

## Nyra, Chitra

**Chitra brings the audience to an old, well-known storyteller to hear Mowgli's story.**

NYRA: (*Squinting*) Who's there? Who speaks? Is that you, Chitra?

CHITRA: Yes, Nyra.

NYRA: Come closer. Don't make me squint. You know my eyes aren't what they once were. Did I hear you speaking with someone?

CHITRA: Yes.

NYRA: Who was it? (*RIKKI-TIKKI dances in.*) There's that mongoose again. Must he follow you everywhere you go? (*To Rikki-Tikki*) Begone!

CHITRA: He means no harm.

NYRA: No harm? Last week he turned over my cooking pot and spilled the stew. (*With a threatening gesture*) Be off with you, Son of Mischief! (*shakes head*) Conceited mongoose.

CHITRA: (*To audience*) Like Mowgli, Nyra can understand the language of the jungle creatures. I never know what they're saying.

NYRA: Get yourself a proper pet. A tame monkey or a parrot, perhaps. A mongoose may be fine for trapping snakes, but otherwise it's nothing but aggravation. One thing after another. Overturned cooking pots and stolen eggs.

CHITRA: Nyra?

NYRA: Eh?

CHITRA: (*Gestures to audience*) We have visitors.

NYRA: Visitors? (*NYRA moves towards Chitra and squints out into audience.*) So we do, so we do. And there's no need to tell me why they're here. Visitors come to this village for only one reason: to hear the story of the jungle boy. The one the wolves named Mowgli. (*Chuckles*) What a peculiar name to give a child, for it means Little Frog. Did you ever hear the like? Only I, Nyra, know the true story. You'll have to pay something to hear it, though. A good storyteller is worth a coin or two. I can't be expected to tell this strange account week in and week out without something to show for my trouble.

CHITRA: Our visitors gave me a coin of worth.

NYRA: A coin of worth, eh? I'll be the judge of that. Let me see it. (*She holds out her hand and CHITRA gives her a coin. She quickly hides the coin in a pocket. She takes a step toward the audience.*) Make yourselves comfortable while I tell you a story from the book of the jungle.

### **Nyra introduces the story and characters.**

NYRA: Long ago, Shere Khan came into this village and terrorized all who lived here. There is nothing to fear more than the breath of a man-eating tiger. Mowgli's father was struck down by the fearsome beast, and in the confusion, Mowgli, barely old enough to walk, wandered off into the jungle. His mother was left alone in their home, husband and child both gone. (*Pause.*) Oh, wicked, wicked Shere Khan.

## Messua, Toomai, Villagers

**Toomai finds Mowgli entering the village and brings him to the village elder, assuming Mowgli to be a dangerous troublemaker.**

TOOMAI: Be still, wild thing of the jungle!

MESSUA: Who is this boy, Toomai?

TOOMAI: I caught him spying on the village from the tall grass at the edge of the jungle. Planning some mischief, no doubt.

VILLAGER: Long have we heard rumors of a wild boy living in the jungle. Now we have found these rumors to be true.

TOOMAI: He has the smell of the wolves about him. Have you never heard of children being raised by wolves?

VILLAGER: They bring bad luck! We must drive this one from the village.

TOOMAI: He is no better than an untamed beast.

VILLAGER: He will wreak havoc on the village!

MESSUA: But where did he come from?

VILLAGER: (*Mowgli howls, startling everyone*) The boy is quite mad!

TOOMAI: I know how to deal with mad things from the jungle.

MESSUA: No, Toomai! The boy is frightened. You mustn't harm him. (*Kneels in front of Mowgli.*) There's nothing to fear. I won't let anyone hurt you. Now, how old are you, boy?

CHITRA: He looks about eleven or twelve.

MESSUA: The same age as my lost Nathoo would be...

VILLAGER: Messua, do you think this boy could be Nathoo?

TOOMAI: Nonsense!

VILLAGER: He was swallowed up by the man-eating tiger years ago.

MESSUA: His eyes are the same color. And his nose and chin are the same as my dead husband's. Give me your hand, boy. No, the other one. (*MESSUA turns it over to show the palm. She gasps.*)

CHITRA: What is it?

MESSUA: He is my Nathoo! This scar on his hand. I remember the day he got it. He laid his hand on a hot kettle and was badly burned.

MOWGLI: You mean that you are my mother? I have only known Mother Wolf...

