



**Playstage
Junior**

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THE JUNGLE STORY



**ADAPTED FROM THE PLAY BY
Rudyard Kipling**



**Written by
Lynn
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THE JUNGLE STORY

CAST LIST

AKELA, LEADER OF THE WOLF PACK

MONKEY 1

BALOO THE BEAR

TABAQUI THE JACKAL

SHERE KHAN THE TIGER

MOTHER WOLF

MONKEY 2

MONKEY 3

MONKEY 4

MONKEYS (*any number*)

WOLF CUBS (3)

BAGHEERA THE PANTHER

GREY BROTHER THE WOLF

BLACK TAIL THE WOLF

WHITE TOOTH THE WOLF

WOLVES (*any number*)

MOWGLI

RAWAL

DULIA

MESSUA

OTHER JUNGLE ANIMALS AND BIRDS (*non-speaking – optional*)

17 speaking parts, unlimited chorus.

THE JUNGLE STORY

SCENE 1

The animals are gathered in a jungle clearing for a Council meeting, to accept new cubs into the Wolf Pack. Akela, Leader of the Wolf Pack is sitting on a big rock or tree stump. The other animals come from all directions and gather round in a big circle. Raksha, the Mother Wolf is holding a baby, wrapped in linen.

AKELA

Gather around everyone! Gather around for the Council meeting!

MONKEY 1

We're all here, Akela. All the monkeys are here.

BALOO

I am here, Akela.

AKELA

Baloo the bear. Are there any of your brother bears here?

BALOO

No Akela. They are away in the hills. I am their representative.

AKELA

Where is Shere Khan, the Tiger and Bagheera, the panther ?

TABAQUI

They are coming, Akela.

(Shere Khan limps on stage and Bagheera comes in from the other direction. They do not like each other.)

AKELA

Now we are all here. The business at hand is to accept new cubs into the Wolf pack, according to the Law of the Jungle.

Step forward, White-tooth's cub!

(A wolf cub steps forward into the circle)

Step forward Lahini's cub!

(Another wolf cub steps forward)

Step forward Black-Tail's cub!

(A third wolf cub steps forward)

Is it your wish that these cubs be accepted?

EVERYONE

Yes, Akela.

AKELA

Cubs! Go back to your mothers. You are now wolves of the pack.

Hunters under the moon.

MOTHER WOLF

I have another cub here. Akela.

AKELA

Yes, Mother Wolf, I know. Brothers and sisters of the jungle. You have a difficult decision to make now. Mother Wolf, place your cub in the circle.

(Mother Wolf lays the baby down in the centre of the circle and all the other animals make disapproving noises.)

AKELA

This is a man-cub, fostered by Mother Wolf, Raksha.

MONKEY 2

What is this creature doing here, Akela?

TABAQUI

It will not stay very long. It belongs to my master, Shere Khan, the lame tiger. He tracked it to Mother Wolf's cave a month ago, but it was

thin and poor, so he gave it to Mother Wolf with orders to feed it until it grew fat. He intends to kill it tonight. He has promised me some of the kill.

BALOO

That is a lie, you greedy jackal. Here is what really happened Akela. Mother Wolf found the man-cub. It's parents were dead and she took it back to her cave. Shere Khan followed the trail to Mother Wolf's lair but she would not let him have the man-cub.

BAGHEERA

No, she would not. She told Shere Khan to come inside and fight for the kill, if he dared. But he was afraid. He went away growling. Shere Khan is a coward!

(All the monkeys start laughing.)

SHERE KHAN

Be silent! The man-cub is mine! I killed and ate his father and mother. The man-cub is mine!

AKELA

What does the wolf pack say?

GREY BROTHER

I have no feelings one way or the other. If Mother Wolf wants to keep him, then let her. She is the one who will have to look after him.

BLACK TAIL

The man-cub could be a nuisance. We run free and wild at night. How can he follow the pack?

WHITE TOOTH

I agree. What use is a man-cub? It can't run yet, like our cubs. It can't speak or howl at the moon.

AKELA

What does brother Baloo say? Baloo, who is old and wise and teaches our cubs the Jungle Law. Baloo, what do you say?

BALOO

I see no harm in the man-cub. I will help Mother Wolf look after him. Let him run with the pack and, when he is old enough, I will teach him the Jungle Law, like the other cubs.

SHERE KHAN

Have you all gone mad? This naked thing is worth nothing. It is not even a decent meal for me. Give him to me!

MOTHER WOLF

***(standing over the baby)* He is mine! I saved his life! He is my foster-child! If anyone wants him, they can fight me for him!**

BAGHEERA

May I speak, Akela?

AKELA

Bagheera the panther, you are lord of life and death in the jungle. Speak.

BAGHEERA

The Law of the Jungle says that the life of a cub in the wolf-pack may be bought at a price. As you said, Shere Khan, this man-cub is hardly a decent meal for you. I will buy his life for Mother Wolf, I will offer you my next kill, all to yourself, in return for the life of this cub.

AKELA

You must accept this, Shere Khan. It is the Law.

SHERE KHAN

I will accept it, for now. But when this cub is grown and no longer a cub, then I shall have him.

MOTHER WOLF

Have a care, Shere Khan. This man-cub will have me as a mother. Have you forgotten that I gave you that crippled leg? I shall teach this man-cub to be a great hunter and one day he will come for you, old tiger, and finish you off.

SHERE KHAN

**I should have eaten him along with his parents. Come along Tabaqui.
We have no more business here.**

(Shere Khan and Tabaqui leave. Mother Wolf gathers up the baby.)

MOTHER WOLF

**Thank you Baloo. Thank you Bagheera. Thank you for saving the life
of my cub.**

BALOO

I shall always be here to help you, Mother Wolf.

BAGHEERA

So shall I. May your man-cub grow up big and strong.

*(All the animals on stage gather to sing the song "Keep the Jungle
Law")*

SONG – THE JUNGLE LAW (Can be sung or chanted)

**One moment past our bodies cast
No shadow on the plain
Now clear and black they stride our track
And we run home again.
In morning-hush, each rock and bush
Stands hard and high and raw
Then give the call "God rest us all
That keep the Jungle Law"**

**Now Rann, the kite, brings home the night
That Mang, the bat, sets free
The herds are shut in byre and hut
For loosed till dawn are we.
This is the hour of pride and power**

Talon, tusk and claw.

Oh hear the call – Good hunting all

That keep the Jungle Law.

Repeat:

Oh hear the call – Good hunting all

That keep the Jungle Law.

(All the animals leave, except Baloo)

BALOO

**And so, the man-cub grew and grew. The Wolf pack named him
“Mowgli” – “The Frog” – because, in his attempt to run on all fours like
his wolf cousins, he looked like a frog to them. But they grew fond of
him and protected him. As did Bagheera and I.**

(Baloo leaves)

END OF SCENE