

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

THE JUNGLE BOOK



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Mowgli's Brothers

READ:

'Mowgli's Brothers', and the poem Hunting-Song of the Seeonee Pack.

NARRATION:

How is Mowgli adopted into the wolf pack? What is the Law of the Jungle, as introduced here?

EXTENSION:

Poetry: read the Hunting-Song aloud - what does it tell us about wolf pack life?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Kaa's Hunting

READ:

'Kaa's Hunting', and the poem Road-Song of the Bandar-Log.

DISCUSS:

Why are the Bandar-log (monkeys) considered outcasts in the jungle? What does this story teach about showing off?

EXTENSION:

Poetry: compare the playful tone of the Bandar-Log song to the serious Law of the Jungle.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - 'Tiger! Tiger!'

READ:

'Tiger! Tiger!', and the poem Mowgli's Song.

DISCUSS:

How does Mowgli's story end in this first trilogy? What does it mean for him to return to human society?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write Mowgli's feelings as he leaves the jungle for the village.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 1 - Response Day

READ:

No new reading - review the three Mowgli stories.

LAW OF THE JUNGLE:

Collect every rule of the Law of the Jungle mentioned so far in a list.

EXTENSION:

History: research real wolf pack behaviour and compare it to Kipling's version.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 2 - The White Seal (first half)

READ:

The White Seal, up to Kotick's decision to search for a safe island.

NARRATION:

How is Kotick different from the other seal pups?

EXTENSION:

Geography: research the real geography of Bering Sea and North Pacific seal colonies.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - The White Seal (second half)

READ:

The rest of The White Seal, and the poem Lukannon.

DISCUSS:

What makes Kotick a different kind of hero compared to Mowgli?

EXTENSION:

Science: research the real history of fur seal hunting and conservation.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 2 - Rikki-Tikki-Tavi (first half)

READ:

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, up to his first encounter with Nag.

NARRATION:

Describe Rikki-Tikki's character and courage.

EXTENSION:

Science: research mongooses and their real relationship with snakes.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 2 - Rikki-Tikki-Tavi (second half)

READ:

The rest of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, and the poem Darzee's Chant.

DISCUSS:

How does Kipling build tension in the final confrontation with Nagaina?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: this story is set in a British colonial household in India - what does it show us about that setting?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 3 - Toomai of the Elephants (first half)

READ:

Toomai of the Elephants, up to Toomai's night in the jungle.

HISTORY:

Research the use of elephants in the working life of colonial India, including logging camps.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what is Toomai's dream, and why does everyone think it's impossible?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 3 - Toomai of the Elephants (second half)

READ:

The rest of Toomai of the Elephants, and the poem Shiv and the Grasshopper.

NARRATION:

Describe the elephant dance Toomai witnesses. Why is this such an extraordinary honour?

EXTENSION:

Art: illustrate the elephant dance scene.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 3 - Her Majesty's Servants

READ:

Her Majesty's Servants.

DISCUSS:

This story is told through the eyes of army camp animals on the eve of battle. What does each animal's attitude to their work reveal?

EXTENSION:

History: research the British Indian Army, and the real role of animals in military logistics.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 3 - Parade Song of the Camp Animals

READ:

The final poem, Parade Song of the Camp Animals.

POETRY:

Read the poem aloud, giving each animal its own voice.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does this final story and poem differ in tone from the Mowgli stories?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 4 - Response Day

READ:

No new reading - review all seven stories.

COMPARE:

Compare all seven stories in a table: setting, main character, and theme.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: which story did you enjoy most, and why?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 4 - Extension Day

READ:

No new reading - research day.

RESEARCH:

Research Rudyard Kipling's life and the colonial context of the book.

EXTENSION:

Book of Centuries: record key dates.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 15

Week 4 - Wrap-up

READ:

No new reading - it's your turn to write.

WRITING OPPORTUNITY:

Write your own short story or 'law', inspired by Kipling's style, set in a place of your choosing.

EXTENSION:

Share your writing aloud with your family.

Your response:

LAW OF THE JUNGLE COLLECTION

Collect every rule of the Law of the Jungle as you meet it across the three Mowgli stories.

The rule	Which story	What it teaches

SEVEN STORIES COMPARISON

Story	Setting	Main character	Theme
Mowgli's Brothers			
Kaa's Hunting			
'Tiger! Tiger!'			
The White Seal			
Rikki-Tikki-Tavi			
Toomai of the Elephants			
Her Majesty's Servants			