

THE JUNGLE BOOK

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

The jungle, just about dusk. A group of Fire Ants enter (on the lookout for the Big Red Flower, aka - fire). After they have “cleared” the area, they leave. Eva and Mack enter, they are on the hunt for food. Unable to spot any rodents, they discover Mowgli who they mistake for a frog. They hear suspicious roars from offstage and exit, bringing Mowgli with them. Shere-Kahn (a self-proclaimed jungle psychoanalyst) enters with her two Jackal side-kicks (Ubu and Roi). The audience learns that Shere-Kahn is the cause of the lack of food in the jungle. Ubu and Roi show Shere-Kahn an odd foot-print they found belonging to Mowgli. Shere-Kahn examines the footprint and decides to search for Mowgli so that s/he can learn the secret from him of how to make fire. The three find a wolf print next to Mowgli’s and decide to pay the wolves a visit. Eva and Mack bring Mowgli to the wolf den. The wolves are not impressed but Misha (the mother of the wolf tribe) takes pity on him. Ubu and Roi enter followed shortly after by Shere-Kahn. The wolves refuse to hand Mowgli over to her and decide (with support from Bagheera, the panther) to let him into the pack. Shere-Kahn exists, upset, but unable to take Mowgli as it now goes against the jungle law. A clearing in the jungle a few days later. Mowgli, Bagheera and some others are doing a work-out with the Jacked Rabbit. Baloo (the bear) comes in at the end followed by Kaa (the snake). Kaa is covered in glue and papers. Mowgli helps Kaa remove them and finds that they are flyers for a seminar that Shere-Kahn is hosting about “how to nurture the wolf within”. Bagheera fears Shere-Kahn is up to mischief and the three leave to find the wolves as the work-out ends. Back at the wolf den, Shere-Kahn is giving a presentation to the wolves. She convinces the wolves through fear (excluding Eva and Mack) that the man-cub should be kicked out of the pack. Baloo holds a comedy show. A group of elephants get insulted and go to report Baloo to the Vulture judges. A group of Monkeys get the impression that Mowgli knows how to make fire. Eva and Mack enter and tell Mowgli that the other wolves want to kick him out of the pack. He runs off to try to talk them out of it.

ACT TWO

Mowgli stumbles upon some human children who invite them to play hide and seek with them. When they go off to hide, Shere-Kahn enters. She makes Mowgli think about the type of animal he really is. From off-stage some Monkey’s call for Mowgli. Shere-Kahn thinks its Bagheera and exits. The Monkeys enter and take Mowgli off to their village. Meanwhile, at the wolf den, Rassa challenges Akela to be head of the pack. Mack stands up against her but most of the wolves leave with Rassa anyway. Baloo and Bagheera look for Mowgli. They discover that he has been taken to the lost city and set off (with the help of Kaa) to rescue him. At the lost city the apes won’t let Mowgli leave until he tells them how to create fire. Baloo enters dressed as an ape. He tries to rescue Mowgli but his disguise comes off. Kaa enters, playing the blues, and the Monkeys follow him offstage. Bagheera and Baloo tell Mowgli that Shere-Kahn is still after him. He tells them to meet him at the wolf den and runs off. Kaa comes up with a plan to trap Shere-Kahn. On the other side of the forest the

Elephants visit the Vulture judges and tell them that Baloo is telling offensive jokes. Some Hawks enter and invite the judges to Baloo's show that night (which is really a cover for Kaa's plan). Back at the wolf den, Kaa tricks Shere-Kahn into thinking that he is sad. Shere-Kahn tries to help Kaa by getting him to act like a tiger (something that is against the jungle law). The judges enter while Kaa is acting like a tiger and sentence Shere-Kahn to practice on the Monkeys. Mowgli arrives with the big red flower. He threatens Shere-Kahn with it but s/he overpowers him. Just as Shere-Kahn threatens to burn down the wolf den the Fire Ants enter. They put out the fire that Shere-Kahn is holding and haul him/her away for trying to start a jungle fire. Rassa apologizes for trying to kick Mowgli out of the pack. Akela elects Mack as the new leader of the pack. Mowgli decides that his place is in the human village. He bids farewell to his friends and sets off for a new life.

SAMPLE

SCENE BREAK DOWN

Full Running Time: 120 minutes (pending scene changes)

SCENE 1: Jungle Clearing

SCENE 2: Wolf Den

SCENE 3: Jungle Clearing

SCENE 4: Wolf Den

SCENE 5: Jungle Clearing

INTERMISSION

SCENE 6: Jungle Clearing - near the man village

SCENE 7: Wolf Den

SCENE 8: Jungle Clearing

SCENE 9: The Lost City

SCENE 10: Jungle Golf Course

SCENE 11: Wolf Den

SCENE 12: The Marketplace.

SAMPLE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Flexible cast of 55 to 103 (3 M, 16-22 F, and 36 to 78 that can be either).

Many of the roles can be combined, doubled or split into two roles for even more characters.

The characters of Mowgli, Bagheera and Baloo can be played by either gender if desired. If you need assistance with doubling please do not hesitate to contact Plays For Large Casts with questions.

LEAD and SUPPORTING ROLES

MOWGLI (M).....Man-cub. Curious and optimistic. Not fearful. Searching for belonging.
 BAGHEERA (E).....Panther. Brave and wise. Knows the jungle well.
 BALOO (M).....Bear - comic. Lighthearted. Enjoys joking with Mowgli.
 KAA (E).....Snake - jazz musician. Smooth and laid back. Not necessarily evil.

 SHERE-KHAN (F).....Tiger - psychoanalyst. Uses intelligence to trick other animals.
 UBU (E).....Jackal. Unintelligent. Humorous. Shere-Khan's side-kick.
 ROI (E).....Jackal. Unintelligent. Humorous. Shere-Khan's side-kick.

 MACK (M).....Wolf. Looked up to in the wolf pack. Will be leader some day.
 EVA (F).....Wolf. Looked up to in the wolf pack. Friends with Mack.

 SLOTH (E).....Humorous. Is searching for her place in the jungle.

ENSEMBLE ROLES

NOTE: Almost all ensemble roles may be played by either males or females with some minor name changes. Ensemble roles may be combined, doubled or split to fit the needs of your cast size.

