

## How Fear Came to the Jungle

<b>Category</b>	Yarn
<b>Time to allocate (mins)</b>	15
<b>Story</b>	<p>From the Jungle Book</p> <p>The Law of the Jungle - which is by far the oldest law in the world - has arranged for almost every kind of accident that may befall the jungle-people; till now its code is as perfect as time and custom can make it.</p> <p>Mowgli spent a large part of his life with the Seeonee Wolf Pack. He learnt the law from Baloo the Bear. It was Baloo who said that the Law was like the giant creeper because it dropped across everyone's back and no one could escape it.</p> <p>This story all began when the winter rains failed to come to the jungle. Ikki, the porcupine, met Mowgli in the bamboo thicket and told him that the wild yams had dried up. Mowgli laughed and said: "What is that to me?" Ikki said: "Not much now, but you do not dive in the deep rock pool near the rocks anymore."</p> <p>Spring arrived, but no rain - drought had come to the jungle. Slowly the heat crept into the Jungle, turning it yellow and then brown and lastly black. The birds and the Monkey-people went north and the deer and wild pigs went into the fields of the villages. Chil the Kite stayed and grew fat for there was a great deal of carrion. He brought news that the sun was killing the jungle for three days flight in every direction.</p> <p>Mowgli had to fall back on stale honey and grubs in the bark of trees. The heat went on and on sucking up all the moisture and soon a long lean blue ridge of rock showed in the centre of the stream.</p> <p>Hathi, the Elephant, declared the Water Truce for it was the Peace Rock that was showing. By the Law of the Jungle it is death to kill at the drinking places when the Water Truce is declared. For so great is the common need for water that everyone must "play the game."</p> <p>Bagheera was Mowgli's adviser in this time of trouble and one evening he and Mowgli came down to the pool. On one bank were the deer, pigs and wild buffalo and on the opposite bank the eaters of flesh - the tiger, wolves, panther and the bear.</p> <p>Hathi and his sons were the guardians of the Truce. Mowgli asked him if he had ever seen a drought like this before. Hathi's only answer was "It will pass". There was talk up and down the banks but all the news was bad.</p> <p>Shere Khan, the lame tiger, limped down to the water and as he dipped his chin and jowl in the water, dark oily streaks floated from it down-stream. He had fouled the water by coming straight from killing a Man. Shere Khan said it was his right and his night and "I killed for choice - not for food".</p> <p>Bagheera drew himself out of the tainted water and shook each paw, cat fashion. "Was there no other game?" he asked.</p> <p>Hathi asked: "You killed by choice?"</p> <p>Shere Khan again answered: "It was my right and my night."</p> <p>Hathi replied: "If you have drunk your fill then leave the river and go to your lair, Shere Khan."</p> <p>Hathi's three sons rolled forward a step and Shere Khan slunk away. Mowgli plucked up his courage and asked Hathi: "What is Shere Khan's right?"</p> <p>"It is an old tale and if all the animals will be quiet, I will tell it", said Hathi.</p> <p>Hathi began the story. "In the beginning of the Jungle all animals lived happily together and they all ate leaves, grass, fruit and bark. The First of the Elephants, Tha, the lord of the Jungle, made the earth, the jungle and the rivers and trees. While he was away making new jungles and rivers he made the First of the Tigers master and judge of the Jungle. The First</p>

of the Tigers ate fruit and grass with the other animals and he was very beautiful with not a stripe or bar on his hide.

Then trouble started. The animals began to argue over the food. One night two buck were quarrelling over the grazing plains and by mistake one of the buck hurt the First of the Tigers with his horns. The First of the Tigers, forgetting that he was master and judge of the Jungle, broke the buck's neck. The First of the Tigers was made silly by the smell of blood and ran away to the marshes of the north and the Jungle was without a judge.

Tha came back to see what was going on and none of the animals could tell him who had killed the buck because they were also made silly by the smell of blood.

So Tha ordered the trees and creepers to hang low and mark the killer of the buck.

The Grey Ape was then made master of the Jungle, but he brought only foolish talk and senseless words to the Jungle. Tha then called all the animals together and said that the First master brought Death, the second brought Shame and now the third will be Fear. Go and look for him. All the animals searched and found Fear in a cave.

The First of the Tigers came back from the marshes to kill Fear, but when he tried he found that he was afraid. He went to Tha to try and get his powers back and the stripes off his hide, but Tha said that never again would the Jungle be the same - the other animals would always be afraid of the Tiger. But because the Tiger had been the First Judge he had one right: Man - who was Fear - would be afraid of him.

On that one night the First of the Tigers killed a man and so he taught man to kill and ever since that time Man has hunted and killed all animals.

The First of the Tigers never would eat leaves and grass again because they had marked him and made him the striped thing he is today, but from that day on, he revenged himself on the buck and the other eaters of grass.

It's all about the water .... Once you find it, make sure it's clean enough to drink.