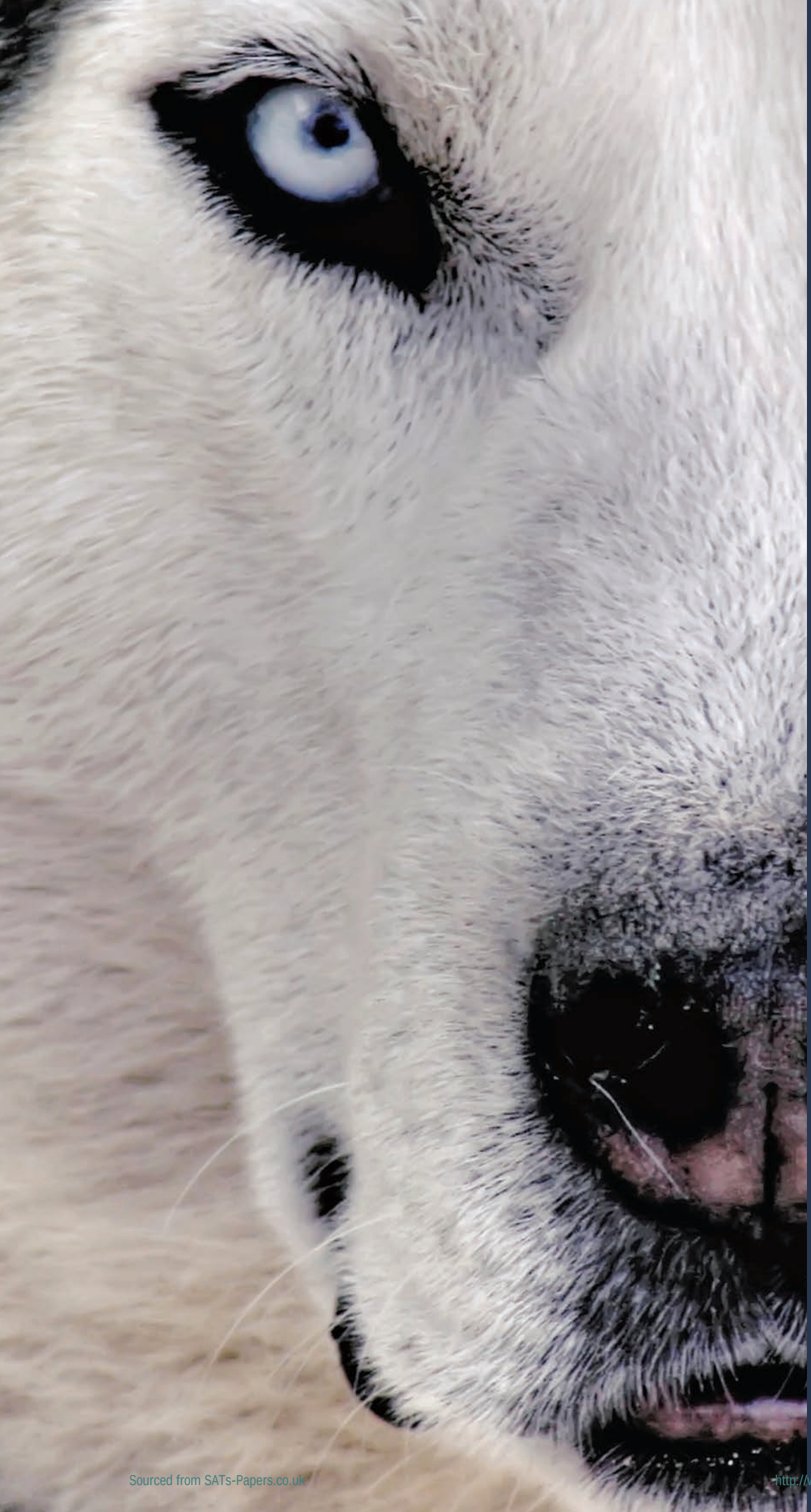


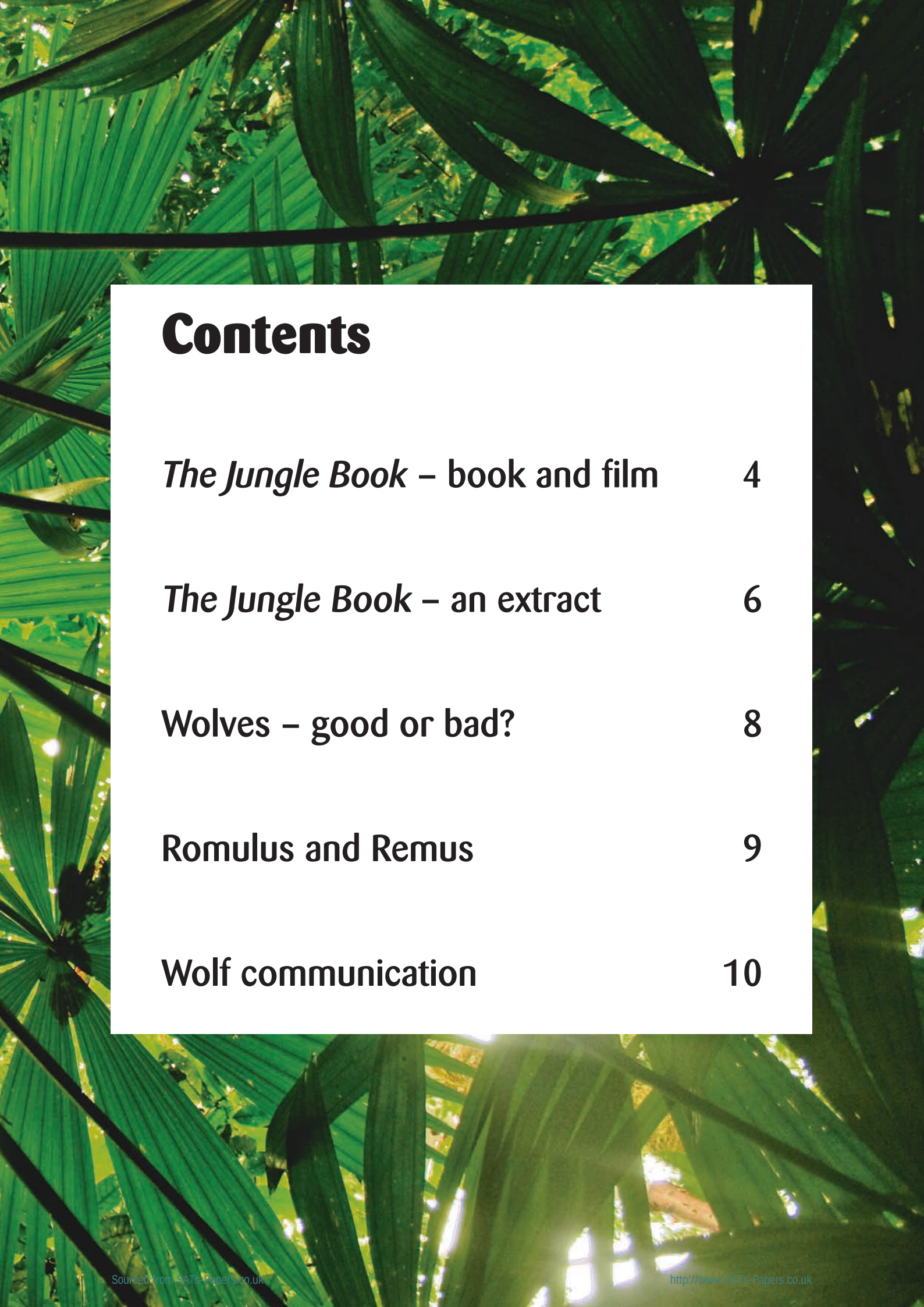
WOLF PACK

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Contents

The Jungle Book – book and film 4

The Jungle Book – an extract 6

Wolves – good or bad? 8

Romulus and Remus 9

Wolf communication 10

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The Jungle Book – book and film

The Jungle Book, written by Rudyard Kipling, was published in the 1890s. It is a collection of stories about many animals, including a pack of wolves. The tales in the book are fables set in the Indian jungle, which use animals with human characteristics to give moral lessons. One of the tales tells the story of a young boy who is adopted by wolves.

In 1967, Walt Disney made the book into a cartoon film. It was very successful, mainly because of the songs sung by the animal characters, and it was equally enjoyed by children and adults.



Mother Wolf

is named 'Raksha the demon' in the film because of her ferocity as a fighter when protecting her cubs. She is a female Indian wolf and urges her wolf pack to accept and adopt a human 'cub' because she has a soft spot for all babies, not just her own cubs.