MESSUA: (*Hugs him.*) You have come back to me, Nathoo. I have missed you so much.

## Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, Jungle Creatures, Wolves

**A strange, mischievous rhyme repeated frequently by Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.**

RIKKI-TIKKI: (*Chanting and dancing gleefully*)

Eye to eye and head to head.  
Turn for turn and twist for twist  
The hooded cobra, again has missed.  
Thanks to Rikki-tikki-tavi.  
Oh, yes.

**Rikki-Tikki finds Young Mowgli wandering lost in the dangerous jungle after Shere Khan attacks the village.**

RIKKI-TIKKI: (*amused, to himself*) Hmm...a man-cub alone in the Jungle? Very curious... He must have been chased off by Shere Khan! Well, his people may have been killed but the tiger shall not feast on this cub! No, he shall be safe, thanks to Rikki-Tikki-Tavi. Thanks to Rikki-Tikki-Tavi. Oh, yes.

**Jungle Creatures commenting on the meeting between the respected wolf pack leader and the despised Shere Khan.**

JUNGLE CREATURE: Imagine. Shere Khan, here in the jungle!

JUNGLE CREATURE: Who would have thought it?

SNAKE: It's a bad bussinesssssss.

JUNGLE CREATURE: I hope he's been well fed.

**The young wolves are trying to decide whether they should remain loyal to their old wolf pack leader, or divert their allegiance to the villainous Shere Khan.**

WOLF 1: It will seem very odd to have a man-eating tiger leading the pack.

WOLF 2: I don't like the idea.

WOLF 3: Nor do I. Still, Shere Khan makes a good case.

WOLF 1: And Akela is growing old and weak. He's already missed his kill!

WOLF 3: It is a very serious matter when the leader of the pack misses a kill.

WOLF 2: If he fails too many hunts, the young cubs will starve.

WOLF 1: Even so, a tiger?

WOLF 2: Better a tiger to lead the pack than a wolf who can no longer hunt.

WOLF 3: True. We young wolves must think of our future!

## Tabaqui, Wolves, Akela

**Tabaqui is sent by Shere Khan to speak with Akela, instead he begins bragging of his “beautiful howl” to the younger wolves.**

TABAQUI: There's no use trying to impress a jackal such as I with your wolf howlings. The cry of a jackal is more than a match. *(Throws back head and howls/wails.)*  
There. What did I tell you? Don't I have a fine voice?

WOLF 1: Doesn't matter. Jackals are not welcome at Council Rock. Akela, our wise pack leader forbids it.

WOLF 2: You gnaw bones after others have eaten away the meat because you are too lazy to hunt for yourself.

TABAQUI: *(Mocking, prideful)* Tsk, tsk. What a harsh opinion you have of Tabaqui. Anyway, I am not here by choice. I am here on my master's business.

WOLVES: Master?

TABAQUI: The great and powerful Shere Khan.

WOLF 1: Shere Khan shouldn't be in this jungle.

WOLF 2: Akela has forbidden it.

TABAQUI: Ah, young wolves, you have forgotten something. This is the dry season of the water hole. All jungle creatures are free to quench their thirst. That is the law. The Law of the Jungle.

AKELA: What brings you to Council Rock, scavenger?

TABAQUI: *(Mocking)* A jackal can't help being what he is, O Wise One. Can a leopard change its spots? Can a wolf change its fur?

AKELA: What do you want?

TABAQUI: It's not what I want. I wouldn't presume. It's what my master desires.

AKELA: Your master is a man-killer and I have forbidden him from the jungle trails.

TABAQUI: Ah, Great Leader, it is as I told the young ones. This is the dry season. All are welcome at the water hole. Jungle Law.

AKELA: Shere Khan entered a village and there he killed a defenseless man.

TABAQUI: But an accident. He would speak to you on a matter of great importance. He begs you grant him an audience, O Wise and Majestic Akela.

AKELA: I am feeling generous this morning. I will grant him an audience.

TABAQUI: *(Backing OFF, bowing mockingly)* Too kind, too kind. I shall convey your message to my master. He awaits in the tall grass by the water hole. He has no wish to intrude. Such a gentleman is Shere Khan.

## Shere Khan, Akela

**Shere Khan is introduced by the storyteller.**

SHERE KHAN: Hear the words of the great Lord Shere Khan! I have the right to rule this jungle. Am I not the strongest and most merciless? I, Shere Khan, fear nothing. NOTHING! Not even the mighty elephant. When the time is right I will make my move and... CONQUER!