The roles of BETTY and LETTY can be combined into one character with the deletion of some lines. The lines for WOLFS 1-24 can be distributed to wolfs with names if looking for a smaller cast size. Lines for Ants, Monkeys, Peacocks and Lil' Phants can easily be combined for less actors. Roles of Lil' Phants and Cadys may also be cut if desired with some minor line changes. Actors who play Fire Ants can easily double as Monkeys, Flamingos and Hawks.

BIG MAMA (F).....Mother to the wolf pack. Takes Mowgli in as her own.
 AKELA (F).....Leader of the wolf pack. Brave. Defiant but growing old for leadership
 RASSA (E).....Trouble-maker. Wants to be leader of the pack. Quick to action.
 EMMA (E).....Member of the wolf-pack.
 NANCE (E).....Member of the wolf-pack.
 TONY (E).....Member of the wolf-pack. Likes sports metaphors.
 JAN (E).....Member of the wolf-pack.
 BETTY (F).....Member of the wolf-pack. Cute and young.
 LETTY (F).....Member of the wolf-pack. Cute and young.
 WOLF 1-24 (E).....Members of the wolf-pack.

 HAWK 1-2 (E).....Fighter pilots. Talk and think very quickly.

 GILBERT (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.
 SIMON (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.
 NEIL (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.

GUS (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.
 ALLEN (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.
 HORACE (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.
 MONKEY 1-5 (E).....Monkey. Want's the red flower.

ELLA (F).....Elephant. Prissy and sophisticated. Likes Shere-Khan.
 BELLA (F).....Elephant. Prissy and sophisticated. Likes Shere-Khan.
 STELLA (F).....Elephant. Prissy and sophisticated. Likes Shere-Khan.
 LIL PHANT 1-5 (F).....Elephant children. Very giggly. (Simple roles for young children.)

TED (E).....Vulture. A judge in the animal kingdom. Enjoys golfing.
 BOB (E).....Vulture. A judge in the animal kingdom. Enjoys golfing.
 SAM (E).....Vulture. A judge in the animal kingdom. Enjoys golfing.
 CLARENCE (E).....Vulture. A judge in the animal kingdom. Enjoys golfing.
 CADDY 1-2 (E)Any type of bird. (Simple role for young children.)

JACKED RABBIT (E).....Jack-rabbit - athletic trainer. Teaches Mowgli to survive in the jungle.

GIRL 1-4 (E).....Children from the city.
 BOY (E).....Children from the city.

FIRE ANT MARSHALL (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 FIRE ANT CHIEF (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 BLAZE (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 FLINT (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 SPARK (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 EMBER (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 FLARE (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 BURN (E).....Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.
 FLAME (E)Fire Ant - firefighter. Helps to save the day.

PEACOCK 1-6 (F).....Aristocratic.
 FLAMINGO 1-2 (F).....Fan-girls of Baloo.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SET PIECES

As much imagination and creative liberty can be taken with the sets for this production as is desired.

ALL SCENES

This production is best (and most easily) accomplished with one main set that can be used for each scene. Small changes can be made to indicate different scenes/areas but no substantial scene changes need to occur if you do not desire them. It is recommended to create a space that plays with multiple levels/platforms. Perhaps something that appears to be an old ruined city made of stone or rock. Faux trees, shrubs, plants and rocks can be used to give the impression of a jungle. These items can be purchased or cut from tagboard/cardboard and crafted with paper mache.

JUNGLE CLEARING

This location should remain fairly open. During Scene 5 a small platform/stage can be added to the set along with some chairs and perhaps tables to give the impression of a jungle comedy club - feel free to get creative and use rocks or stumps instead of chairs for the animals to sit on.

WOLF DEN

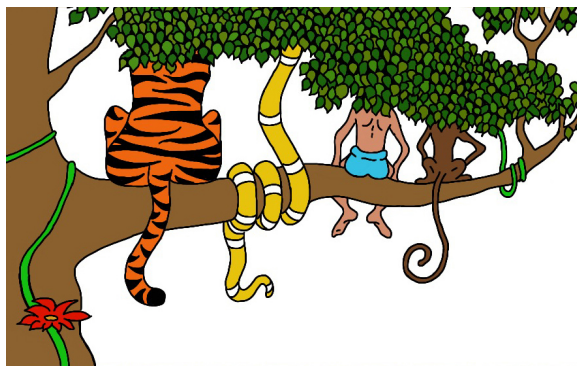
The wolf den can be created by adding faux rocks/boulders to the stage. A fun way to indicate the wolf den is by "tagging" the rocks with spray-paint that says things like "wolf-pack", "paw to paw", "Akela", etc. The rocks can be flipped to the other side to be used in other scenes.

THE LOST CITY

For the lost city, add broken down columns and a throne for King Louie. Create some banana trees or crates with bananas coming out of them.

JUNGLE GOLF COURSE

Keep the stage open and add a small area of astroturf or faux grass along with a flag to indicate a golf hole.



THE JUNGLE BOOK

SCENE 1

(A jungle in India. It's just about evening. The stage resembles a ruined city, overtaken with vegetation. MOWGLI is already on-stage along with a SLOTH who sits in a corner of the stage. When the lights come up we immediately hear the voices of FIRE ANTS who soon appear as well. They wear firefighter hats with antennas sticking out of them. They are not so much Fire Ants as they are Firefighter Ants.)

FIRE ANTs (Including CHIEF and MARSHALL): *(Entering. The chant continues until all of the ANTs are on stage.)* Hup, two, three, four. Hup, two, three four.

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Fire Ants, halt! *(They do.)* Line up! *(They do.)*

FIRE ANT CHIEF: Fire Ants, what are we in search of?

FIRE ANTs: Fire, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(Walking up to the first ANT in the line.)* And what do we call fire in the jungle?

BLAZE: We call it the big red flower, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(To next ant.)* And what does the big red flower look like?

FLINT: It looks like fire, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(To next ant.)* And what does the big red flower smell like?

SPARK: It smells like smoke, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(To next ant.)* And what does the big red flower feel like?

EMBER: It feels hot, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(To next ant.)* And what does the big red flower sound like?

FLARE: It sounds like crackling, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(To next ant.)* And what does the big red flower do?

BURN: It burns things, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: *(Next ant.)* And why do we call fire the big red flower?

FLAME: I have no idea, Sir!

