

Fifth Grade ELA Study Guide 2nd Nine Week Test

from *The Jungle Book*

*excerpt from The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling,
published by The Century Co., 1920.*

①

Now, the Law of the Jungle lays down that if there is any dispute as to the right of a cub to be accepted by the Pack, he must be spoken for by at least two members of the Pack who are not his father and mother.

“Who speaks for this cub?” said Akela. “Among the Free People, who speaks?” There was no answer.

Then the only other creature who is allowed at the Pack Council—Baloo, the sleepy brown bear who teaches the wolf cubs the Law of the Jungle; old Baloo, who can come and go where he pleases because he eats only nuts and roots and honey—rose up on his hind quarters and grunted.

④

“The man’s cub—the man’s cub?” he said. “I speak for the man’s cub. There is no harm in a man’s cub. I have no gift of words, but I speak the truth. Let him run with the Pack, and be entered with the others. I myself will teach him.”

“We need yet another,” said Akela. “Baloo has spoken, and he is our teacher for the young cubs. Who speaks besides Baloo?”

A black shadow dropped down into the circle. It was Bagheera, the Black Panther, inky black all over, but with the panther markings showing up in certain lights like the pattern of watered silk. Everybody knew Bagheera, and nobody cared to cross his path. He had a voice as soft as wild honey dripping from a tree, and a skin softer than down.

“To kill a naked cub is a shame. Besides, he may make better sport for you when he is grown. Baloo has spoken in his behalf. Now to Baloo’s word I will add one bull, . . . not half a mile from here, if ye will accept the man’s cub according to the Law.”

There was a clamor of scores of voices, saying: "What matter? He will die in the winter rains. He will scorch in the sun. What harm can a naked frog do us? Let him run with the Pack. Where is the bull, Bagheera? Let him be accepted." . . .

"It was well done," said Akela. "Men and their cubs are very wise. He may be a help in time."

"Take him away," he said to Father Wolf, "and train him as befits one of the Free People."

And that is how Mowgli was entered into the Seeonee wolf-pack for the price of a bull and on Baloo's good word.

Now you must be content to skip ten or eleven whole years, and only guess at all the wonderful life that Mowgli led among the wolves. . . . He grew up with the cubs, though they of course were grown wolves almost before he was a child. Father Wolf taught him his business, and the meaning of things in the jungle, till every rustle in the grass, every breath of the warm night air, every note of the owls above his head, every scratch of a bat's claws as it roosted for a while in a tree, and every splash of every little fish jumping in a pool, meant just as much to him as the work of his office means to a business man. When he was not learning he sat out in the sun and slept, and ate, and went to sleep again; when he felt dirty or hot he swam in the forest pools. . . .

. . . He took his place at the Council Rock, too, when the Pack met. He discovered that if he stared hard at any wolf, the wolf would be forced to drop his eyes, and so he used to stare for fun.

At other times he would pick the long thorns out of the pads of his friends, for wolves suffer terribly from thorns and burs in their coats. He would go down the hillside into the [farmed] lands by night, and look very curiously at the villagers in their huts. . . .

Mother Wolf told him once or twice that Shere Khan was not a creature to be trusted. . . . A young wolf would have remembered that advice every hour. Mowgli forgot it because he was only a boy—though he would have called himself a wolf if he had been able to speak in any human tongue. . . .

1. Read these sentences from paragraph 4.

“There is no harm in a man’s cub. I have no gift of words, but I speak the truth.”

What does Baloo mean when he says, “I have no gift of words”?

- A He feels that his words are worthless.
- B He does not have a present for the man’s cub.
- C He does not express his thoughts beautifully.
- D He fears the others will not understand him.

2. How are Baloo and Bagheera alike?

- A. They both offer to teach the man’s cub as he grows up.
- B. They both think the man’s cub should be accepted into the pack.
- C. They both offer a bull in return for allowing the man’s cub into the pack.
- D. They both believe the man’s cub will be useful to the pack someday.

3. Which sentence from the selection supports the idea that Bagheera does not have any real concern for Mowgli, even though he asks the Pack Council to accept him?

- A “Everybody knew Bagheera, and nobody cared to cross his path.”
- B “To kill a naked cub is a shame.”
- C “Besides, he may make better sport for you when he is grown.”
- D “Baloo has spoken in his behalf.”

4. Read this sentence from paragraph 1.

“Now, the Law of the Jungle lays down that if there is any dispute as to the right of a cub to be accepted by the Pack, he must be spoken for by at least two members of the Pack who are not his father and mother.”

What does the word *dispute* mean?

- A argument
- B opinion
- C reason
- D feeling

5. What is a theme of this selection?

- A Important decisions should be made by the leader of a group.
- B Wild animals are right to see humans as a great threat.
- C Animals and humans need each other to stay safe in the jungle.
- D An outsider can learn the ways of others if they accept him.

6. How does the narrator's point of view affect how the story is told?

- A It suggests that Mowgli grew up faster than the wolf cubs.
- B It suggests that the Law of the Jungle is foolish.
- C It shows that Mowgli enjoys his childhood with the wolves.
- D It shows that nature is cruel to those who do not belong.

7 Read this sentence from the selection.

“Mowgli forgot it because he was only a boy—though he would have called himself a wolf if he had been able to speak in any human tongue.....”

What is the meaning of the word *tongue* in this sentence?

- A language
- B time
- C land
- D instrument

8 How do the members of the Pack Council respond to Baloo’s and Bagheera’s suggestion?

- A They refuse to honor it.
- B They decide to change the law.
- C They accept Mowgli into the Pack.
- D They offer another answer.

