

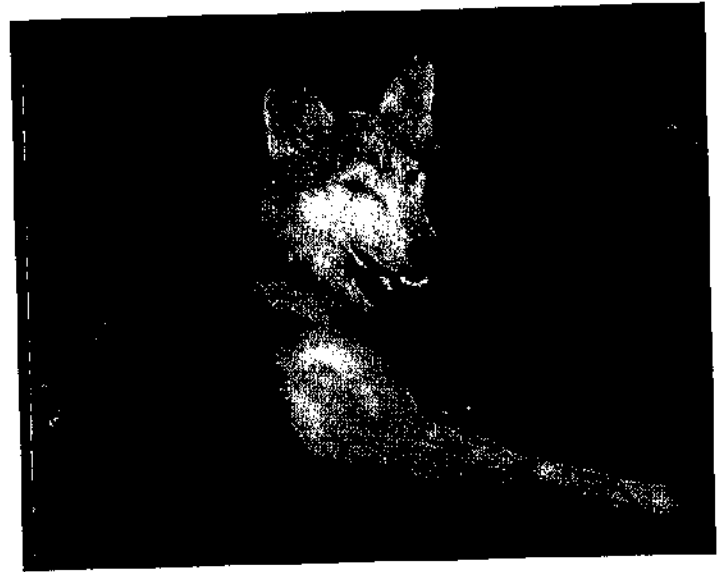
PREVIEW

Mowgli's Brothers

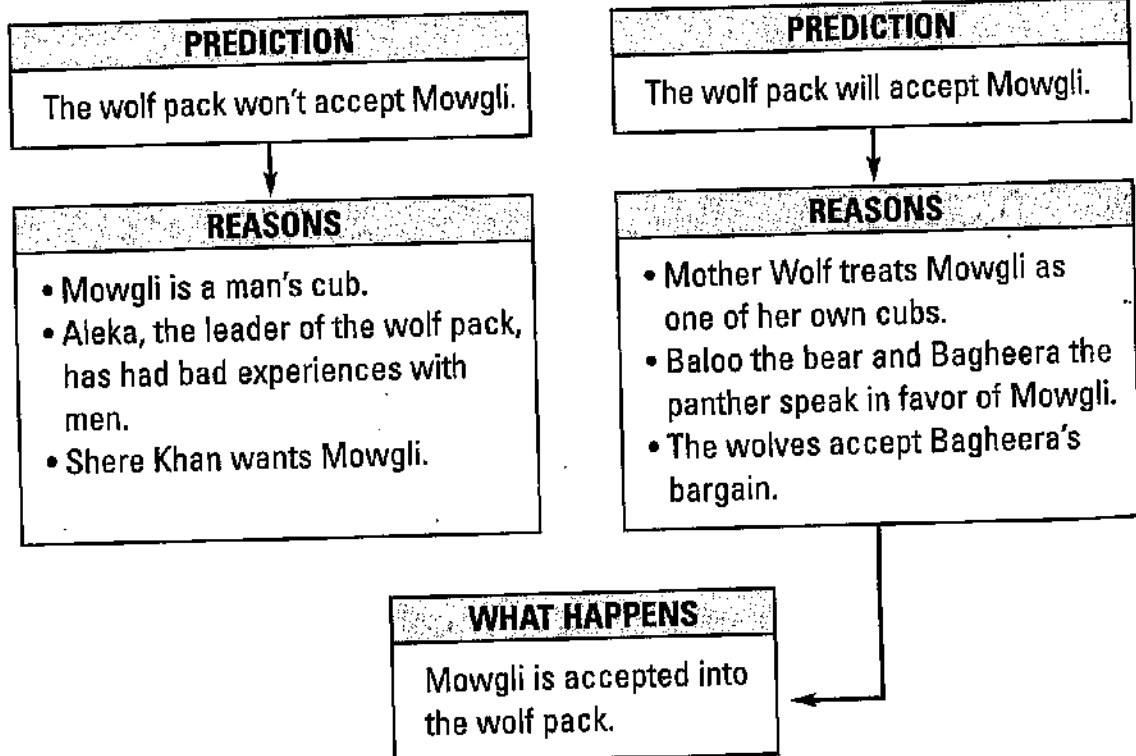
Rudyard Kipling

Summary

One evening in the jungle, Father Wolf discovers a small child near his cave. He brings the boy into the cave and gently places him among the wolf cubs. Mother Wolf is taken with the child and names him Mowgli. Shere Khan the tiger comes to the wolves' cave. He tells Father and Mother Wolf that Mowgli is his prey, and demands that they hand him over. They refuse. Mother Wolf is determined to keep Mowgli as her own. Before she can keep Mowgli, the wolf Pack, led by Akela, must give its approval at the Pack Council. According to the Law of the Jungle, two members must speak in Mowgli's favor. Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther help win the Council's acceptance of Mowgli into the Pack. Now Mowgli is ready to begin a new life among the animals of the jungle.



