**Jungle Book**

***Characters***

1. Mowgli
2. Baloo - Mowgli’s friend, a big brown bear, comic lead
3. Bagheera/Cub 2 - Mowgli’s mentor
4. Kaa - a snake, Mowgli’s mentor and friend
5. Shere Khan - a tiger, the villain
6. Chitter - a monkey, one half of the comic duo
7. Chatter - a monkey, one half of the comic duo
8. Tabaqui - a hyena, Shere Khan’s henchman
9. Blue Peacock – storyteller
10. Akela/Cub 1 - leader of the wolf pack
11. Mother wolf - Mowgli’s adoptive mother
12. Father wolf - Mowgli’s adoptive father
13. Elephant - A large elephant who is very afraid.

**Scene 1**

**Peacock:** The Indian jungle is where this story takes place,

The wild animals live close to the human race.

 I know I’m meant to be telling you the story, but I can see you all looking at my feathers, pretty cool aren’t they?

**(He struts up and down to show off his feathers)**

 Anyway, it’s okay to be different from everyone else. Feathers make a nice change from all the furry animals in the jungle. They moult you know; I am *so* glad I don’t have to hoover the jungle floor.

**Baloo: (Offstage)** Hey Blue Peacock, just concentrate and get on with the story.

**Peacock: (Shouts)** Okay, okay, keep your fur on, Baloo.

 **(To Audience)**  Our jungle troubles began about ten years ago,

 In the Hills, where the wolves lie low.

**Wolves: (Singing)** Who let the wolves out?

**Cubs: (Howling)** Whoooo whoooooo whooooooo.

**Wolves: (Singing)** Who let the wolves out?

**Cubs: (Howling)** Whoooo whoooooo whooooooo.

**(The Wolf Cubs gather round Mother and Father Wolf.)**

**Mother Wolf: (To Wolf Cubs)** It’s time for bed soon.

**Cubs:** Can we stay up late, pleee-ease?

**Father Wolf: (Looks up quickly.)** Quick, something is coming, keep safe everyone.

**Mother Wolf: (Protecting her cubs.)** What is it?

**(Mowgli runs out of the bushes)**

**Mother Wolf:** What is this grubby little thing?

**Father Wolf:** It’s a man-cub.

**(Mowgli snuggles up to Mother Wolf and the Wolf Cubs.)**

**Father Wolf: (Looking at Mowgli.)** The man-cub hasn’t got any fur.

**Mother Wolf:** I’ll keep him warm.

**Cub 1:** He escaped from Shere Khan.

**Cub 2:** He must be really brave.

**Father Wolf:** Yes, this man-cub is fearless.

**Cub 1: (Trembling)** I’m scared, Mother.

**Cub 2: (Huddles closer to Father Wolf.)** Will Shere Khan get us?

**Father Wolf:** Wolves are a free people in the jungle. We only take orders from the head of our pack.

**Mother Wolf: (Springs forward.)** We will look after the man-cub as one of our own.

**Father Wolf: (Shouts for the jungle to her)** The man-cub is protected by the wolves!

**Cub 1:** What’s his name?

**Cub 2:** He looks like a frog.

**Mother Wolf:** Then we shall call him Mowgli, the frog.

**Father Wolf:** Baloo the bear can teach him the ways of the jungle alongside our cubs.

**Peacock: (To Audience)** And so Mowgli the man-cub escaped Shere Khan that day and learnt about life in the jungle.

***Scene 2***

**(Mood music should convey animal noises from the jungle. Baloo puts his arm around Mowgli as they move Centre stage.)**

**Baloo:** Do you know about all the jungle creatures now, Mowgli?

**Mowgli:** Of course I do.

**Baloo:** How can you know if I haven’t taught you everything?

**Mowgli:** I know about wolves, don’t I Chitter?

**Chitter:** That’s because you live with the wolves.

**Baloo:** They used to be werewolves, but they’re alright **(howling)** now-ooooooooooh.

**(The other Animals laugh. Mowgli and the Wolves howl. Chitter and Chatter cartwheel/silly run across the stage and crash into each other. Tabaqui aughs for longer )**

