

THE JUNGLE BOOK



Teachers Notes

The study guide aims to complement and extend the pleasure that pupils will derive from seeing 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' while at the same time meeting some of the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Aimed at upper Key Stage 2 pupils, the guide will provide a useful introduction to media studies, with scope for discussion, writing, listening, and creative work. Topics include adapting the written word for the big screen, key characters, introducing the concept of film genres, and creating a sequel to the film.

Before seeing the film

There are a number of avenues of work that would be useful preparation for pupils viewing the film. These could include:

- What's in a title? Explore ideas suggested by the title, and the fact that for this feature film, the author's name is also included.
- What does 'Disney' mean to you? The section on Disney films could be used to brainstorm what we

Consider some of the animal characters in past Disney films. What sort of animal characters might they expect to see featured in this film given the story is set in a jungle?

- The story is set in the jungles of India. Find India on a map, and then see if pupils can find out where in the vast country the jungle regions are.
- What does 'India' bring to mind? What do pupils know about the country: about the food eaten; the clothes people wear; the chief religions; any famous sights etc.

Where have their ideas come from? Has anyone been to India? Have they read any books set there, or seen any other films or television programmes set in India? How accurate are their ideas about the country and its people?

- The story is set at the time of the Raj. Using encyclopaedias, reference books and the internet encourage pupils to find out more about this period of history'

A Walt Disney film

The 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' is a film made by Walt Disney. They are an extremely successful film company who have made many popular films. You have probably seen some of their classics - 'The Lion King', 'The Little Mermaid', 'Beauty and the Beast', 'Fantasia'. If you have, you might have become something of a Walt Disney expert.

Before you saw 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book', you might have had some expectations of it simply because it is a Disney film. Can you remember what they were? For example, had you already seen the animated version? What kinds of stories make good Disney films? Do Disney films have happy endings? What kinds of people are Disney stories about?

What does 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' have in common with other Disney films?

Turning a book into a film

The idea for the film 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' came from a series of stories by Rudyard Kipling. Telling a story in words and telling one on film is very different. If the narrator wants the reader to know something, s/ he may simply write it down, but the task of the filmmaker is to turn that information into pictures.

Sometimes this is quite easy - for example, you can show someone is unhappy by filming tears in their eyes. But look at the extract on page 3. It comes from the first few pages of Kipling's book. How would you show this in pictures?

Using a storyboard sheet, try to come up with 6 pictures that sum up what is being described. Try to break down your sequence of pictures to show:

- Mowgli learning
- how Mowgli adapted to life in the jungle

"Now you must be content to skip ten or eleven whole years, and only guess at all the wonderful life that Mowgli led among the wolves, because if it were written out it would fill ever so many books. He grew up with the cubs, though they, of course, were grown wolves almost before he was a child, and Father Wolf taught him his business, and the meaning of things in the jungle, till every rustle in the grass, every breath of the warm night air, every note of the owls above his head, every scratch of a bat's claws as it roosted for a while in a tree, and every splash of every little fish jumping in a pool, meant just as much to him as the work of his office means to a business man. When he was not learning he sat out in the sun and slept, and ate and went to sleep again; when he felt dirty or hot he swam in the forest pools; and when he wanted honey (Baloo told him that honey and nuts were just as pleasant to eat as raw meat) he climbed up for it, and that Bagheera showed him how to do. Bagheera would lie out on a branch and call, 'Come along Little Brother,' and at first Mowgli would cling like the sloth, but afterward he would fling himself through the branches almost as boldly as the gray ape."

'The Jungle Book', Rudyard Kipling

How much detail were you able to include? Now think back to the film: how was Mowgli shown growing up and learning about life in the jungle.

One moment we saw Mowgli as a boy, the next, he had become a man. Even though this change is very fast, we do have some idea about how Mowgli has spent the time in between. How did the film give us clues about what he might have been doing?



Animals in the film

Walt Disney had already made another version of 'The Jungle Book' which was an animated feature film. Since an animation is made from pictures that someone has drawn, what happens in a cartoon does not necessarily reflect what happens in real life.

For example, in the animation, the animals can talk and do other things that we humans can do. In 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book', all the animals are real. This means that we do not see animals singing, talking or dancing.

When the filmmakers decided to make this latest version of the film, they must have thought about the advantages and disadvantages of using real animals. What are the advantages and disadvantages? Talk about them with a partner and then fill in the table below.



