In a 19th century Indian village, the annual Festival of Lights, Diwali, is being celebrated with song and dance. Suddenly Shere Kahn the tiger bounds into the dancers’ midst and singles out the “easiest prey”, a woman with a baby. Though the villagers try to protect her, the woman, Messua, soon finds herself alone in the jungle. Messua hides her baby and then defeats Shere Kahn by burning his paw with a torch. Yet to her great grief, she realizes that during the battle Mother Wolf had heard the baby’s cries and carried him away for protection. A wounded Shere Kahn follows the baby’s scent to Mother Wolf’s cave and demands the child as retribution for his burnt paw. Mother Wolf refuses and calls on the pack to frighten Shere Kahn. He leaves, but vows revenge.

Activities

• Building a Story
  As a class read through 3/4 of a story and, in small groups, have the students create how they imagine the story will end.

• Discussion Questions
  What lesson do this story teach about theater? Is there a moral? What from the story makes you think that?

• Design a Backdrop
  Create a backdrop of the jungle that Mowgli is raised in.

• Mowgli’s Jungle Maze
  Help Mowgli find his way back to Bagheera through this jungle maze.

• Build A Story
  Read students a Jungle Book story, ask the students to illustrate the action as it occurred in the story.

• Friendly Letter Writing
  We love to hear from you at Orlando Shakes! So write us a letter to let us know what you thought!

See the full study guide for expanded activities.

Florida Standards

LAFS.4.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.4.RI.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.4.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
LAFS.3.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
TH.2.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.
VA.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.