**Bagheera:** It’s not that funny, Tabaqui.

**Baloo:** He’s a hyena, he’s supposed to laugh.

**Chitter: (Getting up.)** It’s just a bit of monkey business.

**Chatter: (Chitter helps him up.)** We’re monkeys, and we’re in the business of making everyone laugh.

**Bagheera:** You don’t make me laugh.

**Baloo: (Slapping Bagheera playfully.)** Lighten up.

**(Tabaqui starts laughing again.)**

**Bagheera:** You’re supposed to be teaching Mowgli about life in the jungle.

**Father Wolf:** You must teach him the laws of the jungle.

**Mother Wolf:** Our man-cub needs to be protected against that evil tiger, Shere Khan.

**Baloo:** Okay, okay. **(To Mowgli)** Let me tell you about snakes. Sometimes snakes **(sing and dance)** shake rattle and roll, well snakes shake rattle and roll.

**Mowgli: (Dances with Baloo.)** Like this?

**Baloo: (Still dancing.)** You got it, bro.

**(Kaa enters and dances around the other Animals, who keep their distance from him.)**

**Bagheera:** Watch out, Mowgli, don’t get too close to Kaa.

**Kaa:** Ssspoil sssport. I’m a sssivil ssserpent.

**Baloo:** Never make eye contact with Kaa the python, cos’ he’ll hypnotise you and crush you to death.

**Mowgli:** Okay, tell me about bears, Baloo.

**Bagheera:** Don’t encourage him.

**Baloo: (Scatting)** Shoobee doobee doobee doo wah wah. **(Dances around the stage and sings.)** Well I’m a happy bear and a happy bear hasn’t a care, just a bear necessity for musicality. Shoobee doo bee, shoobee doo boo.

**(Elephant enters doing a very heavy and clumsy dance, swinging his trunk)**

**Elephants:** What about a song for us Elephants?

**Baloo: (Singing)** Well here’s a thing that we can sing, every time you swing that thing.

**Elephants:** Our trunks?

**Kaa:** Yesssssss, it’ssss a sssswinging song man. It’s sssssmooth jazz.

**Baloo: (To Mowgli)** Let me teach you the elephant song. **(Singing)** Down in the jungle where nobody goes, there’s a big old elephant blowing his nose.

**(Elephants do a trumpeting sound with Baloo.)**

**Baloo:** With a dab a dab here **(mimics wiping long trunk)** and a dab a dab there, that’s the way he blows his nose.

**(Elephants do a trumpeting sound with Baloo. Everyone except Bagheera joins in and pretends to play instruments.)**

**Baloo:(Singing)** And a 1 2 3 4! Down in the jungle where nobody goes, there’s a big old elephant blowing his nose. **(Trumpeting sound.)** With a dab a dab here **(mimics wiping long trunk)** and a dab a dab there, that’s the way he blows his nose.

**(Loud rumbling noise from offstage)**

**Akela: (Sharply)** That’s enough monkeying around, Mowgli.

**Mowgli:** Was that your stomach rumbling, Baloo?

**Baloo:** No, that’s probably Shere Khan.

**Mowgli:** He sounds angry.

**Elephant: (Shaking with fear.)** I’m scared.

**Kaa:** Oh ssssstop being a sssssissy.

**Bagheera: (Backing away.)** Give him some space, the last thing we need is a wobbly elephant falling on us.

**Baloo:** They look more like jellyphants. **(To Elephants)** Keep it together, guys. Shere Khan is only a big stripey puddy cat. You’re ten times bigger than him.

