

After filling in the missing punctuation,
use this sheet to check your work.

The Jungle Book

by Rudyard Kipling

“But why should any wish to kill me?” said Mowgli.

“Look at me,” said Bagheera. And Mowgli looked at him steadily between the eyes. The big panther turned his head away in half a minute.

“That is why,” he said, shifting his paw on the leaves. “Not even I can look you between the eyes, and I was born among men and I love you, Little Brother. The others, they hate you because their eyes cannot meet yours, because you are wise, because you have pulled out thorns from their feet, because you are a man.”

“I did not know these things,” said Mowgli sullenly, and he frowned under his heavy black eyebrows.

“What is the Law of the Jungle? Strike first and then give tongue. But be wise,” said Bagheera, leaping up. “Go down quickly to the men’s huts in the valley, and take some of the Red Flower which they grow there, so that when the time comes you may have even a stronger friend than I or Baloo, or those of the pack that love you. Get the Red Flower.”

By Red Flower Bagheera meant fire. Only no creature in the jungle will call fire by its proper name. Every beast lives in deadly fear of it, and invents a hundred ways of describing it.

“The Red Flower,” said Mowgli, “that grows outside their huts in the twilight. I will get some.”