Meet some of



Father Wolf

does not have a name in the original stories but, in Disney's film, Father Wolf is named 'Rama' which means pleasant.

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the characters



Mowgli

is the young hero of *The Jungle Book*. It was often claimed that 'Mowgli' meant frog in the language of the jungle and that the human 'cub' was given this name because, like frogs, he had no fur. However, this is a name Kipling made up.



Shere Khan

is a very arrogant character and regards himself as the Lord of the Jungle.
'Shere' means tiger in Urdu and in Hindi (which are both South Asian languages); 'Khan' is a title to show that he was a chief among tigers. In Disney's film, Shere Khan is the major villain. He is shown as being powerful, deadly and sophisticated – with a very gentle, purring voice. Man's gun and man's fire are the only things Shere Khan fears.

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The Jungle Book
– an extract

This is an early part of Kipling's The Jungle Book, when the wolf pack first finds the baby Mowgli.

Father Wolf listened, and below in the valley, he heard the dry, angry, snarly, singsong whine of a tiger who has caught nothing and does not care if all the jungle knows it.

"Shere Khan – the fool!" said Father Wolf. "To begin a night's hunting with that noise!"

"Hush. It is neither bullock nor deer he hunts tonight," said Mother Wolf. "It is Man."

"Man!" said Father Wolf, showing all his white teeth. "Ha! Are there not enough beetles and frogs that he must eat Man, and on our ground too!"

The Law of the Jungle, which never orders anything without a reason, forbids every beast to eat Man except when he is killing to show his children how to kill, and then he must hunt outside the hunting-grounds of his pack or tribe. The real reason for this is that man-killing means, sooner or later, the arrival of men on elephants, with guns, and hundreds of men with gongs and rockets and torches. Then everybody in the Jungle suffers. The reason the beasts give among themselves is that Man is the weakest and most defenceless of all living things, and it is unsportsmanlike to touch him. They say too – and it is true – that man-eaters become mangy, and lose their teeth.

The purr grew louder, and ended in the full-throated "Aargh!" 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 savagely, as he tumbled about in the scrub.

"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.

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

The bushes rustled a little in the thicket, and Father Wolf dropped with his haunches 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 he tried to stop himself. The result was that he shot up straight into the air for four or five feet, landing almost where he left ground.

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

Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch, stood a naked baby who could just walk – as soft and as dimpled a little thing as ever came to a wolf's cave at night. 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, 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 close to the warm hide. "Ah! He is taking his meal with the others. And so this is a man's cub. Now, was there ever a wolf that could boast of a man's cub among her children?"

"I have heard now and again of such a thing, but never in our pack or in my time," said Father Wolf. "He is altogether without hair, and I could kill him with a touch of my foot. But see, he looks up and is not afraid."



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Wolves – good or bad?

This text tells us about how wolves and other animals are represented in different stories, cultures and everyday sayings.

In fairy tales, wolves are often portrayed as cunning, cruel creatures. They blow down the little pigs' houses and heartlessly swallow Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother.

This negative view of wolves is reflected in many popular expressions such as:

To cry wolf – *to give a false alarm*

To wolf down food – *to eat greedily*

A wolf in sheep's clothing – *a deceptive or dishonest person*

However, wolves in other stories sometimes have a better reputation. For centuries, the wolf has been a symbol of fighting ability, courage and endurance. Native Americans used the name for their most powerful warriors, for example, Little Wolf.



Both in Roman legends and in Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, wolves save human babies and bring them up as if they were their own wolf cubs. Furthermore, these children are often shown to develop superior strength and intelligence.

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Romulus and Remus

*This legend tells the story of the baby twins **Romulus and Remus**. According to the legend, one of the twins eventually became the creator of Rome, the capital city of Italy.*

The twins were little princes, born of royal blood. After their birth, or so the story tells us, they were cast adrift on the River Tiber by their jealous uncle, who wanted kingship for himself. They were spotted and saved by a she-wolf, who looked after them, nursed and nuzzled them and kept them safe and warm until they were discovered by a shepherd. Although they were brought up as humble shepherds, the twins grew up to be natural leaders – strong, bold and with lots of followers. As adults, they found out they were actually princes.

Having discovered their true identity, they decided to create a new city for themselves. Unable to decide where to build their new city, they looked to the gods for signs. Romulus stood on one hill and Remus on another. A circle of birds flew over Romulus. Romulus took this as a signal from the gods that he should be king. Remus disagreed. They argued about which one of them was to rule the new city and give it his name. A terrible fight followed in which Romulus killed Remus. Romulus ruled the new city, named Rome in his honour.