**Shere Khan is trying to convince the wolf pack to give up Mowgli to him.**

SHERE KHAN: (*Surveying Scene*) Charming, charming, to see so many old friends. Speaking of old, you're looking particularly splendid, O divine and ancient Akela. Sad that most of your teeth are gone and your eyes are dim. Splendid, nevertheless. Quite splendid...

MOTHER WOLF: Say what you have to say and be gone.

SHERE KHAN: Your tongue is sharp, Mother Wolf, but I'll pretend I didn't notice. (*Pause. Addressing entire gathering, louder now*) I understand a man-cub from the village wandered into the jungle and has been given shelter here.

AKELA: What if he has?

SHERE KHAN: Only I, Shere Khan, have the right to interact with man. I demand what is mine. Give me the man-cub.

FATHER WOLF: Never! He is safe with the pack.

SHERE KHAN: Surely the young wolves don't want a man-cub running in the pack.

AKELA: I decide these things, not you, Shere Khan. I know your hatred of man. I know your hatred of those who live in the nearby village. That is why I banished you from the territory of our pack so many years ago. Nothing has changed.

SHERE KHAN: No offense, but you've grown too old to lead the pack. I say we have a vote! Let's elect a new leader.

AKELA: You haven't changed at all. Where others have a heart, you have a bitter root. Hear me well, Shere Khan. You will not have the man-cub.

SHERE KHAN: (*insistent*) The man-cub is mine! Give him to me.

AKELA: You are insolent. The man-cub is under my protection.

FATHER WOLF: You will never have him.

SHERE KHAN: (*crafty*) In that case...why not send him back to the village? To his own people. It would be such a...*kind* thing to do.

**Shere Khan: Be prepared to ROAR!**

## Akela, Mother Wolf, Father Wolf

**Shere Khan approaches the Pack and tries to get Akela to hand Mowgli over to him.**

SHERE KHAN: Surely the young wolves don't want a man-cub running in the pack.

AKELA: I decide these things, not you, Shere Khan. I know your hatred of man. I know your hatred of those who live in the nearby village. That is why I banished you from the territory of our pack so many years ago. You haven't changed at all. Where others have a heart, you have a bitter root. Hear me well, Shere Khan. You will not have the man-cub.

SHERE KHAN: The man-cub is mine! Give him to me.

AKELA: You are insolent. The man-cub is under my protection.

SHERE KHAN: In that case...why not send him back to the village? To his own people. It would be such a...*kind* thing to do.

AKELA: He stays with us. He will run with the pack. He will learn the ways of the jungle. He will learn the jungle law.

**Rikki-Tikki-Tavi brings the lost Mowgli to Mother and Father Wolf for protection from Shere Khan.**

FATHER WOLF: (*rising*) A mongoose. What business have you here? The pack will not stand for any of your trickery. (*Spotting Mowgli*) A man-cub! Why have you brought a man-cub so far from the village? It is against the Law of the Jungle.

RIKKI-TIKKI: Eye to eye and head to head.  
Turn for turn and twist for twist.  
The vicious tiger now has missed.  
Thanks to Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.  
Oh, yes. (*Slyly EXITS off RIGHT*)

MOTHER WOLF: (*nodding towards Mowgli*) What shall we do with him? If what the mongoose said is true, we can't take him back to the man-village, where Shere Khan feasts. And he's much too weak and defenseless to leave alone in the jungle...

FATHER WOLF: You are too charitable, Mother Wolf. You know the pack disapproves of contact with men.

MOTHER WOLF: I know, but just look at him! He is furless and clumsy. He will never survive on his own! And he has already taken a liking to the cubs...

FATHER WOLF: Alright, alright. He can stay, but as soon as he grows old enough we shall take him to Council Rock and Akela will decide what shall be done next.

MOTHER WOLF: Oh, I knew you'd come through! Don't worry, you won't regret this, and neither will the Pack. He shall become a strong wolf. Besides, how could anyone say no to such an adorable cub?

## Baloo, Bagheera, Mang, Mor, Rann, Ikki, Gray Brother

**Baloo and Bagheera are searching for Mowgli so they can begin the day's lessons.**

BALOO: Have you seen him, Mor?

MOR: Mowgli? Of course I've seen Mowgli!

BALOO: *(Waits.)* Well, can you tell me where he is?