FIRE ANT CHIEF: Fire Marshall, commence the jungle fire inspection?

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Yes, Sir! Fire Ants, commence your search! *(Each FIRE ANT walks to a different place on the stage. The MARSHALL approaches a new ANT with each question.)* Any signs of fire here?

BLAZE: No signs of fire, Sir!

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of smoke here?

FLINT: No signs of smoke, Sir!

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of flames here?

SPARK: No signs of flames, Sir!

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of burning here?

EMBER: No signs of burning, Sir.

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of heat here?

FLARE: No signs of heat, Sir.

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of sparks here?

BURN: No signs of sparks, Sir.

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Any signs of the rapid oxidation of materials in the exothermic chemical process of combustion here?

FLAME: Ummmmmmmm...

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Well?

FLAME: Only you can prevent forest fires?

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: Close enough! *(Pause.)* Fire Ants, what do we do if we find the big red flower?

FIRE ANTS: We attack it and extinguish it, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: Fire Ant final report!

FIRE ANT MARSHALL: All portions of this jungle quadrant are clear of the big red flower, Sir.

FIRE ANT CHIEF: Fire Ants, continue the march to the next quadrant!

FIRE ANTS: *(Exiting. They continue the chant until they are all the way off-stage.)* Hup, two, three, four. Hup, two, three, four!

(As soon as the FIRE ANTS are off-stage EVA, a member of the wolf pack enters quietly. She is on the hunt. She looks around cautiously, decides all is safe and speaks to another member of the pack, MACK, who is off-stage.)

EVA: *(Speaking to offstage.)* Psssst, Mack. Coast is clear. *(She gestures for him to enter and he does.)*

MACK: *(Entering.)* Hooooooooowl!

EVA: *(Looking at him, disbelieving.)* What'd you go and do that for? If any food was here, you just spooked it away!

MACK: Cut me some slack, Eva. The suns almost down and I haven't had a bit of meat all day. I'm so hungry, I'm howling.

EVA: Yeah? Well, now the whole pack'll be hungry...and don't over exaggerate. You had a bowl of caterpillars this morning.

MACK: Grubs ain't meat, Eva.

EVA: Hold it. *(Sniffs.)* I think I've got something. *(Sniffs about for a minute. Follows the smell up to MACK. Realizes it smells awful.)* Mack?

MACK: Yeah.

EVA: *(Looks at him, accusingly.)* What is that smell?

MACK: Ooops.

EVA: Geez.

MACK: Sorry, I get a bit gassy after eating grub.

EVA: I *need* a new hunting partner.

MACK: We haven't done *that* bad together. *(EVA gives him a look.)* Okay, maybe we have.

EVA: We come back this empty-pawed, we're both gonna be dog-meat.

MACK: Hey, it's cool. Least we tried. Been out all afternoon and we've seen nada! A week ago this clearing was filled with rodents.

EVA: It's weird, right? Like something spooked 'em before we got here. *(She lifts up a rock or digs into a tree looking for bugs.)* There hasn't been any meat around in days.

MACK: That's what I'm sayin'.

EVA: *(Frustrated.)* Man! I can't even find a good, juicy caterpillar. Where'd all the grubs go?

MACK: I'm so starved, I may chow down on that frog over there.

EVA: Wolves don't eat...frooooooooooogs. Whoah! That's one huge frog.

MACK: He's one giant leap for frog-kind. You ever eat a frog, Eva.

EVA: Bleah. No.

MACK: Bet they taste like chicken. *(EVA and MACK look at each other. Then at MOWGLI, who they think is a frog. Then back at each other, as if confirming some secret plan they have formulated in their heads.)*

Desperate times call for desperate measures. *(EVA and MACK head slowly towards MOWGLI - they are careful not to spook him. As they get closer, MOWGLI moves further away.)*

EVA: Come here froggy!

MACK: Come on frog.

EVA: Here froggy.

MACK: It's gonna be okay, little frog.

EVA: We just want to size you up.

MACK: Hooooowwl! *(Mack leaps at MOWGLI and both roll on the ground for a moment. Then MACK shouts in pain.)* Ouch! *(MOWGLI scurries a safe distance away, clawing out towards EVA and MACK.)* Eva, do frogs bite? *(Offstage there is a tiger growl.)*

MACK: Great. Now he bites *and* growls?

EVA: I'm beginning to think that's no frog.

(Louder tiger growl.)

MACK: I'm beginning to think that not-a-frog ain't growling.

(Even louder growl.)

MACK: You heard that, right?

EVA: Yup.

MACK: And it ain't comin' from that not-a-frog, is it?

(The loudest growl yet. MOWGLI runs and cowers next to EVA.)

EVA: Nope.

MACK: Hear this? This is the sound of my tail gettin' outta' here! *(MACK exits.)*

EVA: *(Grabbing MOWGLI.)* Come on. You're with me little frog!

(EVA exits with MOWGLI. As soon as they hit the curtains, Shere-Kahn enters. She is dressed in a professional manner and walks as though she is superior to all others. She is followed by her not-so-smart jackal brutes, UBU and ROI who resemble carnival slackies. UBU is carrying a giant rat-on-a-stick.)

UBU: *(Talking to ROI.)* You've got to try this rat-on-a-stick.

ROI: Uhhhh. I couldn't eat another bite. We haven't been this well fed in years!

UBU: Working for the Doc sure has its benefits!

ROI: *(Finding a footprint on the ground.)* Hey, Ubu? Check this out.

UBU: Heeey, I bet the Doctor will want to see that. Ya' know, to study it and all. Hey, Doc. Come see what Roi found.

ROI: You're gonna love this. It's real scientific, Big One.

SHERE-KAHN: That's "Great One" to you.

UBU: *(Misunderstanding.)* Boy, it sure is great!

ROI: Check it out!

SHERE-KAHN: *(Investigating it.)* Hmmmmmmmm. You two have actually done something right for once.

UBU: Oh, boy! Thanks, Doc. *(Pause.)* What is it?

SHERE-KAHN: A paw print.

ROI: Lame!

SHERE-KAHN: It's fascinating. Do you know why?

ROI: Sure don't.

SHERE-KAHN: Unless I'm mistaken...these prints belong to a man-cub. A stray from the human village, no doubt. *(Changing tone.)* Ubu, Roi, we must find the man-cub. He is the key to taking over the jungle.

