

JUNGLE BOOK KIDS Character Descriptions

Bagheera – This responsible and no-nonsense panther acts as a guardian of Mowgli and the cautious companion to Baloo.

Baloo - Friend to Mowgli and companion to Bagheera, Baloo is the gentle giant of this story. Never in a hurry and somewhat stubborn, but possessing a large heart, he learns a sense of responsibility through helping to care for the Man-cub. Baloo provides much of the comedic relief in the story.

Mowgli - ‘Man Cub’ is the protagonist of the story. An amiable boy (can be portrayed by either gender) with a joyful and curious nature, he is trusting – sometimes naively so – of all he encounters.

Shere Khan- the antagonist of the story, the ruthless tiger hates Man – and therefore, Mowgli – for his is the maker of fire and guns. Powerful and dignified, Shere Khan’s performance should move with feline elegance, yet appear threatening.

Shanti – curious human child from the man village, Shanti helps to narrate the transitions of the show while hiding in the jungle. An Adventurous but shy girl who follows Mowgli throughout his journey.

The **JUNGLE** is your show's primary ensemble, from which you will pull the featured ensemble flora groups and roles. Gnereal ensemble of flora – **Trees, Flowers, Plants** - helps to create the visual and vocal atmosphere. This ensemble, which is often broken up into two subgroups in the score (JUNGLE 1 and JUNGLE 2), can be onstage during featured ensemble group numbers to create the jungle atmosphere or to add vocal support as necessary.

Jungle Lotus, Jungle Thistle, Jungle Banyan - These three members of your larger flora ensemble have a few lines near the end of the show.

Wolves: The pack of wolves who raised Mowgli as one of their own are proud of and loving toward their Man-cub. The pack has a small group solo, so cast performers with vocal strength.

Kaa the Snake: Kaa is a mighty python who poses the first threat to Mowgli in his journey of the jungle. Sly and seductive, Kaa is a slippery snake who lures its prey with an entrancing voice.

Coils 1-5 – These are the five rings of Kaa’s slinky body, Each of the coils had some solo lines.

Colonel Hathi: An elephant, Hathi is the leader of the herd, which he runs like a military squadron. He is pompous, buffoonish -and a little forgetful.

Baby Elephant: Colonel Hathi's offspring, the tiniest elephant in the line, has a single solo line in the song.

The **ELEPHANT ENSEMBLE** can be as small or large as you like to create the appearance of a brigade.

King Louie - This orangutan is King of the Monkeys. With a raucous but fun-loving nature, King Louie is commanding toward his monkey minions and longs to be human.

The **MONKEYS** group can be as small or large as you'd like to make "I Wan'na Be Like You" a real showstopper. This group should consist of high-energy troublemakers who move well.

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Silly Monkey, Sassy Monkey, Grumpy Monkey: these funny primates attempt to kidnap. Must be able to quietly and humorously sneak across the stage before grabbing the Man-cub

Old Monkey – the court herald, this monkey presents King Louie to Mowgli and the monkeys.

Dizzy Vulture & Ziggy Vulture: These two vultures come across an exhausted Mowgli after he runs away.

Shanti's Family: Represented by offstage voices, Shanti's Family beckons her to return home after a day full of adventure in the jungle. Choose three or four performers who can really project, or for fun, you might want a couple favorite teachers or the principal to say these lines from offstage or from the back of the performance space. These should be the only "grown-up" voices in the show.