**Elephant: (Trembling)** Yeah, but he’s fiercer. And elephants are scared of puddy cats.

**Baloo:** Give these big guys some space. If one goes they’ll all go, like a domino effect.

**(They all move away from the Elephants.)**

**Tabaqui:** My boss Shere Khan will be angry, I’m out-a here.

**(Tabaqui runs Offstage.)**

**Kaa:** And me, sssee you later. Come round for sssupper sssometime sssoon. **(Kaa exits.)**

**Elephant:** Yeah, you guys go ahead. I’ll catch up later, I just have to…RUN AWAY **(He exits as quickly as possible)**

**Baloo: (Yawning and stretching.)** I need to rest for a while, Mowgli.

**(Roar off stage)**

**Mother Wolf:** I don’t like the sound of that roar, Akela.

**Akela:** Mowgli stay with Baloo and Bagheera, the rest of us will create a diversion.

**Father Wolf:** Time to go.

**Mother Wolf:** Look after Mowgli, Bagheera.

**Bagheera:** I will keep Mowgli safe.

**(The Wolves all exit Stage Right.)**

**Baloo: (Helping Mowgli up.)** We’d better skedaddle.

**Bagheera:** Stay close together, Shere Khan means business.

**Baloo: (Looking around and throwing comic punches.)** Shere Khan is close by. Now let’s get out of here, I’ve got your backs.

**(Mowgli and Bagheera exit Stage Right. Baloo walks backwards as if protecting them and is the last to exit.)**

**Peacock:** I am here folks, just out of sight

 Shere Khan’s roar gave me such a fright.

Here kitty, kitty, run to the right

 Shere Khan’s roar is as bad as his bite.

**(Elephant enters, obviously very scared and keeping watch for Shere Khan. He spots him and crouches into a ball on the floor to hide)**

**Shere Khan: (Moves across the stage stealthily and menacingly.)** Fee fi foe fum, I *fear*. **(Laughs evilly.)** Be afraid, be very afraid, because Shere Khan is on the prowl. I’ll be back, once I’ve caught the man-cub they call Mowgli. I’m not afraid of the big bad wolves because they’re not as bad as I am. **(Shouts into the jungle.)** I’m coming to get you man-cub.

**(He roars and runs off into the jungle. Elephant slowly checks Khan is gone then sneaks away)**

***Scene 3***

**(Akela sits atop the rock with the other Wolves below him. Mother Wolf pushes Mowgli Centrestage.)**

**Akela:** Look well, Mowgli. We are reviewing your position as an honorary wolf.

**(Shere Khan appears Stage Left observing the council meeting.)**

**Shere Khan:** The man-cub is mine. Give him to me, Akela.

**Akela:** Wolves are free people in the jungle. Wolves are a pack and take orders from no other animal. Look well.

**(All howling in agreement)**

**Akela:** The law of the jungle states that for a cub to be fully accepted by the pack someone must speak for him. **(Looking around.)** Who speaks for this man-cub?

**(Baloo enters with Bagheera.)**

**Baloo:** I speak for the man-cub. I have been teaching him the ways of the jungle along with his brother wolf cubs.

**Akela:** Look well oh wolves! Baloo the bear has spoken. He has taught all our wolf cubs the ways of the jungle and has my confidence. Who else amongst you will speak?

**Mother Wolf:** As much as I would hate to give up my man-cub, must return to his own people.

**Mowgli: (To Mother Wolf)** Am I still a wolf, Mother?

**Mother Wolf:** Yes, you are still one of the wolf pack.

**Father Wolf:** You are still our man-cub. Learn well, Mowgli.

**Shere Khan:** I’ll get that man-cub if it’s the last thing I do.

**Akela:** Mowgli has earned his place in our pack.

**(Optional: Wolves and Mowgli sing. After the song they all exit)**

***Scene 4***

**(Shere Khan is pacing up and down angrily with Tabaqui trying to calm him down.)**

**Shere Khan:** That stupid bear and those wolves will not stop me. **(Turns angrily on Tabaqui.)** And you are no help to me, Tabaqui. I will hunt the man-cub alone.

**Tabaqui:** Give me another chance to prove myself, Boss. I can run faster than you.

**Shere Khan: (Angrily)** Let’s get this straight, I can run as well as any other creature in this jungle. I need to think of a plan of action, a plan to overthrow Akela and take control of the wolves.

