

## Oddsocks Productions' Teaching Pack for *The Jungle Book*



*“This is ensemble playing at its most compelling”*

- *The Stage* ★★★★★

*“Fun for all the family and an excellent workout for your laughing muscles”*

- William Stafford

For more information, high-res images, interviews, spokespeople please contact  
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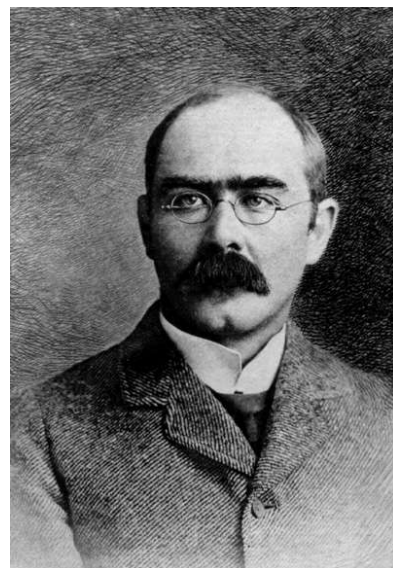
## About Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling was born in India in 1865. He spent much of his life travelling and lived in England, South Africa, the USA and England.

He visited India a number of times, during his second visit from 1882 to 1889 he worked as journalist and reportedly kept notes about his time living and working in the country. It is from these notes and his experiences that formed the basis for *The Jungle Book*.

Rudyard Kipling was a popular and well-known author during his lifetime. In 1907 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. He wrote poetry, short stories, novels and semi-autobiography.

In 1967, Disney produced an adaptation of *The Jungle Book* and it has widely become one of their most popular and timeless animations.



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## Synopsis

A young boy called Mowgli lives in the jungle. Shere Khan, the tiger, wants to care for him, but so do a pack of Wolves. Akela, the wolf leader, decides that Mowgli is best to stay with the Wolves and Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther will also help to look after him. Mowgli spends the first ten years of his life growing up in the jungle. As Akela gets older, Shere Khan wonders whether he might now takeover the 'care' of Mowgli with the help of some of the younger wolves that don't like Mowgli. Mowgli defends himself by throwing fire at his enemies but says he must leave the jungle. He vows to skin Shere Khan as revenge. He goes to the village and is accepted until he discovers that Shere Khan still wants to eat him. He sets a trap for Shere Khan where herds of cattle trample Shere Khan. The villagers see Mowgli skinning Shere Khan and cast him out of the village. Mowgli returns to the jungle to hunt with Baloo and Bagheera, too much a man for the wolves and too much a wolf for the men.



## IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH

- Have you seen either of the film adaptations of *The Jungle Book*? If yes, which are the most memorable moments and characters and explore why?
- Which countries do you find jungle environments and which animals do you find in each?
- When Akela decides to look after Mowgli in the wolf pack, do you think they made the right decision? Explore answers on both sides of the argument.
- What's the difference in behaviour and actions between the Wolves and the Monkeys? What might they be representing?
- Do you think this is a 'Children's Story?'
- Do you think Mowgli belongs in the jungle or in the village?
- Discuss the 'Laws of the Jungle' that Mowgli learns and ask them to make up new laws of the Jungle and explain why.
- This book was written over 100 years ago, do you think it's still exciting to read and has a lesson to teach us? What might the lesson or moral be?
- Which character do you feel the most sorry for and why?
- If you could add an animal into the story to help Mowgli, what animal might that be and how would they help him?
- What is the difference between how, as a reader, we think about the animals and the humans in the story?
- Are there any similarities between how, as a reader, we think about the animals and the humans in the story?
- How did it make you feel when Mowgli kills Shere Khan? Do we think it is right or wrong?
- Where do you think Mowgli is happier?



## SCENES TO ROLE PLAY

- Role Play the scene when Akela and the wolves and Shere Khan have to decide who will take care of Mowgli
- Imagine you're another animal that wants to have the care of Mowgli, make your case to the rest of the group. At the end, take a vote on who should have the care of Mowgli.
- Role Play the scene when Mowgli and his wolf mother Raksha have to say goodbye to one another.
- Role Play when Mowgli returns to the village for the first time. How does he feel and react to other humans?
- Improvise the scene when Buldeo goes to the village and tells them Mowgli talks to wolves. How might the other villagers react?
- Role Play Mowgli talking when he is older about his time in the jungle as a young boy. What might his future look like?