ROI: *(Sniffs. To SHERE-KHAN.)* The man-cub's around here somewhere, I can smell it. *(Pause.)* Wait, what does a man-cub smell like?

UBU: Pardon me, Big One...

SHERE-KAHN: *(Correcting.)* Great One.

UBU: ...how are we supposed to find the man-cub if we don't know what he looks like?

SHERE-KAHN: *(Irritated. A low growl.)* Hmmm.

ROI: Hey, maybe it's one of those "you'll know it when you see it" sort-a things.

UBU: Oh yeah. One of those things. But how will we know, when we know it.

SHERE-KAHN: Just inform me if you see a creature that looks odd. Out of place. Okay?

UBU: Aye, aye, Dr. Great One.

SHERE-KAHN: Not Dr. Great One, just Great One.

ROI: *(Picking up something that MOWGLI must have dropped.)* Hey! Look!

SHERE-KAHN: *(Examining it.)* An item belonging to the man-cub no doubt. He must be nearby.

UBU: Hey, Doc. I found something too. Wolf tracks, right next to those man-cub prints you found.

SHERE-KAHN: *(Upset.)* The Wolves! I will not let those mutts interfere with my plan.

ROI: I bet those dogs eat your specimen for super, Dr. Great?

SHERE-KAHN: Silence, jackal! It's not Dr. Great or Dr. One or Dr. Kahn or anything like that. It's Great One. Great. One! Or can't you comprehend that?

UBU: Excuse me, Great One, but what exactly are you planning to do with the man-cub once we find him?

SHERE-KAHN: I'm going to ask him what he fears.

UBU: *(As if understanding.)* Ooooooooooh! *(Not understanding at all.)* Why?

SHERE-KAHN: Because Ubu, by understanding one's fears, you understand what motivates them. What drives them.

ROI: Boy, that sure does sound scientific.

SHERE-KAHN: Once I understand the man-cub's fears, I'll know exactly how to get what I want from him.

UBU: Oh, boy, what's that?

SHERE-KAHN: Control of the jungle. You see, man is the only creature capable of conquering the jungle, because man is the only creature who knows the secret to making the big red flower.

ROI: You mean that really hot stuff that you roast marshmallows over?

SHERE-KAHN: Arrgh. You have a lot of work before you can call yourself tigers, jackals. Proceed to the wolf cave and tell those shriveled hounds that Shere-Kahn, the Great One, will be consulting with them about the man-cub they have found!

ROI: Right away, One Great! *(UBU and ROI exit.)*

SHERE-KAHN: *(Softly.)* I know you're out there little man-cub? I'll meet up with you soon enough. And when I do, you will tell me what you fear. And I will help you. I will help you discover your inner animal. *(Exits.)*

SLOTH: *(As soon as SHERE-KHAN turns to exit. Thinking that SHERE-KHAN was talking to her.)*

Wooooooooow! liiiiiiiiiiiii muuust discoooooooooover myyyyyy innnnnner animaaaaaaaal.Thiiiiis is goooonaaa beee fuuuuun...

SCENE 2

(Outside the wolf cave. The set has not changed in any major way, however, dozens of WOLVES now sit about the stage. When the lights come up, they all begin to chant.)

WOLVES: Howl, Howl, Howl at the moon

Big Misha's cookin' and it's done like soon
Don't need a knife or a fork or a spoon
Howl, Howl, Howl at the moon!

(MACK and EVA enter with MOWGLI.)

BETTY: Hey, what do you say?

LETTY: Eva and Mack are back.

BETTY and LETTY: Paw-to-paw!

MACK: Paw-to-paw, little ones!

BETTY: Next time you go out scrounging, you take us with, right?

LETTY: I'd catch the biggest rodents you've ever seen!

MACK: I dunno, kid.

BETTY: Ah, come on!

EVA: There's a lot of wild things out there.

BETTY: Wild things? Poey!

LETTY: We can handle anything wild.

BETTY: Yeah, I'm wild! Wild Betty, you can call me.

EVA: There's big wild things. Like pythons and tigers.

BETTY: Pythons? Tigers? Sheesh! Bring 'em on!

LETTY: Yeah, bring 'em on!

MISHA: *(Entering.)* Just as soon as they bring on the dinner. It's been hours. Where you two been?

EVA: It's cool, Big Misha.

MACK: We found ourselves a little appetizer.

MISHA: Really. What ya' got there?

EVA: Not sure. Thought it was a frog at first.

RASSA: We don't eat frogs, Eva.

EMMA: He's got spooky eyes.

WOLF 9: Whoa! You look at him and he stares right back. Weird.

WOLF 10: He doesn't look away at all.

BETTY: Let us see! Let us see!

NANCE: I wouldn't do that if I were you...

LETTY: Why not?

BETTY: We want to look!

EMMA: Beware the stare!

NANCE: Beware the stare!

(BETTY and LETTY walk up to MOWGLI and look him really close in the eyes. RASSA jumps out and scares them.)

RASSA: Bleeah!

BETTY: AHhhhh!

LETTY: The frog's gonna get us! *(WOLVES laugh.)* I wasn't scared.

BETTY: Me neither.

JAN: Don't his eyes look creepy.

WOLF 1: Yeah, super creepy.

WOLF 2: If this here's a frog, then why he got fur on the top of his head?

WOLF 3: Let me see! *(Rubs the hair on MOWGLI's head. MOWGLI bats his hands trying to get the WOLF to stop.)*

WOLF 4: Look! His front leg is twitching.

WOLF 3: I think he likes it! Do you like this little froggy? (*Rubs his hair again, MOWGLI bats at WOLF 3, this time hitting him/her a little hard.*) Hey!

WOLF 5: He's the toughest frog I've ever seen!

MISHA: Alright, everyone move aside. Let me have a look. (*Stares at MOWGLI.*) Hmmmmmm. (*Examining him.*) Hate to break it to ya' young pups, but this is no frog.

WOLF 6: Sure he is. Just look at him.

WOLF 7: He's got long bony legs like a frog.

WOLF 8: Plus, I saw him eat a fly!

WOLVES: Yeah. He totally ate a fly. He's gotta be a frog. Look at his eyes.

MISHA: What you got here is a man cub.

WOLF 7: Man cub?

RASSA: Sounds feisty. I say, put him in the stew.

