



# The Jungle Book

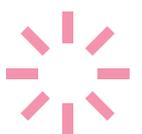
## *by Rudyard Kipling*



It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening in the Seonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleepy feeling in their tips.

Mother Wolf lay with her big grey nose dropped across her four tumbling, squealing cubs, and the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. 'Augrh!' said Father Wolf, 'it is time to hunt again'; and he was going to spring downhill when a little shadow with a bushy tail crossed the threshold and whined: 'Good luck go with you, O Chief of the Wolves; and good luck and strong white teeth go with the noble children, that they may never forget the hungry in this world.'

It was the jackal – Tabaqui, the Dish-licker – and the wolves of India despise Tabaqui because he runs about making mischief, and telling tales, and eating rags and pieces of





## Classic Text Reading Comprehension

leather from the village rubbish-heaps. But they are afraid of him too, because Tabaqui, more than anyone else in the jungle, is apt to go mad, and then he forgets that he was ever afraid of anyone, and runs through the forest biting everything in his way. Even the tiger runs and hides when little Tabaqui goes mad, for madness is the most disgraceful thing that can overtake a wild creature. We call it hydrophobia, but they call it dewanee – the madness – and run.

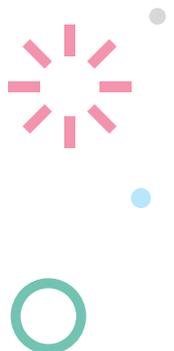
‘Enter, then, and look,’ said Father Wolf stiffly; ‘but there is no food here.’

‘For a wolf, no,’ said Tabaqui; ‘but for so mean a person as myself a dry bone is a good feast. Who are we, the Gidur-log [the Jackal-People], to pick and choose?’ He scuttled to the back of the cave, where he found the bone of a buck with some meat on it, and sat cracking the end merrily.

‘All thanks for this good meal,’ he said, licking his lips.

‘How beautiful are the noble children! How large are their eyes! And so young too! Indeed, indeed, I might have remembered that the children of Kings are men from the beginning.’

Now, Tabaqui knew as well as anyone else that there is nothing so unlucky as to compliment children to their faces.





## Retrieval

1) What was the jackal's name?

2) What did the jackal find to eat?

3) What did the jackal do that was unlucky?

## Vocabulary

4) Look at the second paragraph, find and copy **one** word that shows the wolf had lots of energy once he had woken up.

5) Find and copy **one** word in the second paragraph which means the same as **whinged** or **complained**.



6) Find and copy one word which means the same as **banquet**.

7) *“Enter, then and look,” said Father Wolf stiffly...*

What does the word **stiffly** mean in this sentence?

uncomfortably

easily

solidly

correctly

8) *He scuttled to the back of the cave...*

What does the word **scuttled** mean in this sentence?

moved

walked

darted

## Inference

9) Why did the jackal compliment the children?



10) Why did Father Wolf let the jackal into the cave?

Feedback

## Summary

Why is the jackal called Dish-licker?



# The Railway Children

by E. Nesbit

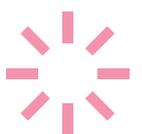


It seemed to her that they had been standing there for hours and hours, holding those silly little red flannel flags that no one would ever notice. The train wouldn't care. It would go rushing by them and tear round the corner and go crashing into that awful mound. And everyone would be killed. Her hands grew very cold and trembled so that she could hardly hold the flag. And then came the distant rumble and hum of the metals, and a puff of white steam showed far away along the stretch of line.

“Stand firm,” said Peter, “and wave like mad! When it gets to that big furze bush step back, but go on waving! Don't stand on the line, Bobbie!”

The train came rattling along very, very fast.

“They don't see us! They won't see us! It's all no good!” cried Bobbie.





## Classic Text Reading Comprehension

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The two little flags on the line swayed as the nearing train shook and loosened the heaps of loose stones that held them up. One of them slowly leaned over and fell on the line. Bobbie jumped forward and caught it up, and waved it; her hands did not tremble now.

It seemed that the train came on as fast as ever. It was very near now.

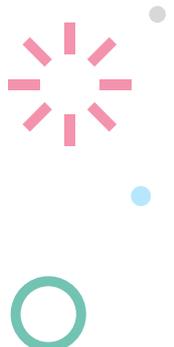
”Keep off the line, you silly cuckoo!” said Peter, fiercely.

”It’s no good,” Bobbie said again.

