

FELBERG YOUNG ENGLISH READERS



The Jungle Book

Księga dżungli



FELBERG SJA

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Prologue

Deep in the jungle of India lived a loving wolf-family. They had four cubs. One day, Father Wolf went hunting. The big tiger Shere Khan was also hunting nearby. Suddenly, there was a loud roar in the valley. Shere Khan burned his paws in a fire left by Men. The tiger dropped his prey and ran into the jungle.

Father Wolf decided to look at the prey left by the tiger. It was a dark-haired baby boy! The child looked at the wolf without fear, even with some curiosity. Father Wolf felt warmth in his heart. He picked the baby up and carried him carefully between his teeth into the cave where the wolf-family lived.

“A man-cub!” shouted Mother Wolf. “Look how cute he is!” she said, and decided to take care of the boy. She let him feed on her milk with her four cubs.

Suddenly, they saw the large head of Shere Khan.

“Give me my man-cub!” shouted the tiger.

“He is ours,” answered Father Wolf.

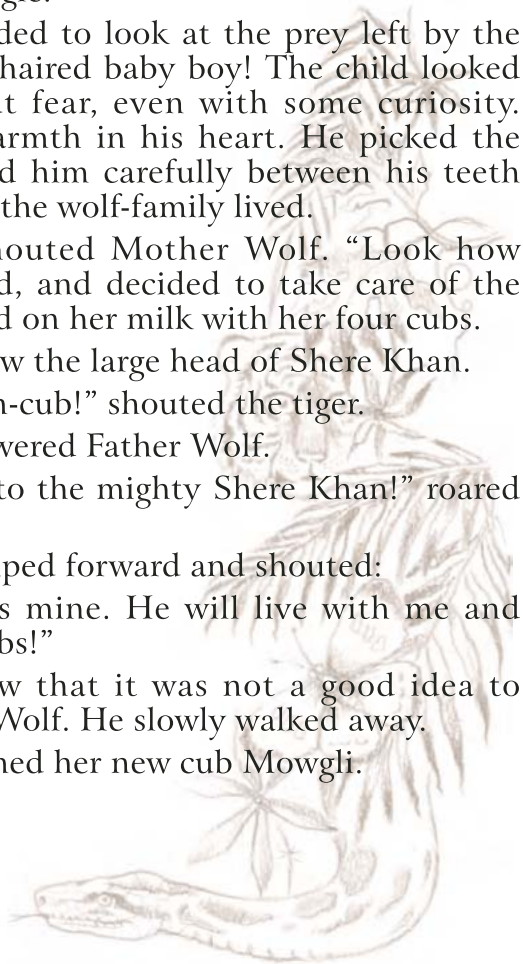
“You are talking to the mighty Shere Khan!” roared the tiger.

Mother Wolf jumped forward and shouted:

“This man-cub is mine. He will live with me and grow up with my cubs!”

Shere Khan knew that it was not a good idea to argue with Mother Wolf. He slowly walked away.

Mother Wolf named her new cub Mowgli.





Mowgli lived in the heart of the jungle. He grew up together with his four wolf brothers. Soon Mowgli went for long trips into the jungle with Mother Wolf.

The Law of the Jungle says that when cubs are big enough, they must meet the rest of the Wolf Pack. Akela, a wise old wolf, was leader of this Pack.

So one day all the wolves came to discuss the future of the cubs. Akela was lying up on a rock. Below him sat the other wolves, and the cubs were playing in front of them. The Pack watched carefully one cub after the next. Then it was Mowgli's turn.

Suddenly, the wolves heard the angry roar of Shere Khan:

“This cub is mine! Give it back to me!”

Akela wasn't afraid. He didn't even move. The tiger had to walk away again, huffing with anger. Then Akela said:

“Men and their children can think. One day Mowgli may be a help for us. Let him grow among us as a child of the jungle. Who will help raise him?”

“I will,” said an old brown bear named Baloo.

“And I will,” said Bagheera, the black panther.

