

The Jungle Book

COMPREHENSION GUIDE



THE JUNGLE BOOK

Comprehension Guide
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Designed by Ned Bustard

*All the images in this guide are either art from India,
drawings by Kipling's father, J. Lockwood Kipling,
or illustrations by Matthew Clark.*

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THE JUNGLE BOOK

How to use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand and enjoy *The Jungle Book*. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* or *The Case for Classical Christian Education*, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
2. Show an increased desire for reading.
3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
5. Identify basic biblical values in the literature being read.
6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

The last questions for each chapter are optional transitional questions. As children approach the end of the grammar stage of learning, they are more apt to ask questions and think through issues logically. This “pert” stage of learning is known as the

dialectic stage. The questions we have provided are meant to challenge the children with thought-provoking questions that move beyond the basic ideas of the story and are suitable for children beginning the transition to the dialectic stage of learning.

Vocabulary word lists are provided for each chapter. You may use these in several ways. You might have the children watch for the word in the chapter and write out a definition based on the context of the story. They might simply write out a definition from the dictionary. Another option is for the instructor to provide definitions to be copied and used as a glossary prior to reading.

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers in the guide appear in an abbreviated form, the students’ answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: What kind of animal was Nag?

Answer: The animal Nag was a cobra.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

You may wonder how to grade the student’s work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.



THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter One—Mowgli's Brothers

1. What was Tabaqui's nickname?

2. By what river did Shere Khan live?

3. Whom were the wolves expecting to jump out of the thicket instead of the man cub?

4. How had Shere Khan burned his feet?

5. What did Mother wolf predict the man cub would do to Shere Khan someday?

6. *Circle the correct answer:* "The Law of the Jungle lays down very clearly that any wolf (may/may not), when he marries, withdraw from the Pack that he belongs to."

7. The Law of the Jungle said, "If there is a doubt which is not a killing matter in regard to a new cub, the life of that cub may be bought at a price." Who paid for the new cub, Mowgli, and what did they pay with?

