

Kids Love Musicals!

During this stay-at-home time, isolation can take a toll on our emotional health. It's important to express what we feel and think—and writing is a wonderful way to play, create and reflect.

UNIT TWO: THE JUNGLE BOOK

"I AM..." POEMS

Create an individual or shared poem based on the characters of *The Jungle Book* using the following structure:

I am MOWGLI (or Bagheera, Baloo, Colonel Hathi, Sher Khan, Kaa or any of other character from the book or movie)

I see ...

I feel ...

I wonder ...

I wish ...

I love ...

I am MOWGLI

Once you've drafted poems for some of the characters, read them out loud. Discuss differences between the characters and how the poems reflect those differences. Stretch and deepen your vocabulary to find descriptive words that fit best. Write out and illustrate your poems, then put them together to make a character sketchbook. Don't forget an "I Am" poem about YOU, with a self-portrait!

JOURNALING PROMPTS

Use journaling prompts related to *The Jungle Book* and our world's current situation as a launchpad:

- Mowgli gets mad when Bagheera says he has to leave the jungle. I get mad when...
- Even when they're good for you, following rules is hard because...
- What I miss most from before social distancing is...
- The thing I like best about our "new normal" is...
- If I could live in the jungle with any group of animals, I would choose __, because...
- My bare necessities are __, __ and __, because...
- When I listen to my favorite music I feel...
- My favorite story is _____ because...
- I am the hero of my own story because...

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

Video links in the lesson plan provide a backstage glimpse into a stage adaptation of *The Jungle Book* produced at The Goodman Theater in Chicago. Director Mary Zimmerman wanted to remain true to original book written by Rudyard Kipling and capture the joy of Disney's animated film. She expanded the vision of the music and more faithfully reflected India as the setting by incorporating culturally-inspired instrumentation, choreography and visual elements into the production.

Your challenge: choose a favorite story or book and adapt it into a play or musical. What are some of the best ways to create a dialogue between characters? Is there a moment in the story that begs for music or a song? What style of music does the moment call for?

If you can't decide on a story, use the link below to watch and listen to *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (one of Ms. Jodi's all-time favorites!). <https://bit.ly/2RvKCgz>

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS

Use these conversation starters with family and friends, around the dinner table or on a phone or Zoom call.

- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go, and why? What would you miss the most about your home?
- What do you think you'll remember after this experience of being at home so much? How has social distancing changed your thinking about home, family, friends, school and activities?