Wolf communication

Wolves communicate with each other not only by sound, but by adopting different postures. The position of the head, the ears and mouth say a lot about what a wolf is feeling: whether it is scared or calm or dangerous. These illustrations show you some wolf expressions.

Calm



Threatening



Frightened



Aggressive

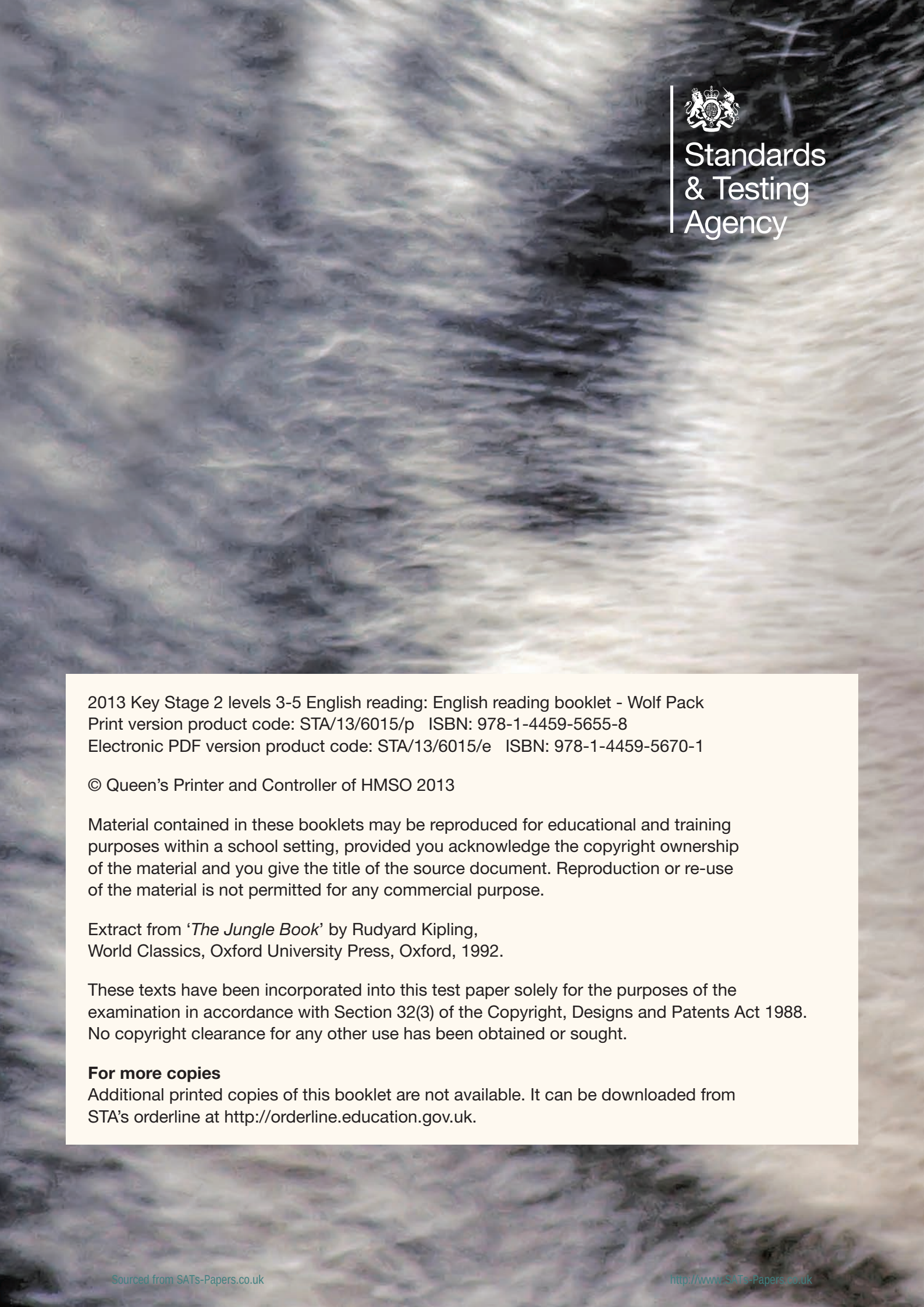


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Extract from '*The Jungle Book*' by Rudyard Kipling,
World Classics, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992.

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