

Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0058/02

Paper 2 Fiction

May 2026

INSERT

1 hour

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading text.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Text for **Section A**, an extract from 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling

As evening falls, Father and Mother Wolf are in the cave that is their home, with their baby cubs. From outside comes the sound of Shere Khan, the tiger.

Father Wolf listened, and below in the valley that ran down to a little river, he heard the dry, snarly, singsong whine of a tiger who has caught nothing and does not care if all the Jungle knows it. 5

'The fool!' said Father Wolf. 'To begin a night's work with that noise!'

The whine had changed to a sort of humming purr that seemed to come from every quarter of the compass. It was the noise that bewilders woodcutters sleeping in the open, and makes them run sometimes into the very mouth of the tiger. 10

The purr grew louder, and ended in the full-throated 'Aaarh!' of the tiger's charge.

Then there was a howl – an untigerish howl – from Shere Khan. 'He has missed,' said Mother Wolf. 'What is it?'

Father Wolf ran out a few paces and heard Shere Khan muttering and mumbling as he tumbled about in the scrub. 15

'The fool has had no more sense than to jump at a woodcutter's camp-fire, and has burned his feet,' said Father Wolf, with a grunt.

'Something is coming uphill,' said Mother Wolf, twitching one ear. 'Get ready.'

The bushes rustled a little in the thicket, and Father Wolf dropped with his haunches¹ under him, ready for his leap. Then, if you had been watching, you would have seen the most wonderful thing in the world – the wolf checked in mid-spring. He made his bound before he saw what it was he was jumping at, and then tried to stop himself. The result was that he shot straight into the air for four or five feet², landing almost where he left ground. 20 25

'Man!' he snapped. 'A man's cub. Look!'

Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch, stood a naked brown baby who could just walk. He looked up into Father Wolf's face, and laughed.

'Is that a man's cub?' said Mother Wolf. 'I have never seen one. Bring it here.'

A wolf accustomed to moving his own cubs can, if necessary, mouth an egg without breaking it, and though Father Wolf's jaws closed right on the child's back 30

not a tooth even scratched the skin, as he laid it down among the cubs.

‘How little! How naked, and – how bold!’ said Mother Wolf softly. The baby was pushing his way between the cubs to get warm.

The moonlight was blocked out of the mouth of the cave, for Shere Khan’s great square head and shoulders were thrust into the entrance. 35

‘Shere Khan does us great honour,’ said Father Wolf, but his eyes were angry. ‘What does Shere Khan need?’

‘My quarry³. A man’s cub went this way,’ said Shere Khan. ‘Its parents have run off. Give it to me.’ 40

The tiger’s roar filled the cave with thunder. Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward, her eyes, like two green moons in the darkness, facing the blazing eyes of Shere Khan.

‘The man’s cub is mine! He shall not be killed. He shall live to run with the Pack and to hunt with the Pack; and in the end, look you, hunter of little naked cubs – he shall hunt *thee*!’ 45

Glossary

¹haunches: back legs

²four or five feet: old measurements equalling approximately 1.2–1.5 metres

³quarry: an animal being hunted

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