**(Chitter and Chatter enter Stage Right, run around Tabaqui and pull his tail.)**

**Tabaqui:** Stop that.

**Chitter: (Mimicking Tabaqui.)** Stop that.

**Tabaqui:** Stop monkeying around.

**Chatter: (Mimicking Tabaqui)** Stop monkeying around.

**Chitter:** Yes, Boss. No, Boss.

**Chatter:** Three bags full, Boss.

**(They laugh and do their handshake)**

**Shere Khan: (Turning on them.)** Stop that! I am thinking of a devious plan to capture the man-cub.

**Tabaqui:** Hey Boss, why don’t I spy on Baloo and Bagheera and find out what they are up to?

**Shere Khan:** Don’t fail me, Tabaqui or you will be my next meal.

**Tabaqui:** Don’t worry, Boss. I’m on the case.

**Chitter:** We’ll help, at a price.

**Chatter:** Yeah, what’s the pay?

**Shere Khan:** Surely monkeys work for peanuts.

**Chitter:** No, we work for bananas.

**Shere Khan:** Cut out the small talk, are you in on the plan or not?

**Tabaqui:** Sure they are, Boss. We’re with you every step of the way, ain’t that right, monkeys?

**Chatter:** Yeah, whatever.

**Chitter:** We’ll lure the man-cub.

**Chatter:** We can kidnap him.

**(Chitter and Chatter chase each other round in circles, then change direction. Tabaqui laughs manically.)**

**Shere Khan: (Shouts)**Keep still and stop monkeying around.

**Chitter:** We’re monkeys.

**Chatter:** We always monkey around.

**Shere Khan:** Well I’m a tiger, and in case you’d forgotten, I eat monkeys for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monkeys, you will kidnap the man-cub for me.

**Chitter:** We’ll help.

**Chatter:** Yeah, monkeys are fed up of being outcasts.

**Shere Khan:** I will overthrow Akela and take over as leader of the wolf pack. Then I can rule the whole jungle and we will drive the humans out.

**Chitter:** Leave it to us.

**Tabaqui: (Moves Centrestage doing karate moves.)** I’ll find him, Boss.

**(Shere Khan exits Stage Left with Chitter and Chatter.)**

**Tabaqui: (Realising that they have gone without him.)** Wait for me, Boss.

**(Tabaqui runs Offstage Left. Baloo, Bagheera and Mowgli enter Stage Right.)**

**Scene 5**

**Tabaqui:** My boss, Shere Khan has first claim on the man-cub.

**Baloo: (Shakes his head in disbelief.)** It’s that wannabe gangster hyena, Tabaqui.

**Chitter:** Hyena? He ain’t nuthin’ but a hound dog, uh huh huh, thank you very much. So Baloo and the hound dog want my man-cub.

**(Shere Khan enters Stage Left.)**

**Shere Khan:** Correction, *my* man-cub.

**(Bagheera walks towards Baloo.)**

**Bagheera:** Baloo and I are taking Mowgli.

**Chatter:** How many of you are interested in the man-cub? I will throw down a challenge.

**Baloo:** Challenge?

**Chatter:** Uh huh huh, you have to entertain me. We’ll call it Jungle’s Got Talent, you each get sixty seconds to perform, longer if I like your act.

**Bagheera: (Hand over eyes)** I’m a panther, I do not sing and dance.

**Baloo: (Pats Bagheera on the shoulder.)** I’ll do it for both of us, old pal.

**Bagheera:** You are so deluded.

**Shere Khan: (Confidently)** I’m in.

**Tabaqui: (Laughs)** I’m the perfect audience.

**(Kaa enters Stage Left.)**

**Kaa:** Add me to the lissst. I’ve got a sssuper, ssscintilating, ssspessshiality act. Put me lassst.

**Chitter:** Well, what a line up. What are we waiting for? **(Claps his hands.)** Move the judges table closer to the action.