MOR: Oh! You meant today! Well, in that case, no I haven't seen Mowgli.

BALOO: *(Sighs.)* He's been neglecting his lessons again.

MOR: Lessons, lessons. A lively lad like Mowgli wants play, not lessons.

BALOO: He plays too much. *(Calls out)* Mowgli!

MANG: Have you heard the news?

BALOO: *(Distracted)* What news? *(Calls out)* Mowgli!

MANG: They're saying Akela is getting too old to lead the pack.

BALOO: Oh, that again? Who says?

MANG: *(Exchanges a sly smile with Mor)* Oh, us bats hear things.

BALOO: Such big ears for a peacock and a bat. *(Calling out again)* Mowgli!

RANN: Not a sign of the man-cub!

BAGHEERA: No telling what he's up to. I hope he hasn't been visiting the monkey people. He's always asking questions about them. *(ENTER Ikki)*

IKKI: The monkey people? Oh, they are so silly.

BAGHEERA: Always clamoring over stones, proclaiming themselves kings and queens of the jungle. Silly creatures.

BALOO: Oh, were is Mowgli? Late for his lessons again!

KING MONKEY: Isn't my crown lovely? I found it in the treasure room.

BAGHEERA: What treasure room?

BALOO: Ignore him. He'll only tell you a ridiculous monkey lie.

MOR: The monkey people are impossible.

GRAY BROTHER: *(Tenses)* Quiet!

IKKI: What is it, Gray Brother?

GRAY BROTHER: Something comes this way.

MANG: Not Shere Khan? *(OTHERS fearfully chatter and react)*

GRAY BROTHER: *(cocks head as if listening intently)* No. Much smaller. But swift.

BAGHEERA: *(Tense)* I wonder who it could be?

## Kaa, Baloo, Bagheera

### **Baloo and Bagheera have come to Kaa the Python for help to rescue Mowgli from the Monkeys.**

KAA: What busssssinesssssss have a panther and an old bear such as yourssssssselvesssss have at the home of Kaa?

BALOO: We came to see you. We were hoping you could help us get out of a difficult situation.

KAA: Oh? And what might thissss sssssituation be?

BAGHEERA: The man-cub, Mowgli, is being held pris-

KAA: *(licking his lips.)* Ah, the man-cub.

BALOO: *(Quickly interjecting.)* -Is being held prisoner by the monkeys. *(KAA shows his disgust.)* We know that you are the only one whom the monkeys respect and fear, so we were hoping you would be so kind as to assist us in our rescue.

KAA: And why should I? What doesssssss it matter to me if the man-cub issssss free or not?

BAGHEERA: Great Kaa, if you help us, we guarantee you a feast of feasts. *(KAA is clearly excited. BALOO notices this and hurriedly adds,)* ...Of monkeys Kaa. A feast of the monkeys who are so disrespectful of your supremacy.

KAA: *(Clearly disappointed)* I am ssssssick of monkeyssssss. They tassssste funny. *(A pause, but suddenly he straightens and gives a sneaky smile.)* I sssssuppossssse I could help. But I ask for one more thing: You will invite me into your group of advissssorsssss to the Wolf Pack Leader. I want to hold power in the jungle.

BALOO: We hold no authority to add to the great Akela's council. That is the power of Akela alone. *(KAA turns to leave.)* But, we will invite you to the next pack meeting and propose your addition. Bagheera and myself hold much influence among the advisors.

KAA: *(Turning back with a sly smile. Playing down his excitement.)* Hmmmmm...I ssssssuppossssse that will do...

BAGHEERA: So, will you help us, Great Python? *(KAA nods and gives his sneaky smile.)*

KAA: I have a plan.



## Baloo, Bagheera, Hathi, Rann

**Baloo and Bagheera ask the Elephants if they have seen Mowgli, who has skipped his lessons again.**

BALOO: (*searching.*) Mowgli! Mowgli!

BAGHEERA: Where is that man-cub? How far off could he have wandered?

BALOO AND BAGHEERA: Mowgli!

BAGHEERA: Ah, look who it is! Hello, Major Hathi!

HATHI: Oh, hello Bagheera. Baloo. What brings you to the Patrol routes?

BALOO: We've been looking for Mowgli. He's late for his lessons again. You haven't happened to see him, have you, Major?

