

## The Jungle Book

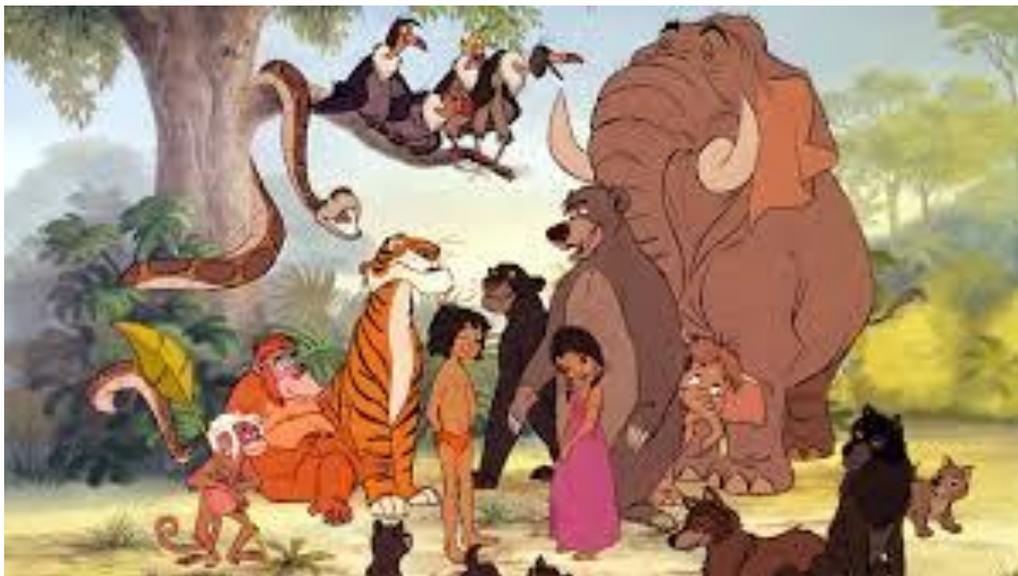
It was seven o'clock on a warm evening in the Seeonee Hills. The sky was glowing red as the sun started to set. Father wolf woke up. He scratched his back, yawned and then one after another wiggled his paws till the tips were wide awake. As he slowly got up, he felt his stomach rumble and decided that it was time to hunt. Suddenly, a hairy creature stood in the dark and gloomy cave entrance. It was the jackal looking for food. Absentmindedly, he blessed the wolf cubs and then realised that you shouldn't address a wolf cub without its father's permission. To distract from this error, he decided to mention Shere Khan - the most vicious creature in the jungle - and his recent change of hunting ground.

Now the pesky jackal has absquatulated, father wolf decided to go hunting, but he stopped suddenly when he heard a thundering roar from Shere Khan. He rapidly flew to his vantage point over the jungle. He saw Shere Khan chasing a woodcutter whose burning fire he had run over. He let out a deafening roar which the whole jungle could hear. Father wolf spoke to mother wolf and said,

"What a stupid animal, he is breaking the law of the jungle!" he exclaimed.

A couple of minutes later father wolf heard a rustling in the bushes. He crept outside to find a man-cub (which couldn't walk properly yet). Mother wolf thinks it's the woodcutter's child. So father wolf picked it up gently and brought it into the cave. To their surprise it was not scared of them, it seemed to laugh at them. Then it started to suckle milk from mother wolf.

When mother wolf and father wolf looked up they saw a dark silhouette at the entrance of the cave blocking the moonlight. It was Shere Khan looking at the wolves belligerently, father wolf blinked to ascertain that he wasn't hallucinating but Shere Khan was there! Standing at the front of the cave. Father wolf knew what he wanted. It was the man-cub! Father wolf got up to his feet and told him that he is not having the man-cub and to go away but he still stood there looking at them belligerently. Then mother wolf stood up (she was the toughest in the pack, wolves would fight over her because of her beguiling looks). As she stood up the jackal appeared out of the blue and that made her even more angry. Then she bellowed, "Go away!" Shere Khan was scared of her and reluctantly he ran off into the abyss.



By NB