

Reading extract and questions: Year 5-6

The Jungle Book

Excerpt from *Mowgli's Brothers* Set A/B

Shere Khan the tiger has attacked a woodcutter's camp, but their young child has escaped him and walked into the cave of a family of wolves. The Tiger has tracked the child to the cave and wants his prey to be handed over to him.



Shere Khan had jumped at a woodcutter's campfire, as Father Wolf had said, and was furious from the pain of his burned feet. But Father Wolf knew that the mouth of the cave was too narrow for a tiger to come in by. Even where he was, Shere Khan's shoulders and forepaws were cramped for want of room, as a man's would be if he tried to fight in a barrel.

"The Wolves are free people," said Father Wolf. "They take orders from the Head of the Pack, and not from any striped cattle-killer. The man's cub is ours – to kill if we choose."

"Ye choose and ye do not choose! What talk is this of choosing? By the bull that I killed, am I to stand nosing into your dog's den for my fair dues? It is I, Shere Khan, who speak."

The tiger's roar filled the cave with thunder. Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward, her eyes, like two green moons in the darkness, facing the blazing eyes of Shere Khan.

"And it is I, Raksha [The Demon], who answer. The man's cub is mine, Lungri – mine to me! He shall not be killed. He shall live to run with the Pack and to hunt with the Pack; and in the end, look you, hunter of little naked cub – frog-eater – fish killer – he shall hunt *thee*! Now get hence, or by the Sambhur that I killed (*I eat no starved cattle*), back thou goest to thy mother, burnt beast of the Jungle, lamer than ever thou earnest into the world! Go!"

Father Wolf looked on amazed. He had almost forgotten the days when he won Mother Wolf in a fair fight from five other wolves, when she ran in the Pack and was not called The Demon for compliment's sake. Shere Khan might have faced Father Wolf, but he could not stand up against Mother Wolf, for he knew that where he was she had all the advantage of the ground, and would fight to the death. So he backed out of the cave-mouth growling, and when he was clear he shouted –

"Each dog barks in his own yard! We will see what the Pack will say to this fostering of man-cubs. The cub is mine, and to my teeth he will come in the end, O bush-tailed thieves!"

Mother Wolf threw herself down panting among the cubs, and Father Wolf said to her gravely –

"Shere Khan speaks this much truth. The cub must be shown to the Pack. Wilt thou still keep him, Mother?"

"Keep him!" she gasped. "He came naked, by night, alone and very hungry; yet he was not afraid! Look, he has pushed one of my babes to one side already. And that lame butcher would have killed him and would have run off to the Waingunga while the villages here hunted through all our lairs in revenge. Keep him? Assuredly I will keep him. Lie still, little frog. O thou Mowgli – for Mowgli the Frog I will call thee – the time will come when thou wilt hunt Shere Khan as he has hunted thee."

Questions for *The Jungle Book* Set A

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the paragraph beginning *Shere Khan had jumped ...* Find and copy one word that means very angry.

2. ... *this fostering of man-cubs ...* What does the word *fostering* mean in this sentence?

3. ... *And that lame butcher ...* Which of the following is closest in meaning to *lame* in this sentence? Circle one.

vicious

weak

injured

hopeless

Retrieval:

4. Who did the wolves take their orders from?

5. What were Mother Wolf's eyes compared to?

6. Complete the sentence below.

Father Wolf had earned the right to be Mother Wolf's partner by ...

Inference:

7. Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence to support each statement.

	Evidence
Shere Khan is angry with the wolves.	
Mother Wolf could be dangerous.	

8. "Each dog barks in his own yard!" This means ... (tick one)

Everyone is braver when they are in their own home.

Wolves make good guard dogs.

I don't believe you.

Wolves are only fit to be pets.

9. Why was Mother Wolf impressed that Mowgli had pushed one of her cubs to one side?

Summarise:

10. Which statement is the best summary of the whole extract? Tick one.

Shere Khan is frightened of the wolves.

The wolves want to annoy Shere Khan.

The wolves will let Shere Khan have Mowgli when they have finished with him.

The wolves think it will be a mistake to let Shere Khan have Mowgli.

Meaning as a whole:

11. Draw lines to match each part of the story to its correct quotation.

Past events

... the mouth of the cave was too narrow for a tiger to come in by.