Visual Summary



PREPARE TO READ

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Animal Characters

Characters in stories can be animals as well as humans. Most of the characters you will meet in "Mowgli's Brothers" are animals. Animal characters in fiction often behave according to their animal qualities.

The behavior of the animal characters in "Mowgli's Brothers" is based on the real habits of animals in the forest. For example, wolves really do live in packs and have a leader, such as Akela. They do not have a "council," but they cooperate and work as a group. Tigers, on the other hand, like Shere Khan in the story, are solitary hunters.

Animal characters may also have human qualities, emotions, and abilities. Look at the following example:

Wolves as Characters	
Animal Qualities	Human Qualities/Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wolves live in packs• Father Wolf hunts for food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father Wolf speaks like a human: "He has no right!" Father Wolf began angrily— "By the Law of the Jungle he has no right to change his quarters without due warning. He will frighten every head of game within ten miles and I—I have to kill for two, these days."

READING STRATEGY

Predicting Characters' Actions

When you predict, you make logical guesses about what characters will do or what events will occur. You can predict a character's actions by thinking about the character:

Think: What do you know about him or her? Is this character brave, cowardly, kind, honest, or sneaky?

Predict: How will he or she act or what he or she will do in a particular situation?

Remember to base your predictions on what you have learned about the character in the story. If you do so, there is a pretty good chance that your predictions will prove to be correct.

Mowgli's Brothers

Rudyard Kipling

Have you ever wondered what animals would say if they could talk? In Rudyard Kipling's story "Mowgli's Brothers," not only do the animal characters speak, but they display other human qualities as well. When Father Wolf discovers a small child near his cave, he brings the boy into the cave. Mother Wolf is taken with the child and names him Mowgli. Will Mowgli be accepted into the wolf pack? Will he avoid falling into the clutches of Shere Khan, the man-eating tiger?

As the story begins, Tabaqui the jackal pays a visit to the wolves' cave:

♦ ♦ ♦

It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills¹ when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleepy feeling in their tips. Mother Wolf lay with her big gray nose dropped across her four tumbling squealing cubs, and the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. "Augrh!" said Father Wolf, "it is time to hunt again"; and he was going to spring downhill when a little shadow with a bushy tail crossed the threshold and whined: "Good luck go with you, O Chief of the Wolves; and good luck and strong white teeth go with the noble children, that they may never forget the hungry in this world."

It was the jackal—Tabaqui the Dishlicker—and the wolves of India despise Tabaqui because he runs about making mischief, and telling tales, and eating rags and pieces of

♦ Literary Analysis

What human quality does Father Wolf show?

♦ English Language Development

Some nouns that end in *f*, like *wolf*, form their plural by changing the *f* to *v* and then adding *-es*:

wolf wolves

Write the plural of these nouns:

leaf _____

knife _____

wife _____

1. Seeonee hills (see OH nee) hills in central India

leather from the village rubbish-heaps. But they are afraid of him too, because Tabaqui, more than anyone else in the jungle, is apt to go mad, and then he forgets that he was ever afraid of anyone, and runs through the forest biting everything in his way.

♦ ♦ ♦

Father Wolf tells Tabaqui to enter the cave but says there is no food here. Tabaqui says perhaps not for a wolf, but he would be happy with a dry bone. Tabaqui scuttles to the back of the cave where he finds a bone of a buck with some meat on it.

♦ ♦ ♦

"All thanks for this good meal," he said, licking his lips. "How beautiful are the noble children! How large are their eyes!"

♦ ♦ ♦

Then, in a spiteful voice, Tabaqui tells Father Wolf about Shere Khan the tiger.

♦ ♦ ♦

"Shere Khan, the Big One, has shifted his hunting-grounds. He will hunt among these hills for the next moon, so he has told me."

"He has no right!" Father Wolf began angrily—"By the Law of the Jungle he has no right to change his quarters without due warning. He will frighten every head of game within ten miles, and I—I have to kill for two, these days."

♦ ♦ ♦

Father Wolf orders Tabaqui out of the cave. As he leaves, Tabaqui says that they should now be able to hear Shere Khan. Father Wolf listens and hears angry snarls coming from the valley below. "It is Shere Khan," says Mother Wolf.

Vocabulary Development

scuttles (SKUT uls) *v.* scurries, scampers

♦ Literary Analysis

Circle the animal character that has a trait that may lead to problems for other characters. What is that trait?



♦ Vocabulary and Pronunciation

Many words in English have more than one meaning. For example, the word *mad* can have these meanings:

- (a) angry
 - (b) insane or crazy
- Circle the letter of the meaning in this paragraph.

