



The Jungle Book



*Retold from the Rudyard Kipling original
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What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion

Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are

designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Tabaqi the jackal is known for making trouble and telling lies. Do you know anyone like this? Have you ever told a lie?

2. Why do you suppose it is so important for the animals to follow the Law of the Jungle? What kind of rules do you live by?

3. When Bagheera warns Mowgli to be careful around Shere Khan, the boy laughs and says he is not afraid so long as he has Baloo, Bagheera, and the Pack. Why do you suppose he feels this way? How would you have reacted in his place?

4. Mowgli is raised by wolves and taught by a bear. How does this make him different from the

villagers? If you could live with any kind of animal, what would it be?

5. Kaa says that he is angry at the monkeys for calling him names. Has anyone ever made fun of you? How did it make you feel?

6. As far as the villagers are concerned, the only good thing about Mowgli is his strength. What do you think some of his other good qualities are? What is your best quality?

7. How do the villagers react when they see Bagheera in Messua's hut? What would you have done in their place? What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?

8. Why does Mowgli want the King's ankus? How do you suppose he feels when the white cobra says that he cannot have it? Have you ever wanted something you were told you couldn't have?

9. Do you think Mowgli's plan to stop the Red Dog is brave or foolish? Would you have gone

through with it? What is the bravest thing you've ever done?

10. Kaa tells Mowgli that it is hard to make choices. What kind of choices must Mowgli make? Have you ever had to make a hard decision?