Mowgli stay with the pack ?
.....

B. Who said the following words ?

1. "How soft and cuddly he is!"
.....

2. "If two members speak for Mowgli, he may stay."
.....

GRAMMAR**Write questions for the following replies :**

1. Yes, he was badly injured.
..... ?
2. We shall go swimming this afternoon.
..... ?
3. It doesn't rain everyday.
..... ?
4. I shall stay at the same hole.
..... ?
5. Of course, you can hang your coat over there.
..... ?

VOCABULARY

A. Dogs bark and cats mew. Complete the following using words from the Help Box :

trumpet low roar neigh hiss hum hoot chatter

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| (a) bees | ..... | (b) snakes | ..... |
| (b) horses | ..... | (d) cows | ..... |
| (c) elephants | ..... | (f) monkeys | ..... |
| (g) owls | ..... | (h) lion | ..... |

B. Complete the following comparisons :

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| (a) as brave as a | ..... |
| (b) as blind as a | ..... |
| (c) as busy as a | ..... |
| (d) as gentle as a | ..... |
| (e) as hungry as a | ..... |
| (f) as faithful as a | ..... |
| (g) as timid as a | ..... |
| (h) as slow as a | ..... |

FUN TIME