Setting

Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward ...

Action

Shere Khan had jumped at the woodcutter's fire ...

Character

He had almost forgotten the days when ... she was not called The Demon for compliment's sake.

Authorial intent:

12. "... They take orders from the Head of the Pack, and not from any striped cattle-killer ..." What does the phrase *striped cattle-killer* tell us about Father Wolf's impression of Shere Khan?

Questions for *The Jungle Book* Set B

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the paragraph beginning *Shere Khan had jumped ...* Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to *front feet*.

2. ... *for my fair dues* ... What does the word *dues* mean in this sentence?

3. ... *as he has hunted thee* ... What does the word *thee* mean in this sentence?

Retrieval:

4. How had Shere Khan been injured when he had attacked the woodcutter's family?

5. What was Mother Wolf doing when the tiger roared?

6. By what other name does Mother Wolf call Shere Khan?

Inference:

7. "*Ye choose and ye do not choose ...*" This means ... (tick one)

The wolves are confused.

The wolves said they could kill the man cub but haven't.

The wolves can't make up their minds.

Shere Khan can't make up his mind.

8. ... *Mother Wolf threw herself down panting among the cubs* ... Why did she do this?

9. Why did Mother Wolf think it would have been dangerous to the wolves to let Shere Khan kill Mowgli?

Meaning as a whole:

10. Using information from the whole text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Shere Khan thinks Mowgli belongs to him.		
Mother Wolf wants to keep Mowgli as she has no cubs of her own.		
Father Wolf has great respect for Mother Wolf.		
Mother Wolf thinks Mowgli is a frog.		

Predict

11. Based on what you have read, what do you think Shere Khan will do about Mowgli?

Compare:

12. The mood of Father Wolf changes throughout this extract. How does it change?

Answers for *The Jungle Book*

Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. furious
2. looking after/taking care of/accepting into your own home
3. injured

Retrieval:

4. the Head of the Pack
5. (two) green moons
6. winning a fight with five other wolves

Inference:

7.

	Evidence
Shere Khan is angry with the wolves.	He objects to nosing into their 'dog's den'. He considers Mowgli to be his. He roars at them. He insults them ('bush-tailed thieves')
Mother Wolf could be dangerous.	She is known as <i>Raksha [The Demon]</i> (as a compliment). She threatens that she will make Shere Khan <i>lamer</i> than he is. She would fight to the death. Shere Khan backed away from her.

8. Everyone is braver when they are in their own home.

9. Because, even though he was alone, he was still bold and fearless enough to push one of the wolf cubs away from its mother.

Summarise:

10. The wolves think it will be a mistake to let Shere Khan have Mowgli.

Meaning as a whole:

11.

Past events	... <i>the mouth of the cave was too narrow for a tiger to come in by.</i>
Setting	<i>Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward ...</i>
Action	<i>Shere Khan had jumped at the woodcutter's fire ...</i>
Character	<i>He had almost forgotten the days when ... she was not called <i>The Demon</i> for compliment's sake.</i>

Authorial intent:

12. This phrase suggests that Father Wolf is not impressed that Shere Khan kills tame cattle rather than hunting animals in the wild and is using this as a way of insulting the tiger.

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Answers for *The Jungle Book*

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. forepaws
2. what is owed/what belongs (to Shere Khan) by right
3. you

Retrieval:

4. burned his feet on the campfire
5. lying down with/suckling her cubs
6. Lungri (which means *lame one*)

Inference:

7. The wolves said they could kill the man cub but haven't.
8. She was tired after/exhilarated by/wound up by confronting Shere Khan.
9. Because men from the villages might have thought it was the wolves and taken their revenge on them.

Meaning as a whole:

10.

	True	False
Shere Khan thinks Mowgli belongs to him.	✓	
Mother Wolf wants to keep Mowgli as she has no cubs of her own.		✓
Father Wolf has great respect for Mother Wolf.	✓	
Mother Wolf thinks Mowgli is a frog.		✓

Predict:

11. He will wait until the wolf pack has rejected or abandoned Mowgli and then kill him.

Compare:

12. At first he is defiant and brave – perhaps insolent – in standing up to Shere Khan. After Mother Wolf has driven the tiger away, he is then worried and talks to her gravely about what will happen next.

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