♦ English Language Development

Sometimes characters in fiction speak in formal language, in which the usual sentence structures are inverted. Tabaqui's words in the bracketed sentence would usually be expressed, "The noble children are beautiful." What would be the usual way of saying, "How large are their eyes!"?

♦ Reading Strategy

Given these details, what do you **predict** will happen?

1. Shere Khan is hunting in the wolves' territory.
2. Father Wolf is upset.
3. Shere Khan is angry.

I predict _____

◆ English Language Development

Most nouns in English show ownership by adding 's:

man's cub

Circle two other words in the bracketed passage that show ownership. Write them here and tell what each owns.



◆ Reading Strategy

How does Father Wolf treat the man's cub?

How does Mother Wolf feel about the man's cub?

What do you **predict** will happen to him?

◆ Reading Check

Why can't Shere Khan go into the cave?

What does Shere Khan want?

Then Mother and Father Wolf hear something coming toward them up the hill. Father Wolf leaps toward the bushes but suddenly stops himself, falling back to the ground.

◆ ◆ ◆
"Man!" he snapped. "A man's cub. Look!" Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch, stood a naked brown baby who could just walk. He looked up into Father Wolf's face, and laughed.

"Is that a man's cub?" said Mother Wolf. "I have never seen one. Bring it here."

A wolf accustomed to moving his own cubs can, if necessary, mouth an egg without breaking it, and though Father Wolf's jaws closed right on the child's back not a tooth scratched the skin, as he laid it down among the cubs.

"How little! How naked, and—how bold!" said Mother Wolf, softly. The baby was pushing his way between the cubs to get close to the warm hide.

◆ ◆ ◆
Suddenly Shere Khan appears at the cave entrance. His head and shoulders block out the moonlight. Tabaqui is behind him, telling him the baby is in the cave. An angry Father Wolf asks the tiger what he wants. He knows the mouth of the cave is too narrow for the tiger to come in.

◆ ◆ ◆
"My quarry. A man's cub went this way," said Shere Khan. "Its parents have run off. Give it to me."

"The wolves are a free people," said Father Wolf. "They take orders from the Head of the

Vocabulary Development

quarry (KWAR ee) *n.* prey; anything being hunted or pursued

Pack, and not from any striped cattle-killer. The man's cub is ours—to kill if we choose."

♦ ♦ ♦

Shere Khan demands that the wolves give up the man's cub. "What is this talk of choosing? It is I, Shere Khan, who speak!" The tiger's roar fills the cave with thunder.

Now Mother Wolf springs forward to face the tiger. "The man's cub is mine! He shall not be killed," she says. "He shall live to run with the Pack and to hunt with the Pack. In the end, he shall hunt you!"

Shere Khan knows that Mother Wolf will fight to the death. So he backs out of the cave mouth. Before going away, he shouts, "The cub is mine, and to my teeth he will come in the end!"

Father Wolf says, "We must show the cub to the Pack. Will you still keep him?"

"Keep him!" she gasps. "He came naked, by night, alone and very hungry; yet he was not afraid! Look, he has pushed one of my babies to one side already. And that lame butcher would have killed him. Of course I will keep him. Lie still, little frog. O Mowgli, for Mowgli the Frog I will call you—the time will come when you will hunt Shere Khan as he has hunted you."

♦ ♦ ♦

Father Wolf waited till his cubs could run a little, and then on the night of the Pack Meeting took them and Mowgli and Mother Wolf to the Council Rock—a hilltop covered with stones and boulders where a hundred wolves could hide. Akela the great gray Lone Wolf, who led all the pack by strength and cunning, lay out at full length on his rock, and below him sat forty or more wolves of every size and color. . . . The Lone Wolf had led them for a year now. He had fallen twice into a wolf-trap in his youth, and once he had been beaten and

◆ Read Fluently

Read the bracketed paragraphs aloud. Practice them until you can read smoothly and with expression.

◆ Reading Strategy

Mother Wolf tells Shere Khan that the man's cub will someday hunt him. Do you think that this is a reasonable prediction? Explain.

◆ Literary Analysis

Circle the human traits that Mother Wolf has.

protective	motherly
tender	mean
silly	brave

◆ Reading Check

Who is the leader of the pack?

◆ Reading Strategy

What do you **predict** the Pack will say about Mowgli?

◆ Vocabulary and Pronunciation

The word save can mean

- (a) rescue
- (b) to put aside or keep
- (c) except

Which meaning is used here?
Circle the letter of the correct answer. Read the sentence using the word you chose.

◆ Reading Check

In the bracketed paragraph, underline the words that tell what happens when there is a dispute over a cub's right to be accepted by the Pack.



left for dead; so he knew the manners and customs of men.