”Stand back!” cried Peter, suddenly, and he dragged Phyllis back by the arm.

But Bobbie cried, “Not yet, not yet!” and waved her two flags right over the line. The front of the engine looked black and enormous. Its voice was loud and harsh.

“Oh, stop, stop, stop!” cried Bobbie. No one heard her. At least Peter and Phyllis didn’t, for the oncoming rush of the train covered the sound of her voice with a mountain of sound. But afterwards she used to wonder whether the engine itself had not heard her.





## Retrieval

1) According to the text, what colour are the flags?

2) Who caught the flag that fell on the line?

3) Why are the train passengers in danger?

## Vocabulary

4) *...along the stretch of the line...*

What does the word **stretch** mean in this sentence?

length

bounce

time

spell

5) Find and copy **one** word which means the same as **piles** or **mounds**.



6) Find and copy one word which means the same as **quickly** or **speedily**.

7) Find and copy one word which means the same as **large** or **massive**.

## Inference

8) *..Her hands grew cold...*

Why have her hands grown cold?

9) *...when it gets to the big furze bush step back...*

Why does Peter say this?

Feedback



10) What impression do you have of Peter from this extract? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Feedback

## Summary

Find and copy the phrase that Edith Nesbit uses to emphasise the loudness of the train.



# Dr. Doolittle

## *by Hugh Lofting*



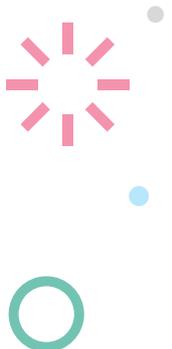
**He was poorer than he had ever been before. But the Doctor refused to worry.**

“Money is a nuisance,” he said. “We’d all be much better off if it had never been invented. Who cares about money as long as we are happy?”

But soon even the animals began to worry. One night, as the Doctor snored in his chair before the kitchen fire, they whispered among themselves about what to do.

The owl, Too-Too, who was good at arithmetic, figured that there was only enough money to last one week-if they each had only one meal a day.

“I think we should do the housework ourselves,” Polynesia suggested.





“After all, it’s because of us that the Doctor is so lonely and poor.”

They agreed that Chee-Chee, the monkey, would do the cooking and mending; Jip, the dog, would sweep the floors; Dab-Dab, the duck, would dust and make the beds; Too-Too, the owl, would keep the accounts; and Gub-Gub, the pig, would do the gardening. Because she was the oldest, Polynesia, the parrot, would be housekeeper and laundress.

At first the new jobs were very hard to do-except for Chee-Chee, who had hands and could do things like a person. But soon they got used to it and thought it was great fun to watch Jip sweep his tail over the floor with a rag tied to it for a broom. They worked so well that the Doctor said his house had never been so clean before!

The animals built a vegetable and flower stall outside the garden gate. They sold radishes and roses to people going by on the road.

But there still was not enough money to pay the bills. Yet Doctor Dolittle did not worry.

“Never mind,” he said. “The hens lay eggs and the cow gives milk. We can always have omelets and pudding. There are plenty of vegetables in the garden. The winter is a long way off.”

But that year the snow came earlier than usual. Although the horse hauled in lots of wood from the forest for big fires in the kitchen, most of the vegetables were gone. For the first time, the animals were really hungry.



## Retrieval

1) Where was the Doctor sleeping when the animals talked?

2) Why did Chee Chee find it easier than the other animals to do jobs?

3) What did the animals sell to people passing by?

4) How does Jip sweep the floor?

## Vocabulary

5) Look at the second paragraph. Find and copy **one** word which has the same meaning as **pain** or **irritation**.



6) ...*the horse hauled in lots of wood...*

Which word is closest to the meaning of **hauled** in this sentence?

dragged

shoved

carried

7) Find and copy a word which means the same as **lots of**.

## Sequencing

8) Place these events in the order they occurred.

- Polynesia suggested the animals do the housework.
- It began to snow.
- The animals built a stall outside the garden gate.
- Doctor Doolittle fell asleep.
- The animals worried about money.

Feedback



## Inference

Feedback

9) What impression do you have of the animals from this extract? Give reasons for your answer.

10) What impression do you have of Doctor Doolittle from this extract? Give reasons for your answer.



## Summary

Because she was the oldest, Polynesia the parrot had the job of housekeeper and laundress. Why do you think the other animals were given their jobs?

Feedback