HATHI: The man-cub? Nope. He hasn't crossed the path of the patrol, today. Sor—

ELEPHANT: But, sir! We did see Mowgli today! Have you forgotten? About an hour—

HATHI: Of course I haven't forgotten! (*BALOO and BAGHEERA roll their eyes.*) An elephant never forgets! Now, quiet in the ranks!

BAGHEERA: So, could you tell us which way he went?

HATHI: Which way who went?

OTHERS: Mowgli!

HATHI: Hmpf. He went...um...er...

ELEPHANT: He went that way. He said he was going to the Deserted City for King Monkey's birthday.

BAGHEERA: Thank you. Baloo, how many times have we told Mowgli to stay away from the monkey people?

BALOO: Too many times. Hopefully he's learned his lesson by now. An hour with the monkeys is enough to drive anyone crazy.

RANN: Baloo! Balooooo!

BALOO: What is it, Rann?

RANN: It's Mowgli! The Monkey People have taken him prisoner!

BAGHEERA: I knew it! You can never trust the Monkey People. But you can't say we didn't warn him...

RANN: You have to rescue him! The poor man-cub is nearly green from all the spinning and running and chaos.

BAGHEERA: But how? There's way too many Monkeys for Baloo and me alone!

BALOO: (*With sudden realization.*) Kaa! Kaa the Rock Python. He's the only one whom the Monkey People fear, besides Shere Khan!

BAGHEERA: But where can we find him? (*Turns to the elephants.*) Major? Do you know where we can find him?

HATHI: Of course I remember where Kaa lives! An—

OTHERS: (*Annoyed*) An elephant never forgets.

## Hathi, Elephants, Mowgli

**Major Hathi leads his soldiers and marching band through the jungle for the daily patrol. He is extremely serious and haughty, yet very forgetful. Mowgli finds this hilarious.**

HATHI: Patrol, Halt! Neaten that line up, soldiers! *(Strutting down the line, critiquing soldiers)* Fix that posture! Button that uniform! Tsk, tsk. What's wrong with you, soldiers! No talking in the ranks! *(Sighs)* These young elephants have no discipline! Back when I was a member of the patrol, they—

MOWGLI: *(Stepping out)* Hello, Major Hathi!

HATHI: I said, quiet in the ranks! Geez! When my father was general, he never would have stood for such a lack of—

MOWGLI: No, Major Hathi! I'm over here! It's me, Mowgli!

HATHI: *(Squinting from across the stage. Smiles)* Oh, well hello there young man-cub!

MOWGLI: *(Hiding his giggles)* So, how goes the patrol?

HATHI: Oh, you know, business as usual. Marching and inspecting. Not much really ever happens around here.

ELEPHANT 1: That's not true sir. Have you forgotten about—

HATHI: Of course not! An elephant never forgets!

ELEPHANT 2: But what about the felled banana tree we had to clear off the hunting path?

ELEPHANT 3: Or the tickets we had to give to the chameleon who kept tailgating those turtles?

HATHI: *(Embarrassed, stern)* Hmmmmmm. I thought I said no talking in the ranks! So Mowgli, what brings you over to our neck of the jungle?

MOWGLI: It's the Monkey King's birthday, and I've been invited to his party.

HATHI: The monkey people? Hmpf. What a simple-minded bunch. No discipline whatsoever. I strongly advise you not to get involved with the monkey people.

MOWGLI: Yeah, yeah. Baloo and Bagheera have told me. But the monkeys are fun! They love to play and never make me sit around for boring lessons. Besides, they look more like me than the wolves in my own pack!

HATHI: You may be similar on the outside, man-cub, but you are very different inside here. *(Taps Mowgli on the head.)* And that's what counts.

MOWGLI: *(Eager to go play)* So can you show me where the deserted city is?

HATHI: *(Rolls his eyes.)* I suppose so. The monkey people live that way. But I warn you, Mowgli, stay away from those monkeys! Patrol, march!

## King Monkey, Monkeys, Mowgli

**The monkeys come to annoy Mowgli and his friends.**

KING MONKEY: I have come with an invitation.

RANN: What sort of invitation?

KING MONKEY: I'm having a birthday party and I want the man-cub to come.

OTHERS: Mowgli?

MONKEY 1: Well, he is a man-cub, isn't he? (*MONKEYS all laugh*)

KING MONKEY: If he is, I want him at my birthday party!

MANG: That crown looks silly on your head.

KING MONKEY: It doesn't look silly. It makes me look distinguished. (Tries to look important)

MONKEY 2: You're just jealous, that's all!