8. What did Mowgli find under Bagheera's silky chin "where the giant rolling muscles were all hid by the glossy hair?"

THE JUNGLE BOOK

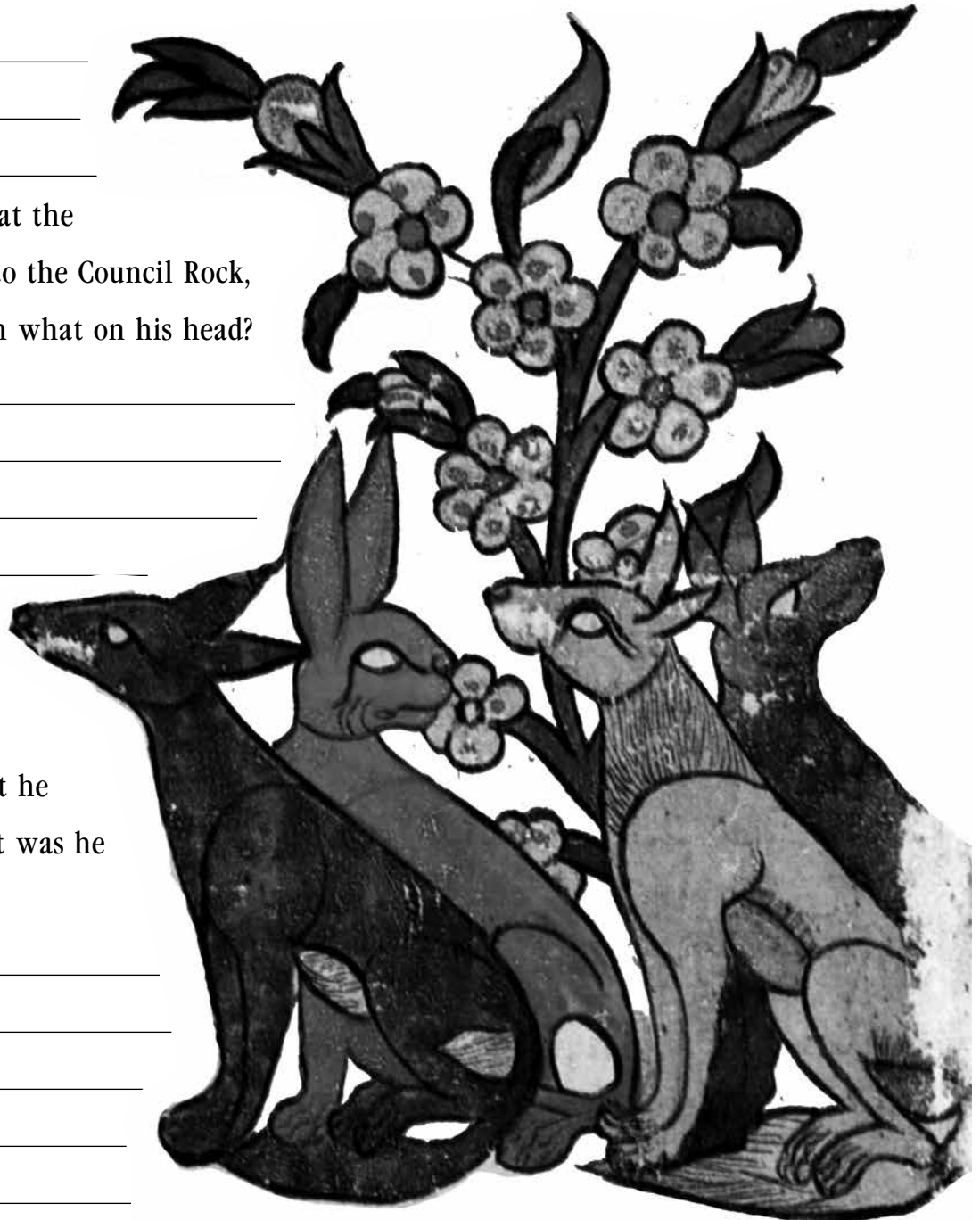
Chapter One, Page 2

9. What was the Red Flower?

10. Who was “the Lone Wolf?”

11. Mowgli promised that the
next time he came to the Council Rock,
he would come with what on his head?

12. After he chased
everyone away
from Council Rock,
Mowgli thought that he
was dying, but what was he
really doing?



THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter One, Page 2

TRANSITIONAL QUESTIONS *"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles."*—Matthew 10:16–18

These verses describe Christians as sheep among wolves (people who try to do us harm because of our faith in Jesus). We as Christians are told to be both "wise" and "innocent" as we live in a world of "wolves." Mowgli was also like a sheep among wolves. Only, the wolves that surrounded him are real, live wolves! Matthew 10 says that Christians "will be delivered over to courts . . . and dragged before governors and kings for Jesus' sake." At the end of the chapter, Mowgli was brought before Shere Khan and the pack at Council Rock. Although he had done nothing wrong to the wolves, many of them still wanted him to leave the pack and be turned over to Shere Khan. Akela tried to defend Mowgli at Council Rock by saying, "Mowgli has eaten our food. He has slept with us. He has driven game for us. He has broken no word of the Law of the Jungle." Although Mowgli was "innocent," the wolves were still against him.

13. How did Mowgli behave with wisdom at Council Rock?

14. What are some ways that we as Christians can obey Matthew 10, behaving with "wisdom" and "innocence" as we face challenges in the world today?

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Project 1—Make Your Own Jungle Book

Materials

two sheets of 8.5" x 11" card stock

green imitation vine or leaves (approx. 12 inches long)

six sheets of 8.5" x 11" drawing paper

hole puncher

twine/hemp (2 feet long)

Directions

1. Using animal shapes for letters, write "The Jungle Book" on one piece of the card stock. This will serve as the cover.
2. Mount the leaves or vine around the edges of the letters on the card stock.
3. As you read through the book, draw a picture of a scene from each chapter. You could also draw some from just a few chapters.
4. When you are done reading the book, compile all of the pictures together. *Optional: Write a poem about some of the chapters and intersperse them among the pictures.*
5. Use the extra piece of cardstock for the back cover.
6. After assembling all of the pictures with the cover on top, use a hole puncher to punch a series of aligned holes across the top of the sheets.
7. Run the piece of twine/hemp in and out of all the holes and tie it off at the ends. This will hold all of the pages together and serve as a rustic binding.