WOLF 8: That thing isn't going to feed all of us.

NANCE: There's hardly any meat on him.

MISHA: Probably hasn't had a meal in days. Poor little guy.

RASSA: I bet he'd taste better if you add some salt?

WOLVES: Yeah. I love me some salt. Yuum, I'm hungry.

RASSA: What do ya' say, brothers. Are we having man-cub tonight. Howwwwwwl.

TONY: I don't know, Rassa. This man-cub-thing is out of bounds.

JAN: Out of bounds?

TONY: Yeah, you know. Like - off sides.

EVA: You mean he don't belong here?

TONY: That's what I'm sayin'!

NANCE: Bet he strayed from the man-pack.

RASSA: Hey, what's all this barking about? Season him up!

WOLVES (*Except for MISHA, EVA, MACK, LETTY and BETTY*): Yeah! I'm hungry. Put him in! Let's eat.

MISHA: Cool it, Rassa!

RASSA: What's the deal, Big Misha. Wolves gotta eat?

NANCE: Yeah, he landed on our turf!

EMMA: The Jungle Law says he's ours.

NANCE: Paw-to-paw, that's the law.

WOLVES: Paw-to-paw, that's the law.

WOLF 12: Somebody get the special sauce!

MISHA: Any of you wolves touch that man-cub and it'll be your *last* hound-dog meal, dig?

RASSA: We hear ya', Big Misha. I'm backin' off.

WOLF 23: No need to get all puffed up about it.

NANCE: What do we do with him, then?

WOLF 13: We can't eat 'em. We just supposed to set him free?

MISHA: I'll keep him.

WOLF 13: You're keeping a frog?

MISHA: Why not? I'll call him Mowgli. Meaning frog.

WOLF 9: Wait a minute. Does that mean we aren't eating him?

MISHA: That's what it means.

WOLF 9: Awwwe, man. I'm starving.

WOLF 10: What are we gonna' eat then.

MISHA: Stew. With jungle vines.

WOLVES: (*Upset.*) Awwwwwwwe.

MACK: Big Misha, I know you're head of the homestead, but keepin' this thing...it's strange talk.

EVA: I have to agree with Mack. He's cute and all, but he's just a pup. He doesn't have the stuff to run with the pack.

MISHA: He's not a pup. He's a man-cub.

NANCE: He's a shrimp, a weakling.

JAN: He won't keep up!

WOLF 11: He don't smell right.

MISHA: Smell?

WOLF 11: You know. Like a wolf smells.

JAN: Bet he'd smell great in a pot of vine stew.

RASSA: Come on, Big Misha. We want a midnight snack.

WOLVES: Yeah. I'm with Rassa. Let's do it. I'm hungry.

MISHA: (*Threatening.*) Maybe you didn't hear what I said.

(*UBU and ROI enter.*)

ROI: Salutations. Big Misha, your coat's looking sleek and fine tonight.

UBU: Hey, what's happenin', brothers and sisters?

WOLF 12: Who ordered the side of Jackal?

WOLF 4: Yeah, table nine, your Jackal's ready.

UBU: Boy, these mutts have no respect.

JAN: Get lost!

MISHA: What are a couple slippery jackals like you two prowling 'round here for?

UBU: Oh, nothing special, we were in the neighborhood, and thought we'd pay a visit to our *good* friends.

RASSA: Hooooooooowwl.

UBU: Nice puppy.

MISHA: (*Warning.*) Rassa.

ROI: (*Walking around, looking for the man-cub.*) What magnificent little pups you have here, Misha. What fine, strong wolves they'll grow up to be! (*ROI moves to pat BETTY on the back. BETTY nips at him.*) Owwww!

UBU: I don't understand it, Roi. You try to be neighborly, and they bite you!

WOLF 5: Hey, what do ya' mean? We're neighborly.

EMMA: Yeah, we'll let you have a couple of moldy bones.

UBU: See what I mean? No respect. That's the last time I'm sending these wolves a basket of fruit.

ROI: (*Spotting MOWGLI.*) Oh, boy! I think I found him, Ubu.

UBU: (*Walking over to ROI and MOWGLI.*) Looks odd and out of place to me.

ROI: He aint' no wolf. That's for sure.

UBU: Hey, little guy. Do you want to come with us?

MISHA: That man-cub's ours.

WOLF 14: Yeah, you best get your hands off our dinner.

MISHA: We're not eating him!

UBU: Great! Then we'll just grab the man-cub and be on our way.

MISHA: He's staying here.

UBU: Fine. No problem. We'll just inform Shere-Khan that she won't get the specimen she's been searching for all night.

WOLF 6: Shere-Kahn? What's she doing in this part of the jungle?

UBU: Oh, just working on some new research.

ROI: It's going to be great.

MACK: Well that explains why it's been so hard to hunt around here. All the food's been spooked or caught already.

RASSA: And now she's tryin' to steal our midnight snack!
 LETTY: Bring that tiger on!
 BETTY: We'll take her.
 LETTY: We're not afraid of that big lame cat!
 MISHA: Cool down, young ones. No one's going to be "taking" Shere-Khan because she's not coming here.
(To UBU and ROI.) You tell your boss, that she's not getting the man-cub.
 UBU: *(Unsure and afraid to tell her.)* Boy, I don't know about that.
 ROI: She's not the type who likes to hear the word "no."
 MISHA: Well that's tough. Now this party's over!
 SHERE-KAHN: *(Entering.)* But I've so looked forward to visiting with you all.

(WOLVES back away, chatter amongst themselves.)

