ghost writer

# FUN AND SI PUZZLES

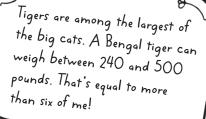


I never met Shere Khan (only Bagheera, who is super cool, too), but I think tigers are so strong, fierce, and beautiful. I ended up going into research mode to learn more about Bengal tigers—I couldn't help myself!





The Bengal tiger is
the national animal of
India, and 70% of the
world's tigers are found
in India. Bengal tigers
also live in Bangladesh,
Nepal, and Bhutan.
Unlike other cats,
tigers love to swim!









Tigers have retractable claws, similar to house cats. This means they can pull them in when they're not needed.

A tiger's roar can be heard over two miles away!











Humans have cut down forests and hunted tigers for their hides. This has caused the Bengal tiger to become endangered—which means they could go out of existence forever if they're not properly cared for. A hundred years ago, there were over 100,000 tigers. Today, only about 2,500 Bengal tigers live in the wild.

A tiger has its own camouflage: stripes! They let the tiger
blend into the jungle while it's
hunting. No two tigers have
hunting. No two tigers have
the same stripe pattern, just like
no two humans have the same
no two humans have the same
fingerprints. And if you shave
fingerprints fur, you'll see the
exact same stripes on its skin.
So unique!









Tigers are carnivores, or meat eaters. They sneak up on their prey and—BAM!—surprise attack. They hunt in the early morning or late evening and sleep in the shade during the day.

The Bengal tiger's teeth are about 3 inches long!
That's as long as an adult's index finger.

### Curtis's Jungle Jokes



Mowgli's story didn't exactly have me rolling around laughing. Being kicked out of the wolf pack, escaping the monkeys, and battling a mean tiger are way serious. But, hey, he handled it like a

pro, and who says the jungle can't be funny? Here are some animal jokes that always make me and my friends crack up.

What did the leopard say after finishing his meal? That really hit the spot!

Where do hippopotamuses keep their money? In the riverbank.

What's as big as an elephant but weighs nothing? An elephant's shadow.

What do monkeys sing at Christmas? "Jungle Bells."

What's the best thing about deadly snakes? They've got poison-ality.

Which snakes are found on cars? Windshield vipers.

How do you know when there's an elephant under your bed? When your nose touches the ceiling.

What do you call bears with no ears? *B!* 

What do you call a lost wolf?

A where-wolf!

What did one wolf say to the other? "Howl's it going?"

On which side does a tiger have the most stripes? On the outside.

### Chevon's Brain-Bender Quiz



Bagheera and Baloo know how to talk to all the animals. (That's how they find the best fruit!) They pay attention—which I understand, since I try not to miss the details when I read

a book. What about you? Take my brain-bender quiz to see how closely you read this story.

- I . A group of wolves is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. flock
  - b. herd
  - c. pack
  - d. gaggle
- 2. Wolves live in a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. den
  - b. kitchen
  - c. nest
  - d. tent

a. hot stuff
b. flame flower
c. dancing ember
d. flame thrower
4. Where do the monkeys take Mowgli?
a. The hidden Hut of the Monkey Master
b. The hidden Fortress of the Monkey Clan
c. The hidden City of the Monkey King
d. The hidden Tree House of the Monkey Prince
5. Cows like to talk about
a. their favorite flavor of ice cream
b. baseball
c. cowbells
d. the weather
6. Shere Khan didn't see the hole Mowgli had dug, because
it was covered with
a. a net
b. a blanket
c. large leaves
d. logs
Check your answers on page 137.

3 What do the animals call fire?

### Ruben's Scramble



The jungle is home to all kinds of creatures. Can you unscramble the letters to find the names of these animals?

THY <b>P</b> ON
KOYME <b>N</b>
CERNOOS <b>H</b> RI
THOSL <b>A</b> REB
PHELNE <b>T</b> A
CLODICROE
KCEGO
Now write down all the bolded letters and unscramble
them to decode the mystery animal:

Answers on page 137.

### The Curtis Challenge



Mowgli grew up in the wolf pack, and he called them his family. Sometimes you have more than one wolf pack. I'm really lucky, because not only do I have my parents, my sister, Donna,

and our dog, Rocco, but I also have my basketball buds and our bookstore crew—thanks to Ghostwriter. Think about who you're thankful for in your own wolf pack before taking my challenge out for a spin!

Can you take the letters in the words **WOLF PACK** and make smaller words? How many can you make?

