

Summaries from
THE JUNGLE BOOKS
by Rudyard Kipling

The Jungle Books was originally published as two separate volumes of short stories:
The Jungle Book (1894) The Second Jungle Book (1895).

This is a summary of those stories that feature Mowgli and a list of the characters that appear in Jungle Books.

The Jungle Book

1. Mowgli's Brothers *
2. Kaa's Hunting *
3. Tiger-Tiger *
4. The White Seal
5. Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
6. Toomai of the Elephants
7. Servants of the Queen
8. The Spring Running *

The Second Jungle Book

1. How Fear Came *
2. The Miracle of Purun Bhagat
3. Letting in the Jungle *
4. The Undertakers
5. The King's Ankus *
6. Quiquern
7. Red Dog *

*An * denotes the stories with Mowgli*

“Mowgli's Brothers”

Mowgli, a male infant (or man-cub), miraculously escapes Shere Khan (the Bengal tiger) and makes his way to a wolf pack. A wolf couple, who recently had four cubs of their own, adopt Mowgli and protect him from Shere Khan. At the wolf gathering, Father and Mother Wolf present Mowgli. Akela, the wolf leader, proclaims that Mowgli needs two other sponsors besides the wolf couple. Baloo (the brown bear) and Bagheera (the black panther) sponsor Mowgli. Shere Khan becomes angry that the wolves do not give him Mowgli.

Ten or eleven years later, Mowgli has learned to live in the jungle according to Jungle Law. But in the meantime, Shere Khan had made friends with many of the younger wolves and had convinced them to despise Mowgli. Bagheera warns Mowgli and tells him to get the Red Flower (fire) from the man village. When Akela becomes too old to be an effective leader, Shere Khan makes his move. The wolves who follow the tiger advance on Mowgli. But Mowgli takes a burning branch and beats Shere Khan with it and swings it at the rebellious wolves. Although Mowgli scares off Shere Khan and his followers, the boy realizes he is no longer part of the Wolf Pack. So, he goes off to the man village.

“Kaa's Hunting”

This story takes place before Mowgli left the Wolf Pack. Baloo teaches Mowgli the Master Words so that he can communicate and enlist the aid of the various animals of the jungle. But Mowgli is misled by the Monkey-People, who tell him that they will make him their leader. Baloo and Bagheera warn Mowgli that the Monkeys are foolish and are incapable of carrying out any plan for any sustained length of time. But the warning comes too late: the Monkeys want Mowgli and kidnap him. However, Mowgli remembers a Master Word and asks Chil (a kite: a predatory bird) to notify Baloo and Bagheera. Baloo asks Kaa (a 30-foot python) for help, and they track Mowgli to the Lost City [or Monkey City]. With the help of Kaa, Baloo and Bagheera defeat the Monkeys and rescue Mowgli.

“Tiger-Tiger”

This story takes place after Mowgli left the Wolf Pack. Mowgli goes to a man village and is rescued by Messua and her husband, who believe Mowgli to be their own son who was taken by a tiger many years ago. Mowgli learns the ways and speech of man. But soon Mowgli hears from Grey Brother (one of his wolf cub step-brothers) that Shere Khan is plotting revenge. In the village Mowgli makes enemies of Buldeo (the hunter) and the priest and other men when he, Mowgli, criticises their foolish stories about the jungle and the animals and when he mocks the village god. Mowgli is given the menial task of herding