MISHA: We don't want a fight here Khan. Why don't you just be on your way?
 SHERE-KAHN: A fight? I wouldn't dream of such a barbaric form of problem solving. So long as you kindly hand over that man-cub to me.
 MISHA: Now, Kahn.
 SHERE-KAHN: That's Great One to you.
 MISHA: This little guy landed on our turf. So by the Jungle Law, he's ours.
 SHERE-KAHN: Don't lecture me about the Jungle Law! Each dog barks in his own yard!
 RASSA: He's ours to eat if we want!
 SHERE-KAHN: I can see you're confused. Let me explain. This little cub is a threat to our way of life. His parents were - tragically, I'm afraid - eaten by un-named wild animals. He's bound to have many psychic scars.
 MISHA: Scars?
 SHERE-KAHN: Of course. No doubt his parents' sudden disappearance has left him frightened and upset. I'd hate for him to take out his rage on a member of the pack. Just hand him over to us. What do you think?
 MISHA: I think not you're full of it!
 SHERE-KAHN: Misha, Misha, Misha. All I want to do is help him. I want to make sure he receives proper counseling and therapy.
 UBU: Oh, boy! The Doc has quite a number of helpful experiments planned. First, we hang him upside down from a palm tree. Than we drop coconuts on his head until we find out where the brain is located...
 SHER-KAHN: Restrain yourself, please, Ubu. It's not necessary to go into the details. *(To MISHA.)* Suffice it to say we want to treat what ails him.
 MACK: The frog thing seems to be just cool without your help, Kahn.
 SHERE-KAHN: If you please, I am to be called, "Great One," or, if you prefer, "Lord of the Jungle." Now, if you are not willing to hand the man-cub over willingly...
 MACK: *(Snarls.)* Chill, Great One! We don't do a thing 'till the big wolf gets here.
 SHERE-KAHN: *(Growls.)* Akela. Very well. I'll wait.

AKELA: *(Entering.)* Wait no more. I am here. The party can start.
 SHERE-KAHN: You're getting old Akela. A younger number one wolf would keep a tighter leash on her pack.
 AKELA: Maybe a hobbling kitty cat could do better.
 SHERE-KAHN: If you're really in charge here, tell that overgrown Collie to hand over the man-cub!
 MACK: Akela, Eva and I found him on *our* turf.
 AKELA: Well, that makes a difference doesn't it? There's only one way to settle this. *(Howls)*. Come together, brothers and sisters. *(She howls again. The WOLVES gather in a big circle.)* You know the Jungle Law, Brothers and Sisters. Is the man-cub in or out? If four in this circle will put their paws in for him, then he runs with the pack. If not, he goes with the tiger. Paw-to-paw, that's the law!
 WOLVES: Paw-to-paw, that's the law!
 MISHA: I'll put my paw in for him.

AKELA: That's one. Anyone else?

(Pause. The WOLVES chatter amongst themselves and look at one another.)

SHERE-KAHN: *(Attempting to talk them out of accepting MOWGLI.)* What business does a man-cub have with a pack of wolves? He doesn't belong here. It's not your business. Leave him to me.

WOLF 15: The tiger's right, he doesn't belong.

WOLF 16: No hair, no teeth, no claws.

WOLF 11: And he don't smell right.

JAN: Shhh.

SHERE-KAHN: Man does not run with wolves, nor with any animal. Man is our enemy. He is a wild beast, who chases us to the ends of the jungle with his thunder-sticks and the big red flower.

(BAGHEERA enters, watching.)

WOLVES: The red flower? Isn't that 'sposed to be dangerous. I'm not sure about this man-cub.

EMMA: This tiger's talking truth here. *(Several murmur agreement.)*

SHERE-KAHN: *(Gaining ground.)* Tell me. Have any of you seen the red flower? *(To a WOLF.)* You. Have you seen it?

WOLF 17: Course not. None of us wolves have.

SHERE-KAHN: Well I have. When I was young. Humans used to come to this part of the jungle. Chasing the animals with the big red flower. Capturing them, never to be seen again.

MISHA: This little cub isn't gonna be chasin' anybody.

SHERE-KAHN: Not yet, but he will be hunting us someday, mark my words.

AKELA: This is a wolf thing, stripey. Stay out of it. *(AKELA backs SHERE-KAHN off.)* What now brothers? One has put their paw in for the cub. Are there any others?

WOLF 18: Not me. The man-cub's *not* a wild thing.

WOLF 19: He doesn't know how to behave in the pack.

WOLF 20: He doesn't even know the jungle laws.

AKELA: I'm hip to that, brother. Misha's paw is still in, but an argument has been raised. He *doesn't* know the law.

MISHA: None of you knew the law when you were first pups.

WOLF 21: He's not a wolf, Misha. Look at him.

WOLF 22: How we gonna teach a man-cub the jungle law. He belongs in the village.

WOLF 24: Is eating the man-cub-thing still out of the question?

MISHA: Yes!

BAGHEERA: *(Speaking up.)* I'm not an official member of the pack, but I'll put my paw in for the man-cub.

AKELA: Bagheera's a friend of the pack and therefor her word is good. She may put her paw in for the cub, only if she's willing to show consistency in her pledge. What promise do you make Bagheera, to keep your word to the pack?

BAGHEERA: I'll teach the man-cub the Jungle Law.

AKELA: The black panther agrees to teach the boy the Jungle Law. Are there any others who'd like to put their paws in?

EVA: I will.

MACK: *(Hesitant. EVA elbows him.)* Me too.

AKELA: That's it, brothers and sisters. He's in!

SHERE-KAHN: You foolish hounds!

AKELA: The man-cub-thing...

MISHA: His name is Mowgli.

AKELA: Mowgli is now, by blood, one of the brothers. Paw-to-paw, that's the law!

WOLVES: Paw-to-paw!

SHERE-KAHN: This is a sham. Completely reactionary, not logical at all! *(She calms down.)* You will change your minds when you come to know the truth. Here's my card.

AKELA: *(Taking the card from her.)* Hey, Great One!

SHERE-KAHN: Yes?

AKELA: Beat it!

UBU: Well, aren't we rude!

ROI: You try to be friendly and they throw it back in your face.

MACK: *(To UBU and ROI.)* Beat it, Jackals.

UBU: We're leaving, we're leaving. No need to get snappy. Ungrateful mutts! *(SHERE-KHAN, UBU, and ROI exit.)*

BAGHEERA: It doesn't pay to get a cat mad like that. She'll be back. She won't leave you alone 'till she get's what she wants.

MISHA: Do you think so?

BAGHEERA: I guarantee it. If you want the cub to stay, he needs to learn to live in the jungle. *(MOWGLI does some sort of funny action that shows he is weak/has no idea how to live in the jungle.)* We better start training.

SCENE 3

(The lights come up to reveal the jungle clearing from the beginning of the show. BAGHEERA, LETTY, BETTY and maybe a few other various animals stand on stage. MOWGLI, JACKED RABBIT and SLOTH are present as well. When the lights come up, a jungle-style work-out beat is audible. All actors are doing jumping jacks.)