Project 2—Mowgli's Lost Tales

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Project 3—Word Search

Find the words listed at the bottom of the page in the word search below.

D	R	L	R	O	B	E	C	Q	N	E	W	Z	I	G
I	E	C	M	E	C	A	A	R	R	B	D	Y	O	E
S	V	C	O	F	T	F	G	I	Y	E	M	R	P	L
H	I	E	O	U	X	T	F	H	A	I	F	S	A	P
L	R	I	G	H	N	P	U	D	E	E	N	H	P	O
I	A	A	B	A	M	C	W	C	H	E	S	G	F	E
C	G	H	U	A	L	O	I	T	D	K	R	A	A	P
K	N	V	C	D	L	L	I	L	A	O	T	A	U	E
E	U	S	N	F	I	L	I	R	R	H	O	T	H	E
R	G	D	A	G	G	B	F	V	E	O	I	W	A	R
W	N	Y	M	W	P	A	V	R	A	E	C	G	G	F
O	I	B	O	C	I	L	W	R	B	M	K	K	H	Z
K	A	M	S	E	E	O	N	E	E	H	I	L	L	S
O	W	D	Q	F	L	O	W	R	E	H	T	O	M	E
K	R	E	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	Q	M	X	S	I

BAGHEERA

CAMPFIRE

BALOO

WAINGUNGA RIVER

COUNCIL ROCK

VILLAGE

CRYING

SEENEE HILLS

DEAD WOLF

RAKSHA

DISH LICKER

MOWGLI THE FROG

FATHER WOLF

FREE PEOPLE

MAN CUB

MOTHER WOLF

RED FLOWER

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter 2—Kaa's Hunting

1. What were the Monkey People called in the jungle?

2. Why hadn't Baloo taught Mowgli the law of the *Bandar-log*?

3. Whom did Mowgli ask to tell Baloo and Bagheera where he was being taken by the *Bandar-log*?

4. How did Kaa mainly kill his prey?

5. What kind of a snake was Kaa?

6. Describe the Lost City where the *Bandar-log* lived.

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter 2, Page 2

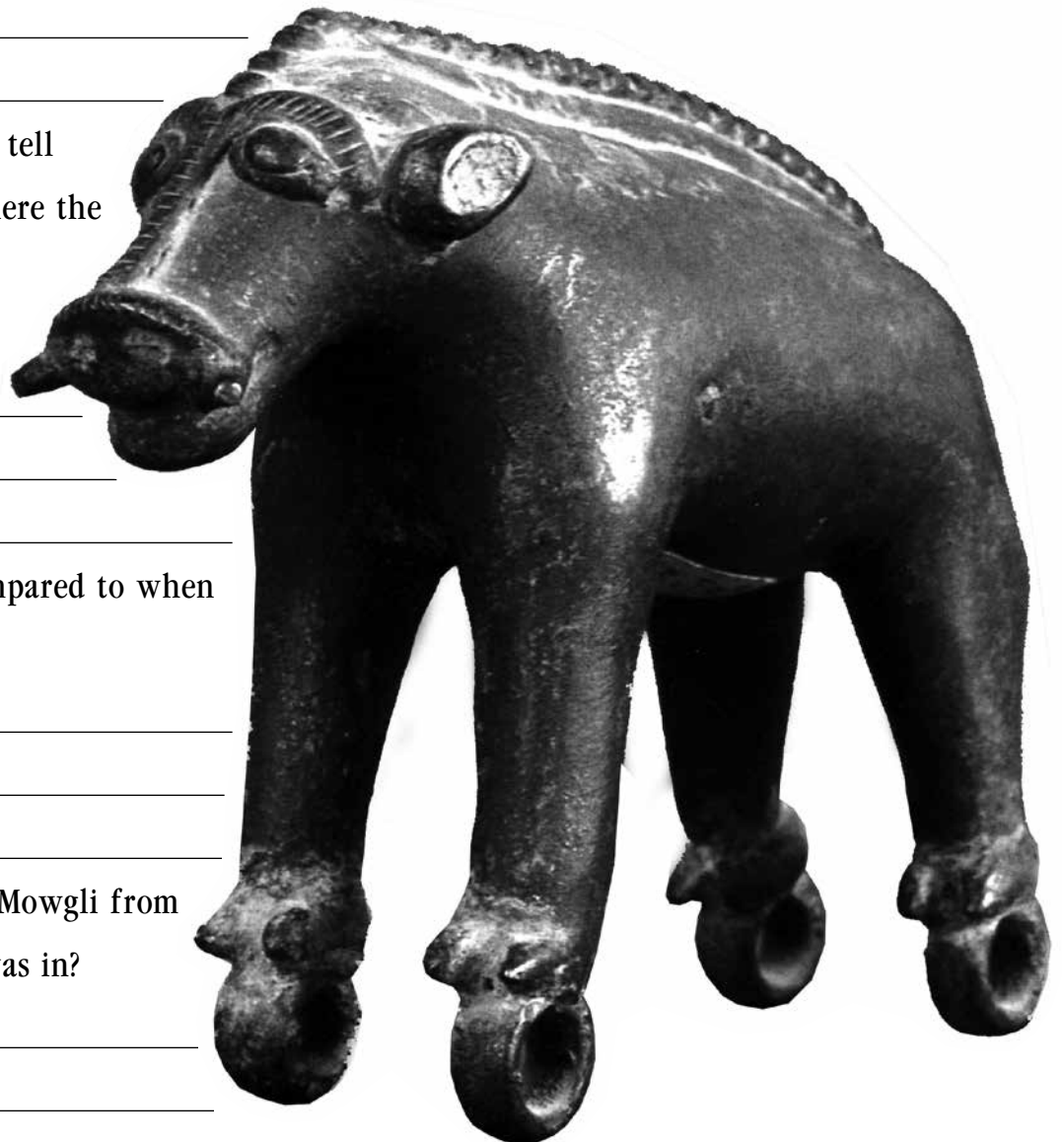
7. What was it that Mowgli could do that the *Bandar-log* wanted to learn?

8. Where did the monkeys put Mowgli when Bagheera striked? Why wasn't he injured when they put him here?