Advantage	Disadvantage
The story is more believable	It is harder to show the personalities of the animals

Think of some adjectives to describe the bear and the panther in the film. How does the film show that they have these qualities?

The king of the apes is mischievous and playful - where does this impression come from?

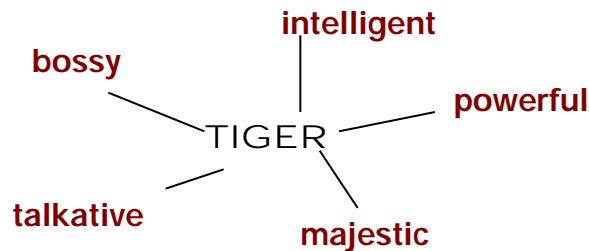
Personification of animals

There are lots of different kinds of animals in this film: tigers, panthers, bears, apes etc. and they all seem to have different personalities. People often try to imagine what animals would say if they could speak. When we picture animals doing things only humans can do, like speaking, we call this personification.

Some animals have been personified so often that we start to believe that snakes really are sly, that foxes really are cunning. These ideas came from sources as varied as the Bible and Aesop's Fables.

Choose an animal from 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' and decide what sort of human qualities it would have if it were a person.

For example:



Write a speech/monologue for your animal. What would it say?

The opening of the film

The opening of any film is very important. It gives the audience important information about where and when the film is set. How were these facts given to the audience watching 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book'?

We know the story takes place in India because we are shown a map of India. How do we know when the story takes place? Is the story old or modern? How can you tell? Think about:

- the music
- the map
- the costumes
- the fact that English soldiers were in the country

Genre

Many stories have things in common: a similar plot or similar types of character, perhaps. This means they can be grouped together into type or 'genre'. Love stories are a genre as are detective stories, science fiction stories. Can you think of any others?

What genre or group of stories would you put 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book' into?

Fairy tale genre - look at the table below

There are four empty boxes in the chart: can you fill them in? There might be other elements that these stories share. Can you think of any?

	The Jungle Book	Cinderella	Little Red Riding Hood
Animals Behaving Unusually	Panther, bear	Mice- turned into footmen	Talking wolf
Good Characters	Mowgli		Woodcutter
Bad Characters	Boone		Ugly sisters
A Journey	Through jungle	Through town to find Cinderella	
Happy Ending	Yes		Yes

Character

Characters are the people or animals who feature in a story. In most fairy tales the main characters are either good or bad. In real life, people tend to be a mixture of both. In 'Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book', the good characters are easily divided from the bad.

Complete the list below until you have looked at all the main characters in the story. Show what it is that makes the person good or bad. Do any of the characters change as the story progresses?

Note how many of the bad characters die in the end! Why do you think that happens?

Good	Bad
<i>Kitty (she is kind and honest)</i>	<i>Boone (he is selfish and greedy)</i>

Mowgli

Mowgli describes himself as "neither man nor animal" because, whilst he is a man, in some ways, he has more in common with the animals, without actually being an animal.

Consider all the images of Mowgli ' behaving like an animal e.g. communicating with animals, perching on the branch of a tree.

How is he different from the other people in the story?

The law of the jungle

The law of the jungle is certainly very different from the laws of man in the so-called 'civilised world'.

What is the law of the jungle and what are the differences between it and the laws of man?

Mowgli tells us that man's law is simply killing - why do you think he arrives at this conclusion? There is also killing in the jungle but Mowgli says this is different because they only kill something if they want to eat it.

What image does the film give of the law of man's world? Think about the following points in the story:

- when Mowgli is thrown into prison
- when Boone kidnaps Kitty
- when Baloo is shot

Is this fair or unfair? Which law would you rather be governed by?

The ending

At the end of the film, Kitty is reunited with her father, Baloo is reunited with Mowgli, and Boone and his followers have died.

Is this a happy ending?

Mowgli and Kitty seem to have fallen in love and so they will want to be together. Do you think they will live together in the jungle?

Imagine Walt Disney are going to make a sequel to this film.

What might happen in 'The Jungle Book II'?

You need to make the following decisions:

- Will the sequel begin where this one has ended with Mowgli and Kitty kissing or will some time have passed?
- Will the film be set in the jungle or in Man's world?
- Will any of the same characters be in the sequel? Don't forget about the animals!

You could write an outline for the story and design a poster for the new film.

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