JACKED RABBIT: You wanna survive in the jungle?

ALL: Yes, Jacked Rabbit.

JACKED RABBIT: That means you gotta get in shape. *(Looking at his stop watch.)* Five more seconds. Three. Two. One. *(They all stop.)* Yeah. We're sweating now! Onto my favorite part of the workout - strength training. Everyone grab your weights. *(All of the animals grab two bananas which are sitting on the floor next to them, one in each hand. The JACKED RABBIT picks up a boulder.)* Now, remember, you want to push yourself, but you don't want to strain your muscles with more than they can handle, that's why I only use one of these boulders. If you're ready, stick with me. If not, just follow my partner over here. *(Indicates SLOTH.)* And you'll see the modified version of these exercises. Ready, let's get to it. *(The JACKED RABBIT begins to "curl" his weights while doing side squats.)* Now, if this is too difficult, just follow the modified version. *(He tips his head to the SLOTH who is eating her banana.)*

BAGHEERA: Yeah, I think I'm gonna switch to the modified version.

MOWGLI: Bagheera, you have to keep exercising.

BAGHEERA: I already know how to survive in the jungle. You're the one who needs to learn, remember?

LETTY: This is hard.

BETTY: I'm tired.

LETTY: Are we done yet?

JACKED RABBIT: I've seen 7,000 pound rhinoceroses do squats, and so can you!

LETTY and BETTY: *(Sad and tired.)* Ahhhhhh.

JACKED RABBIT: Seven more seconds...*(Watches the time click down on his watch.)*....and done.

ALL: Finally! I'm exhausted. I thought we'd never finish.

JACKED RABBIT: Now, on to cardio!

ALL: Awwwwwe.

JACKED RABBIT: Can't complete a workout without running some laps.

BAGHEERA: Yes you can. *(Sit's down.)*

JACKED RABBIT: *(Stretching.)* Now it's time to really push. You gotta want it. Remember what you're working for!

BAGHEERA: A nap?

JACKED RABBIT: *(Begins to jog in place.)* Everyone ready...

MOWGLI: Come on, Bagheera.

BAGHEERA: I don't think so kid. This is one panther whose happy to stay out-of-shape.

MOWGLI: I think I'm gonna rest with Bagheera for a minute.

JACKED RABBIT: Alright, kids, let's show him what he's missing. *(JACKED RABBIT and the other animals begin to do laps. They go down the steps, through the house, out into the lobby, back in the other side, across the stage and repeat. The SLOTH does the laps, but very slowly. It takes her forever to get out of the theater.)*

MOWGLI: Why didn't you want to go on the jog, Bagheera?

BAGHEERA: You may not notice it, kid, but I'm not the youngest panther around.

BALOO: *(Entering.)* You can say that again.

MOWGLI: Baloo!

BALOO: Hey little, Mowgli-ogli. *(Holding out his hand.)* Put 'er there.

MOWGLI: We're learning how to survive in the jungle!

BALOO: *(Surveying the situation.)* Oh, yeah? Looks like I made it in perfect time.

BAGHEERA: Not quite, the workouts over.

BALOO: Like I said, perfect timing!

MOWGLI: Me and Bagheera were just resting.

BALOO: Even better! That means I can try some new jokes on the two of ya - and Bagheera will be too tired to run away.

MOWGLI: Hahahahahaha. That was great! What type of jokes ya' got for us!

BALOO: Why can't a bear tell jokes no timing.

MOWGLI: *(Laughs.)*

BAGHEERA: *(Tired of the jokes already.)* Hhhhhhh.

BALOO: Hold up, Bagheera. I've got one for *you*.

BAGHEERA: *(Sighs.)* Very well.

BALOO: Knock-knock.

BAGHEERA: Who's there?

BALOO: Interrupting snake.

BAGHEERA: Interrupting...

BALOO: Hissss!

BAGHEERA: Interrupting...

BALOO: Hissss!

BAGHEERA: *(Pause.)* Interrupting...

BALOO: Hissss!

MOWGLI: *(Laughs uncontrollably.)*

BAGHEERA: On second thought, maybe I *should* have done those laps!

JACKED RABBIT: *(Emerging from the house and running up onto the stage, the others behind him.)* Not too late to start lap two. You in Baloo?

BALOO: Not a huge fan of cardio. You could say I'm more of a Yogi Berra. *(Strikes an original Yoga pose.)* Pitching dog.

JACKED RABBIT: Finding your inner chi. I like it. Keep up, kids! *(Runs back down through the house.)*

MOWGLI: Want to go down to the watering hole, Baloo?

BAGHEERA: Ohhhhhh, no. You're not getting out of your training that easily.

MOWGLI: I'm board of training.

BAGHEERA: Too bad. I promised the wolves I'd help you survive in the jungle - and that means learning how to live in the jungle. Now, what's the universal call for friendship in any language?

MOWGLI: We are blood brothers, you and me!

BAGHEERA: Right! And the elephant version?

MOWGLI: *(Elephant sound.)*

BAGHEERA: Good. Now the hawk.

MOWGLI: *(Bird sound.)*

BAGHEERA: Not quite right. It's ... *(Bird sound.)*

MOWGLI: *(Bird sound.)*

BAGHEERA: Great!

BALOO: Ahhh, that's baby's stuff. Ya' gotta give the kid something tricky.

BAGHEERA: Hmmm... He doesn't know any porcupine yet.

BALOO: Oh, I've got that covered. Alright, Mow-geeno, This means, "Hey, Porky, what's happenin' ". *(Porcupine sound.)*

MOWGLI: *(Tries to imitate.)*

BAGHEERA: This isn't exactly what I...

BALOO: And then, "Three honeycombs? You've got to be kiddin' me. It ain't worth two". *(Porcupine sound.)*

MOEGLI: *(Imitates.)*

BAGHEERA: Baloo...

BALOO: So you say, "Two-and-a-half is all you're gonna get for that oversized walnut". *(Porcupine sound.)*

BAGHEERA: Are you quite finished?

BALOO: Finally, it's... *(A very short Porcupine sound.)*

MOWGLI: What does that mean?

BALOO: It means, "What are you trying to *spike* up the price for?" *(Mowgli and Baloo laugh.)*

BAGHEERA: How about something the kid can actually use. *(Thinks.)* I've got one. Ask in snake if you can walk through his territory.