9. Where did Mowgli tell Bagheera to go where the monkeys couldn't get him?

10. What was Kaa compared to when he fought?

11. How did Kaa free Mowgli from the trap that he was in?



THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter 2, Page 3

12. Out of thanks for freeing him, what did Mowgli tell Kaa that he would do for him?

13. What kinds of shapes did Kaa make in the “Dance of the Hunger of Kaa?”

14. Did Mowgli resist Baloo’s punishment? Why or why not?

15. *Fill in the blanks:* “One of the beauties of Jungle Law is that _____
settles all scores. There is no _____ afterward.”

TRANSITIONAL QUESTIONS *Many of the things that Mowgli learned from Baloo helped him while he was a prisoner of the Bander-log. It is a good thing that Mowgli had paid attention to Baloo when Baloo had taught him the different laws of the jungle. Mowgli needed them very much while he was a prisoner. He needed to know the calls for different animals in order to let them know that he was a friend in need of help.*

16. For Mowgli, the things that he learned proved very important for him later on. Try to remember some of the things that you have learned in school recently, and tell how they might be useful to you in the future.

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Chapter 2, Page 4

17. Mowgli would not have been able to escape the *Bandar-log* if he hadn't received help from other animals along the way. List some of the animals that gave him help.

18. What are some ways that your friends help you and some ways that you can help your friends?



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