**Baloo:** Do you mean to tell me that we are going to be judged by those crazy monkeys?

**Chitter: (To Chatter)** ‘Ere, did ‘e call us crazy?

**Chatter:** ‘Ow should I know? We have three acts all trying to win the star prize, Mowgli the man-cub.

**Shere Khan:** My act will win.

**Chitter:** What are you doin’, ballet dancing?

**(Chatter twirls round like a ballerina and falls over. The other Monkeys shriek with laughter.)**

**Shere Khan:** The best break dancing in the jungle. **(To Tabaqui)** Cue music, maestro.

**(Shere Khan break dances as Tabaqui makes beat box sounds. After thirty seconds Alvis stops it.)**

**Chatter: (Yelling)** Cut.

**Shere Khan:** But I was just getting into my stride.

**Chatter:** Thirty seconds was long enough. **(To Monkeys)** Scores, judges.

**Chitter:** Five!

**Chatter:** It’s a high five from me as well.

**Shere Khan:** Ten points? I deserve more than that.

**Baloo:** My turn, my turn, I’m next. I’m going to tell jokes…. I say, I say, I say, why did the elephants get thrown out of the swimming pool?**... B**ecause they kept dropping their trunks.

**(Tabaqui is the only one who laughs.)**

**Elephant:** How dare you sir!

**Chitter:** Your jokes are un*bear*able.

**Chatter:** I can’t *bear* it anymore.

**Mowgli:** Oh no, think of something, Bagheera.

**Bagheera:** I’m thinking already.

**Baloo: (Clears his throat.)** Okay, folks, now for some monkey jokes. What do you call a monkey at the North Pole?

**Chitter: (Shouts)** Lost.

**Baloo:** Okay, how about this one. How do you catch a monkey?

**Chatter: (Shouts)** Climb a tree and act like a banana.

**Chitter:** Zero.

**Chatter:** It’s a big fat zero from me as well.

**Tabaqui: (To Baloo)** Don’t give up your day job, big fella. **(Laughing)**

(Optional song to show off talents to end jungle got talents. All Onstage join in with the dancing. After the song has finished Kaa steps forwards.)

**Kaa:** Ssssensssassshional ssspectacular sssong, you monkeys are definitely the winnersss, but let me sssing my sssong anyway, I prepared it essspessshially for you.

**Bagheera: (Realising what Kaa is about to do.)** Quick, Baloo, grab Mowgli and let’s skedaddle.

**Peacock:** Follow me, Baloo.

**(Peacock, Baloo, Bagheera and Mowgli exit Stage Right.)**

**Shere Khan:** Oh no, Kaa is starting his hunger dance. **(Looking around.)** Drat, the man-cub has escaped, time for a final showdown.

**(Shere Khan exits Stage Left.)**

**(Short burst of snake charming music as the Monkeys are hypnotised and walk towards Kaa as he weaves around them.)**

**Scene 6**

**(Characters walk into an unknown area. Looking around interested)**

**Bagheera:** I think this is your human village, Mowgli.

**Baloo: (Pushing Mowgli forwards as he sees Shere Khan)** Mogli, watch out!

**Mowgli:** Run, it is me Shere Khan wants.

**(Shere Khan pins Mowgli to the ground whilst the Others look on helplessly.)**

**Baloo:** Help me pull Shere Khan away, Bagheera.

**Bagheera:** We mustn’t intervene, Baloo, the laws of nature must prevail. **(Shouts)** Keep him in your sights, Mowgli.

**Shere Khan:** Revenge is sweet.

**Father Wolf:** He is a born survivor.

**Akela: (Shouts)** Mowgli, look well oh bravest of the wolves.

**(Shere Khan loses concentration and Mowgli overpowers him, pinning him to the ground)**

**Bagheera:** I think Shere Khan has been wounded.

**Mowgli: (Roars like a tiger.)** *No*, this animal is my brother.

**Baloo:** Mowgli has spoken Shere Khan’s language.

**Shere Khan: (To Mowgli)** You spared my life, in return I give you your life. You have proved to be the bravest in the jungle.

**Mowgli: (Hugs Shere Khan.)** Thank you, Shere Khan. I was never your enemy, only a friend to all the animals.

**Baloo:** I’m the proudest bear in the whole wide world right now. I taught him everything he knows.

**(All sing.)**

**Peacock: (To Audience)** We must leave the Indian Jungle and our animal friends.

 Although it’s been fun, this is where our Jungle Book story ends.

**THE END**