## GAMES/ACTIVITIES

- Everyone sit in a circle and is named Baloo, Mowgli, Bagheera or Shere Khan. There should be one chair short so one student starts in the centre. The student in the centre calls out the name of one character and all the students with that name swap places, the student in the centre tries to get a seat, the person in the centre calls out the name of another character and so on.
- Create a still image of the Jungle. Start with an empty stage and one by one each student comes and adds to the picture. You can develop this by then making the sounds of the jungle to create a soundscape.
- In groups decide on 3 significant parts of the story, create three still images and show them to the rest of the group. See if the rest of the group can identify which scenes you're trying to identify.
- Design a set for *The Jungle Book* - think about entrances and exits and think about what materials you might use.
- Design costumes for *The Jungle Book* - think about how practical they would need to be for the actors to wear and what materials you might use.



## TOUR DATES

The Conquest Theatre  
Wed 30 Nov, 7.30pm  
[www.conquest-theatre.co.uk](http://www.conquest-theatre.co.uk)  
Tel: 01885 488575

Thoresby Riding Hall Theatre  
Fri 2, 7.30pm  
Sat 3 December, 2pm and 7.30pm  
[www.oddsocks.co.uk](http://www.oddsocks.co.uk)  
Tel: 01623 822009

Queen's Hall Arts Centre  
Tues 13 - Fri 30 Dec  
[www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)  
Tel: 01434 652477

Joseph Rowntree Theatre  
Sat 7 Jan, 7.30pm  
[www.josephrowntreetheatre.co.uk](http://www.josephrowntreetheatre.co.uk)  
Tel: 01904 501935

The Lights, Andover  
Thu 12 Jan, 1.30pm and 7.30pm  
[www.thelights.org.uk](http://www.thelights.org.uk)  
Tel: 01264 368368

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick  
13 Jan, 7.30pm  
14 Jan 2pm and 7.30pm  
[www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk)

Artrix, Bromsgrove  
Sun 15 Jan, 7pm  
[www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)  
Tel: 01527 577330

St James Concert Hall, Guernsey  
18 - 21 Jan, 7.30pm  
[www.guernseytickets.gg](http://www.guernseytickets.gg)  
Tel: 01481 711361

Jersey Arts Centre  
23 - 27 Jan, 8pm  
[www.artscentre.je](http://www.artscentre.je)  
Tel: 01534 700444

Guildhall Theatre, Derby  
31 Jan - 4 Feb  
1pm, 2.30pm and 7.30pm  
[www.derbylive.co.uk](http://www.derbylive.co.uk)  
Tel: 01332 255800

Oakengates Theatre  
Sun 5 Feb, 7.30pm  
[www.theplacetelford.com](http://www.theplacetelford.com)  
Tel: 01952 382382

New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth  
9 Feb, 7.30pm  
10 Feb, 1.30pm and 7.30pm  
[www.newtheatreroyal.com](http://www.newtheatreroyal.com)  
Tel: 023 9264 9000

Anvil Arts, Hampshire  
Sat 11 Feb, 2.30pm  
[www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk)  
Tel: 01256 844244

Theatre Royal Wakefield  
Fri 17 Feb, 1pm and 5pm  
[www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk)  
Tel: 01924 211311

Felixstowe Spa Pavilion  
Sat 18 Feb, 7pm  
Sun 19 Feb, 2pm  
[www.spapavilion.uk](http://www.spapavilion.uk)  
Tel: 01394 284962

Middlesbrough Theatre  
Thu 23 Feb, 2pm and 7pm  
[www.middlesbroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.middlesbroughtheatre.co.uk)  
Tel: 01642 815181

Palace Theatre, Mansfield  
Fri 24 Feb, 7.30pm  
[www.mansfield.gov.uk/palacetheatre](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/palacetheatre)  
Tel: 01623 633133

Lichfield Garrick  
Sat 25 Feb, 7.30pm  
[www.lichfieldgarrick.com](http://www.lichfieldgarrick.com)  
Tel: 01543 412121