

The voices of the wolves replied, 'Let him live.' They were always hungry and they wanted to get the dead cow. Soon they went away, and there were only Akela, Bagheera, Baloo, and Mowgli's wolf family left. They could hear the angry roars of Shere Khan in the night. 'It is good,' said Akela. 'Men are clever. Perhaps this man-cub will help us when he is older. Take him away,' he said to Father Wolf, 'and teach him well.' And so, because of Baloo's good word and the present of a cow, Mowgli now belonged to the Seeonee Wolf-Pack. The story of Mowgli's life among the wolves fills many books, but we must jump ten or eleven years now. Father Wolf, Baloo, and Bagheera taught Mowgli well, and he learnt everything about the jungle. He knew the meaning of every sound in the trees, of every song of the birds, of every splash in the water. He learnt to climb trees like a monkey,

to swim in the rivers like a fish, and to hunt for his food as cleverly as any animal in the jungle.



After reading 'Chapter - One', answer the following questions.

1. Who is Tabaqui?

2. Why the wolves of India did not like Tabaqui?
3. Who is Shere Khan? Why did he come to the jungle?
4. Why the law of the jungle did said that the animal must not hunt man?
5. What did the mother wolf call the baby boy?
6. What did the boy learn in the jungle?

CHAPTER TWO

The Monkey-People

Baloo, the old brown bear, loved teaching Mowgli. He taught him how to speak to the different Jungle-People, and he taught him the important Master-Words. But Mowgli sometimes got bored with all the lessons. One day, when he was not listening, Baloo hit him, very softly, on the head, and Mowgli ran away angrily. Bagheera, the Black Panther, was not happy about this. 'Remember how small he is,' he said to Baloo. 'How can his little head hold all your long words?' 'These words will keep him safe from the birds, from the Snake-People, and all the animals that hunt,' said Baloo. 'It is true that he is only small. But no one will hurt him, if he remembers all the Master-Words. Come, Mowgli!' he called into

the trees. 'Come and say the words again.' Mowgli climbed down from a tree and came to sit next to them. 'I will say the words to Bagheera, not you, fat old Baloo!' he said crossly. 'Very well,' said Baloo sadly. 'Say the words for the Hunting-People.' 'We are of one blood, you and I,' said Mowgli. 'Good. Now for the birds.'

Mowgli said the same words but with the sound of a bird. 'Now for the Snake-People,' said Baloo. Mowgli then made the long 'ssss' sound, which was like no other noise, only the noise of a snake. 'Good,' said Baloo gently. 'One day you will thank me for my lessons. Now you will be safe in the jungle, because no snake, no bird, no animal will hurt you. You do not need to be afraid of anyone.' 'And I shall have my people and go with them high up in the trees,' shouted Mowgli. 'What did you say, Mowgli?' asked Baloo, surprised. 'Have you been with

the Bandar-log, the Monkey-People?' Mowgli could hear that Baloo was angry, and he saw too that Bagheera's green eyes were cold and hard. 'When Baloo hurt my head,' said Mowgli, 'I went away, and the grey monkeys came down from the trees and talked to me. They were kind to me and gave me nice things to eat. Then they took me up into the trees. They said that I was their brother, and they wanted me to be their leader one day. Why have you never told me about the Monkey-People? Bad old Baloo! They play all day and don't do lessons, and I will play with them again.'

'Listen, man-cub,' said Baloo angrily. 'I have taught you the Law for all the Jungle-People, but not for the Monkey-People. They have no law. Their ways are not our ways. They are noisy and dirty, and they think that they are a great people, but then they forget everything.'

The rest of the Jungle People do not talk to them, or even think about them. Remember what I tell you.' Mowgli listened, and was sorry. But all this time the Bandar-log was above them in the trees, listening and watching. They followed Mowgli and his friends through the jungle until it was time for the midday rest. Mowgli lay between his friends and went to sleep, saying, 'I will never talk to or play



When he woke up, he was high in a tree and there were hands holding his legs and arms -

hard, strong, little hands. Down below Baloo was shouting angrily, and Bagheera was trying to climb up the tree, but he was too heavy for the thin branches. The monkeys, shouting and laughing, carried Mowgli between them and began their journey along the monkey roads, which are high in the trees. It was a wild, exciting journey. The monkeys jumped from tree-top to tree-top, crashing through the leaves and branches. At first Mowgli was afraid of falling, but then he began to think. He must tell Baloo and Bagheera where he was. High up in the blue sky he saw Chil the kite. The big bird saw that the monkeys were carrying a man-cub. He flew down to look, and was surprised to hear the bird-call of the kites: 'We are of one blood, you and I! 'Who are you?' called Chil. 'Mowgli, the man-cub!' came the reply. 'Watch where they take me, and tell Baloo and Bagheera.'