Here are a few words to get you started:

cow cloak foal

### Here's how to keep score

Each 3-letter word = 1 point

Each 4-letter word = 2 points

Each 5-letter word = 3 points

Each word with 6 letters or more = 4 points

### Chevon's Amazing Definition Game



I'd love to learn how to talk to animals, like Mowgli can. I wonder what happens when animals don't understand something other animals say. Do you think they have animal dictionaries?

Draw a line connecting the vocabulary word from the story with the correct definition.

 Scuffle a. a glowing piece of coal or wood in the ashes from a fire

2. Pierce b. careful about staying away from danger

3. Ember c. a long piece of material draped around the body like a dress, worn by women in Southeast Asia

III Southeast Asia

4. Snarl d. to make a hole in or through

5. Cautious e. seeds of a type of plant called a legume.

Other legumes are chickpeas and peanuts

6. Sari f. an angry growl, or to say with a growl

7. Lentils g. a fight in a rough, confused way

Answers on page 137.

## Ruben's (and Grandpa's) Reading List



When you own a bookstore, you're probably a total book expert, like my grandpa. We made this reading list together. (Okay, maybe he did most of it, but I helped.)

If you liked *The Jungle Book*, here are some other books we think you'll enjoy.

### **Books with Talking Animals**

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

#### Books that Take Place in India

*The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

### A Graphic Novel with Talking Animals and India!

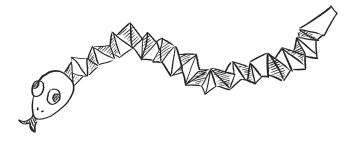
Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani

### Donna Gets Crafty: Accordion Paper Snakes



I love to make accordion paper snakes. I've decorated my room with them—and they're fun to play with, too! I can't wait until my brother, Curtis, comes home from school. I'm

making a snake that wraps all the way around our bedroom. He's going to be SO SURPRISED.



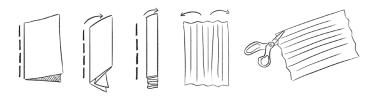
### What you need:

- construction paper in two colors
- tape
- glue

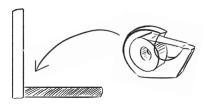
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- black marker
- googly eyes (if you have them)
- red construction paper

I. With the help of an adult, cut three or four strips from the paper. The strips should all be about the same width and length. The easiest way to do this is to fold a piece of paper in half, then fold it in half again and again and again. Unfold the paper and use your scissors to cut along the fold lines. Do this for each paper color.



Take a strip of each paper color. Place them in an L shape.
 Tape them together where they overlap.



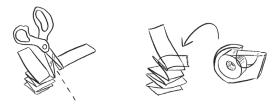
3. Now it's time to start folding the strips into an accordion. Fold the horizontal strip over the vertical strip. Crease the fold to make another L shape.



4. Now fold the strips in the other direction. Keep repeating.



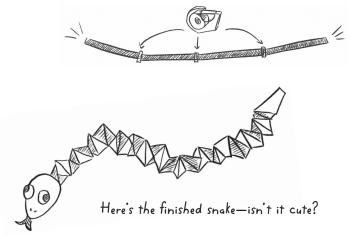
5. Before you run out of paper, cut off one of the strips of paper. Tape the end of the short strip to the longer strip so your snake doesn't unravel. Leave the end of the longer paper strip unfolded.



6. Cut a snake-shaped head out of a piece of construction paper. You can glue on googly eyes or draw eyes and nostrils with a black marker. Cut a tongue from red construction paper and glue it onto the snake's head. Tape the head onto the end of the long paper strip.



7. Do you want to make a longer snake? Just attach several strips of the same color together with glue or tape. (When I need a break from folding, I put tape on where I've ended and then remove it when I'm ready to start again.)







### Ghostwriter's Secret Message

Ghostwriter has a question for you. Use the clues below to decode the secret answer.

Spinoza is a talkative alley cat with a lot of attitude. When Ruben's grandma was alive, Spinoza visited whenever she was hungry (and for a scratch behind her ears). Where did Spinoza go to get fed?



First two letters of second-oldest wolf brother's name
Fifth letter of the main character's name
Last two letters of the wolf father's name
Fourth letter of the main character's name
Third letter of the tiger's name
First letter of the panther's name
Last two letters of the bear's name
First letter of the snake's name
First letter of the tiger's name
Answer:









### Answers

Chevon's Brain-Bender Quiz: I.c, 2.a, 3.b, 4.c, 5.d, 6.c

Ruben's Scramble: python, monkey, rhinoceros, sloth bear, elephant, crocodile, gecko

Mystery animal: panther

Chevon's Amazing Definition Game: 1. g, 2. d, 3. a, 4. f, 5. b, 6. c, 7. e

Ghostwriter's Secret Message: VILLAGE BOOKS