MONKEY 1: You just wish you were King of the Jungle!

MOR: (Rolling his eyes.) King of the jungle, indeed...

KING MONKEY: Everyone knows the monkey people are the wisest and the cleverest and the handsomest folk in the jungle. We are envied by everyone. (*MONKEYS laugh, KING tries to remain serious.*)

MONKEYS: Envied! By all the jungle creatures! (*Laugh hysterically*)

BAGHEERA: Enough! No more of this foolishness. It is time for Mowgli's lessons.

**Mowgli had been invited to the monkeys' party.**

MOWGLI: Greetings, King Monkey! I salute you on this day of days.

MONKEYS: It's the man-cub! Mowgli's here! Let's play!

KING MONKEY: What's so special about this day? It's a day like any other.

MOWGLI: How can that be? It's your birthday.

MONKEYS: Birthday? Who's birthday?

KING MONKEY: It's my birthday, you say?

MOWGLI: Well, you invited me.

KING MONKEY: I did? When?

MOWGLI: Yesterday. Don't you remember?

KING MONKEY: Yesterday is a long time ago.

MONKEY 1: Who can remember yesterday?  
Remembering tomorrow is hard enough! (*MONKEYS laugh and chatter, throw bananas at each other.*)

MONKEY 2: Let's throw coconuts at Baloo!

MONKEY 1: No, Bagheera!

MONKEY 2: Better him than Shere Khan! (*Laughs.*)

MONKEY 1: Don't say that name. He scares me.

MONKEY 2: Then let's play hide-and-seek!

MONKEYS: No, no! Something new!

KING MONKEY: I know! Let's take Mowgli prisoner!

MONKEYS: Prisoner! Take the man-cub prisoner!

MOWGLI: What!?!?

## Mowgli, Cobra

### Opening scene. Very strong and dramatic.

MOWGLI: *(On Council Rock in the dark)* Hear me, people of the jungle! We are of one blood, you and I. You have nothing to fear. It is I, Mowgli the Little Frog, and I, Mowgli, am singing. Let the jungle listen to the things I have done. Shere Khan said he would kill! At the gates in the twilight he would kill Mowgli the Frog. *(Holds up a dagger)* Let him come! I am ready! I am Mowgli! Keeper of the Law and Guardian of the Jungle!

### Gray Brother arrives to tell Mowgli and his friends some surprising news.

GRAY BROTHER: 'Tis terrible news. Shere Khan—he is back in the forest.

MOWGLI: *(fiercely)* Shere Khan had better watch his step.

GRAY BROTHER: Be careful, Little Frog.

MOWGLI: Baloo, why does Shere Khan hate me so?

BALOO: Because he fears you. He hates what he fears. If he destroys you, he destroys his fear.

MOWGLI: I think hating is a waste of time. He'd better watch his manners.

BALOO: Come, come Mowgli. Make us proud. To start, let me hear you recite our Jungle Law.

MOWGLI: *(Groans. Whining)* Not again! Baloo. Bagheera. Must I?

### Mowgli sneaks into a mysterious treasure vault.

COBRA: Hissssss. Hissssssss. *(Threatening and angry.)* Am I nothing sssso that you ssssseek to take from my treasure vault? Hissssss, hisssssss.

MOWGLI: *(Groveling on knees)* Oh, forgive me, greatest King of all Cobras! The Monkey People did not tell me the treasure has a guardian. *(stands)* Is the treasure yours?

COBRA: No. Centuries ago the Great Raja, Maker and Lord of the jungle, put all of hissss treasure in thisssssss stone vault below hissssss city. He made me, King of the Cobrassssss, the guardian of his endlessssssss collection of rubiesss and pearlssss and ssssaphiressss and gold coinssssss.

MOWGLI: I would very much like to see this treasure.

COBRA: Never! All who attempt to enter the treassssure vault perisssshhhh. I am a fierccccc guardian. My venom takessssss no prissonersssssss. *(Pause.)* How issss it that a man-cub ssspeaksss the language of the jungle?

MOWGLI: I have good teachers.

COBRA: Hmmsmm. *(MOWGLI strains to peer around the Cobra.)* Hissssss! *(MOWGLI jumps back.)* I warn you, ssssstay back!

MOWGLI: All I want is one little peek. *(Tries to duck around.)*

COBRA: You have been warned, man-cub! Hissssssss!