JACKED RABBIT: *(Emerging, kids in tow.)* Why walk, when you can run?

BALOO: *(To BAGHEERA.)* They just keep going, don't they. *(Looking at the SLOTH who is just about out of view.)* What's up with the sloth?

BAGHEERA: She's doing the modified version.

SLOTH: Haaaave toooo fiind my plaaaace in the juuuungllee.

BALOO: Alright. You work those glutes!

SLOTH: *(Exiting the sight of the audience.)* Almooooost theeeeeree.

(Interrupted by blurted and strained saxophone notes.)

MOWGLI: Uhhhh. What's that noise?

BAGHEERA: It sounds like Kaa, the snake - I think.

BALOO: *(Scared.)* Kaa! That big python! Why'd he be hanging around these parts!

MOWGLI: You okay, Baloo?

BALOO: No. Those snakes give me the heebie-jeebies. Always playing the blues, getting me down. Hiss! *(Kaa stumbles on-stage covered with sheets of paper.)* You say anything to a big snake like that, and it'll be the last word you do say. He'll draw you in with his cool groovy blues sound and *(makes a cut-throat gesture)* that's it for you buddy.

(More strained sax notes.)

MOWGLI: He doesn't sound smooth today.

BAGHEERA: Quiet, Mowgli. (*Speaking over to KAA, while remaining a safe distance away.*) Greetings, number one soul brother. What brings you to these parts of the jungle?

MOWGLI: At least Bagheera talks the python talk.

BALOO: Bagheera, are you nuts?

KAA: Greetings, mellow black one. Was playing a house party cross the way when I thought I'd wander about and do some improvisation.

BAGHEERA: You look like you could use a paw, brother. How'd you get these all over you?

KAA: Improv'd my way into a mess that's how. Couple of those nasty jackals were gluing these things up all over the place. I got stuck in some of that glue and now these papers are all over me too.

BAGHEERA: (*Trying to remove the papers.*) I wish I could help you, brother - but my fur keeps sticking too.

MOWGLI: (*Walking towards them.*) Maybe I can try. (*He begins to take the papers off of KAA.*) Got it!

KAA: Oh, I'm much obliged, little man. You must be a rambler'. Haven't seen your kind in these parts for years. Hey, you're a man-cub, aren't you?

MOWGLI: Nah, I'm a wolf.

KAA: Hey, man-cub-brother, you're the only one in the jungle could have done that for me. I owe you.

MOWGLI: Yeah, but I'm a wolf brother, not a man-cub brother.

KAA: Hey, man, whatever. That's your trip. Thanks again. (*KAA plays a couple of bars.*)

BAGHEERA: (*Cautious.*) Hey, soul king!

KAA: Yeah, black cat?

BAGHEERA: You'll do us a favor and not blow that horn 'til you get a safe distance?

KAA: Not a problem. I'm cool with it. Check out you cats later.

MOWGLI: Wolf, not cat!

BAGHEERA: Shh. That's just an expression, Mowgli.

BALOO: I thought for sure you two were gonna be Python-snack.

BAGHEERA: It turns out he was harmless. This time.

MOWGLI: This time?

BAGHEERA: Yes. Kaa's one of the meanest in the jungle. When he really gets going on that horn, it's hypnotic. You'd barely escape.

MOWGLI: Then why'd you want to help him?

BALOO: Because the panther is a doofus.

BAGHEERA: Because, Mowgli. You should always try to help a fellow animal in need, it's part of the jungle law.

MOWGLI: (*Looking at one of the papers.*) Hey, it looks like Shere-Kahn is trying to help animals too.

BAGHEERA: (*She reaches over and grabs the piece of paper from MOWGLI. Reading.*) "Seminar Today – How to Nurture the Wolf Within - hosted by Doctor Shere-Kahn. Wolves only." That tiger is only interested in helping herself. Shere-Kahn is cooking up trouble with the wolves. She's up to no good. (*Making to leave.*) We'd better warn Misha.

LETTY and BETTY: (*Emerging from the final lap.*) Wait for us! (*All of the kids exit in different directions.*)

JACKED RABBIT: (*Shouting after the kids. Taking a carrot out of his bag to snack on.*) Don't forget your post-workout snack. Gotta eat up if you want to bulk up!

SHERE-KAHN: (*Entering. She carries a stack of flyers with her.*) Good afternoon. I'm looking for a few stray wolves. Have you seen any?

JACKED RABBIT: A' yo. Mr. Tiger, a couple of little ones just left. (*Seeing the stack of papers.*) Are you one of those diet-pill salesmen?

SHERE-KAHN: No. I happen to be a certified Doctor. A psychoanalyst who specializes in the psychology of fears.

JACKED RABBIT: Oh, right on. (*Holding a long carrot.*) So, ah, what's up, Doc.

SHERE-KAHN: Tell me. Mr....

JACKED RABBIT: Rabbit...Jacked Rabbit.

SHERE-KAHN: What do you fear?

JACKED RABBIT: Fear? Hah. Does someone who looks like this (*Flexes.*) have fears? Not likely.

SHERE-KAHN: Come now, every being in the jungle has fears.

JACKED RABBIT: Fears are for the weak.

SHERE-KAHN: (*Drawn out.*) I see. Would you say, you are afraid of weakness?

JACKED RABBIT: I don't know. Are you afraid of these? (*Shows his muscles again.*)

SHERE-KAHN: (*Annoyed.*) No.

JACKED RABBIT: Come on Tiger, let's get ripped!

SHERE-KAHN: Ahhh. Now we're getting somewhere. You say you feel ripped, torn inside.

JACKED RABBIT: What I'm saying is, you gotta, rip, tear and repeat!

SHERE-KAHN: Your muscles represent your inner strength, who you are as an animal. What I hear you saying is that you think the strongest part of you has been ripped, torn to pieces. Tell me, how does that make you feel?

JACKED RABBIT: Great! Love the feeling of a good workout.

SHERE-KAHN: Working out your feelings does feel good, doesn't it?

(*The SLOTH is now visible again from the other side of the house.*)

SLOTH: Alllllmoosst theerrre. (*Stops short of the stage. Breadths in and out deeply.*) Maaaaaybeeee my innneeeeer aniiiiiiimaaaaal, isssssn't a raaaaaaabittttt. Hmmmmmm...