◆ ◆ ◆

There is very little talking at the Rock. One after another, mother wolves push their cubs into the center of the circle. The older wolves take turns inspecting the cubs. At last, Father Wolf pushes Mowgli into the center. Mowgli sits there laughing and playing with some pebbles.

◆ ◆ ◆

A muffled roar came up from behind the rocks—the voice of Shere Khan crying: "The cub is mine. Give him to me. What have the Free People to do with a man's cub?" Akela never even twitched his ears: all he said was: "Look well, O Wolves! What have the Free People to do with the orders of any save the Free People? Look well!"

◆ ◆ ◆

A young wolf repeats Shere Khan's question: "What have the Free People to do with a man's cub?" According to the Law of the Jungle, if there is a dispute about a cub being accepted into the Pack, the cub must be spoken for by two members of the Pack who are not his mother and father. When Akela asks who will speak for Mowgli, there is no answer.

Then Baloo, the sleepy old brown bear, says he will speak for the man's cub. Also, he will teach Mowgli the Law of the Jungle. Baloo is the only other animal who is allowed at the Pack Council. He can come and go where he pleases because he eats only nuts and roots and honey.

Vocabulary Development

dispute (dis PYOOT) *n.* argument; debate; quarrel

When Akela asks who else will speak for Mowgli, Bagheera the Black Panther drops down into the circle. He says that he knows he has no right to be there. But according to the Law of the Jungle, when there is doubt about a new cub, the life of that cub may be bought at a price. And the Law does not say who may or may not pay that price.

◆ ◆ ◆
"Good! good!" said the young wolves, who are always hungry. "Listen to Bagheera. The cub can be bought for a price. It is the Law."

◆ ◆ ◆
Bagheera says it is a shame to kill a naked cub. He offers to give the wolves a freshly killed bull if they accept the man's cub into the Pack. The wolves gladly agree to the panther's offer.

◆ ◆ ◆
Mowgli was still deeply interested in the pebbles, and he did not notice when the wolves came and looked at him one by one. At last they all went down the hill for the dead bull, and only Akela, Bagheera, Baloo, and Mowgli's own wolves were left. Shere Khan roared still in the night, for he was very angry that Mowgli had not been handed over to him.

"Ay, roar well," said Bagheera, under his whiskers; "for the time comes when this naked thing will make thee roar to another tune, or I know nothing of man."

"It was well done," said Akela. "Men and their cubs are very wise. He may be a help in time."

"Truly, a help in time of need; for none can hope to lead the Pack forever," said Bagheera.

Akela said nothing. He was thinking of the time that comes to every leader of every pack when his strength goes from him and he gets feebler and feebler till at last he is killed by the

◆ Vocabulary and Pronunciation

The word *right* has several meanings. It can mean

- (a) correct
 - (b) opposite of left
 - (c) what a person has a claim to
- Circle the letter of the meaning that is used here.

◆ Literary Analysis

How are the young wolves acting like humans?

◆ Reading Strategy

What does Bagheera **predict** that Mowgli will do to Shere Khan?

◆ Reading Check

How did Mowgli become a member of the wolf pack?

1. _____

2. _____

wolves and a new leader comes up—to be killed in his turn.

“Take him away,” he said to Father Wolf, “and train him as befits one of the Free People.”

And that is how Mowgli was entered into the Seeonee wolf pack at the price of a bull and on Baloo’s good word.

REVIEW AND ASSESS

1. Who finds Mowgli?

2. What does Tabaqui do whenever he goes mad?

3. Why does Father Wolf say he has to kill for two these days?

4. Name the two animals who speak in Mowgli's favor at the Pack Meeting.

1. _____

2. _____

5. **Literary Analysis:** What human trait(s) does each of the following animal characters in "Mowgli's Brothers" have?

Father Wolf _____

Tabaqui _____

Shere Khan _____

Akela the Lone Wolf _____

(Continued)

Baloo _____

Bagheera _____

5. **Reading Strategy:** What did you predict would happen to Mowgli at the beginning of the story? _____

Were your predictions correct? _____

Explain. _____

Speaking and Listening

Animal Speech

Imagine that you are an animal in the jungle who speaks at the Pack Meeting at Council Rock. Take a side either for or against Mowgli's staying with the Pack. Before you give your speech to the class, think of the points you will make to support your position.

If you speak in favor of Mowgli, remember that each animal has its own reasons. You might consider the following points:

- Baloo is interested in teaching Mowgli the Law of the Jungle.
- Bagheera strongly believes it is not right to kill a naked cub.
- One of the wolves might speak about how Mowgli could prove useful to the Pack when he grows up.

If you speak against Mowgli, you will probably want to make the following points:

- What have the Free People (the wolf pack) to do with a man's cub? (This is the point raised by Shere Khan, and repeated by one of the wolves.)
- Man is no friend of the animals. Humans have done very bad things to wolves and other animals.