Abandoned after an accident, baby Mowgli is taken and raised by a family of wolves in the jungle.

Mowgli is a happy-go-lucky boy who enjoys playing in the jungle but is not very good at following all the rules. This puts him at risk from Kaa the snake, King Louie the orangutan, and Shere Khan, the tiger, as they are always trying to trap Mowgli and use him for their own ends.

As the boy grows older, the wise panther Bagheera realises Mowgli must be returned to his own kind in the nearby man-village.

Baloo the bear thinks differently and takes the young Mowgli under his wing to teach him that living in the jungle is the best life there is. Mowgli and Baloo become good friends, and Baloo initially thinks it is okay for Mowgli to live in the jungle with animals rather than with other humans.

Eventually, after many adventures, Mowgli sees a girl walking through the jungle and decides to follow her to the man-village. Baloo and Bagheera see him off from a safe distance so that Mowgli can live happily ever after with the other humans.