

***The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling, Penguin UK, The Paperback – Illustrated, 8 June 2009, ISBN 978-0141325293, Pages- 240, Price- 353.**

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Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* is an astonishing collection of riveting stories based on the life of a human child named Mowgli who is raised by wolves located in the depths of an Indian forest. This 1894 masterpiece encompasses elements of survival, devotion, and the chain of nature. The narrative clearly outlines Mowgli's adventures as he learns the 'Laws of the Jungle' Casually, he is accompanied by Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther. Shere Kahn, a savage and menacing tiger is savage for sure and he is a danger for Mowgli and the jungle he set foot in. There were certainly other interesting sets of stories including *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, the daring mongoose and *The White Seal*



when Kotick went on his adventures searching for a place where he would be safe.

The colourful Kipling has no dilemma in maintaining the impassioned feel of the jungle through astonishing characters with morals and other awful lessons of nature including respect, community and of course courage. Still, a few elements of Kipling that relate to an indifference towards imperialism would seem quite old fashioned to today's readers.

Still, *The Jungle Book* is a classic, it is a work of art that no matter what age one is able to read this book. It is a tale of a complex story that seamlessly integrates adventure and wisdom. This ensures the relevance it has today and therefore I would suggest this book to anyone who doesn't just seek insight but entertainment as well.

The messages each story gives are clear, for they serve as valuable human lessons. Think of it this way; Mowgli's battles against Shere Khan serve as an example of Mowgli's internal

conflict concerning morality and his acceptance of both the human and animal worlds respectively reflects the human desire of belonging and self-identity.

The Jungle Book has had a chain effect of influencing movies, series and even video games, and that Isn't all, the story itself includes a plethora of iconic characters such as Mowgli, Baloo, and Shere Khan, ones that literally emerged out of the book and shifted paradigms in literature and popular culture.

The work is also laced with interesting eastern Indian colonial touches, from vivid descriptions of cultural elements to exotic wildlife that Kipling personally encountered, expanding a simple tale further. However that also adds subtle hints of imperialism as well, something that reflects the time in which the novel was written.

Even with all this historical context, *The Jungle Book* transcends across borders and still holds relevant moral suggestions and life lessons that speak to the current generation.