How Humpbacks Go Fishing

by Linda Brown Anderson, Highlights

Humpback whales are known for feeding alone or in pairs. Most of the time, they plow through the ocean with their huge mouths open, scooping up thousands of tiny shrimplike creatures called krill. But humpbacks that live near the west coast of North America have a surprising and spectacular way of catching fish. When they spot a school of herring, the humpbacks dive into the depths and close in on the fish from below. A steady flow of bubbles rises to the surface, forming a circle.

Suddenly, all of the whales explode out of the water at once, right in the middle of the bubble-circle. Their huge mouths are open and full of silver, wriggling fish.

Scientists wanted to know more about how the whales fed on schools of fish. Using underwater microphones, they listened to humpbacks as they fed. The whales made magnificent trumpetlike sounds as they swept up and ate the fish.

④

The researchers also used the Crittercam, a video camera that can be attached harmlessly to the back of a whale. It showed that the whales waved their huge flippers back and forth as they fed.

⑤

Most researchers thought the humpbacks were fighting over the fish. Whales are known to use bubbles and loud calls when they try to chase away other whales. Maybe they also waved their flippers to shoo one another away.

A Deep Mystery

Dr. Fred Sharpe had a radical idea for the late 1980s, when he began his research. Maybe the whales were working together!

⑦

Dr. Sharpe led a team of researchers. They used sonar to “see” deeper into the water. A sonar device sends out sound waves, then catches the echoes of those waves after they bounce off objects, such as whales, fish, and bubbles. Using the echoes, the sonar creates pictures of the objects.

The sonar showed that, to a humpback, bubbles are tools. A single whale swims below the fish, carefully releasing air from its blowhole to create a wall of bubbles.

9

Also using sonar, the scientists saw other whales moving toward the herring, chasing the fish toward the bubble wall. The herring were reluctant¹ to try to escape through the bubbles. The bubble-blowing whale began to swim in a circle, making the wall of bubbles go all the way around the fish. The fish were trapped in a bubble net!

Using an underwater microphone, the research team recorded the sounds of the whales. The whales swam under the herring and began their trumpetlike calls. Then the whales swam upward all at once, waving their flippers, and gulped a large number of fish.

The whales were working together!

How did the whales use their calls and flippers to help catch their food?

To find out, Dr. Sharpe and his team placed a school of herring into an aquarium. Then the researchers pumped in air to make a wall of bubbles. The fish would not swim through the bubbles.

14

When the researchers played a recording of feeding calls by humpbacks, the herring dashed away from the sounds. The sounds make it easier to trap the fish in the bubble net.

The scientists also placed a model of a humpback flipper into the aquarium. Like a real humpback flipper, the model was dark on one side and white on the other. As the researchers turned the flipper and flashed the white underside at the school, the fish quickly swam away.

Working as a Team

Now Dr. Sharpe understood how humpbacks feed together. One whale forms a wall of bubbles around the fish. Other whales approach from the sides and from below. One of the whales, the leader, makes calls from below that send the fish toward the surface and into the ring of bubbles. As the fish are squeezed into a tighter group, the bubble-blowing whale continues to swim in a circle, closing the net and trapping the fish in a bubble corral.

Finally, all of the whales swim up into the feast of fish, making trumpetlike calls and flashing the white sides of their flippers to keep the trapped fish from escaping between them.

¹**reluctant:** unwilling

Over the years, the research group has seen that humpback whales often live and hunt together for years. Each time they go fishing, the same whales play the same roles: bubble blower, first caller, and so on.

Thanks to Dr. Sharpe and his co-workers, we now know something about humpback intelligence. We also know that these famous “loners” actually can form lifelong relationships with others of their species.

9. Which sentence from the selection supports the ideas that humpbacks work in groups and form lifelong relationships with other whales?

- A “Humpback whales are known for feeding alone or in pairs.”
- B “When they spot a school of herring, the humpbacks dive into the depths and close in on the fish from below.”
- C “Whales are known to use bubbles and loud calls when they try to chase away other whales.”
- D “Over the years, the research group has seen that humpback whales often live and hunt together for years.”

10. Which sentence from the selection shows why scientists at first thought the whales were fighting each other for food?

- A “Most of the time, they plow through the ocean with their huge mouths open, scooping up thousands of tiny shrimplike creatures called krill.”
- B “Suddenly, all of the whales explode out of the water at once, right in the middle of the bubble-circle.”
- C “Whales are known to use bubbles and loud calls when they try to chase away other whales.”
- D “A single whale swims below the fish, carefully releasing air from its blowhole to create a wall of bubbles.”

11. Why do scientists think that herring are afraid of light-colored objects?
- A. They live in the dark depths of the ocean, not near the lighter surface of the water.
 - B. They swim away from the white side of the flipper model, not the dark side.
 - C. They will not swim through the bubbles that the whales create.
 - D. They behave differently in lighter tanks than they do in dark ones.

12. How do herring react to the bubbles the whales blow?

- A They very quickly swim toward them.
- B They avoid swimming through them.
- C They begin swimming next to them.
- D They generally ignore them.

13. According to paragraph 7, what do sonar devices use to find things under the water?

- A sound
- B touch
- C cameras
- D temperature

14. Which paragraph has evidence to support the claim, "The whales were working together"?

- A paragraph 4
- B paragraph 5
- C paragraph 9
- D paragraph 14

15. Read this sentence from the selection.

"Most of the time, they plow through the ocean with their huge mouths open, scooping up thousands of tiny shrimplike creatures called krill."

What does the phrase "plow through" tell about the whales?

- A They are splitting things in half.
- B They are swimming awkwardly.
- C They are moving forcefully.
- D They are making bubbles.

Answer Key

1.C	2.B	3.C	4.A	5.D	6.C	7.A	8.C
9.D	10.C	11.B	12.B	13.A	14.C	15.C	