
A Glimpse of Jungle and Animal Literature

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Abstract:

Man is a social animal. But before being a man he was just an animal. In the course of time, he developed himself different from other animals. When he used his talent to invent things, one by one, he started thinking of his group. Thus, he became social. Then his talent led him to be superior and surpass other species. He was just living in the lap of nature. Nature was also taking care of her child. She was providing him with food, clothe and shelter. Nature was happy to provide him food as for the rest animals. But for the shelter man became cruel and started butchering jungle by snatching away the shelter of others'. He betrayed nature by killing animals to satiate his appetite. Obviously, nature was waiting to take revenge upon him. Now the time has come, the count-down has begun towards the destruction. Man himself has compelled the nature to take this drastic step.

Every coin has two sides. There are the nature lovers who are protecting their 'mother earth'. Similarly, the people like Buddha started understanding animal hearts. Buddha himself was saving lives of birds and animals when in the jungle for meditation. And he made the tree live long by sitting under it to follow nature and receive its blessings by achieving wisdom of life. A trend came saying, '*follow the nature*'. Number of writers contributed to convince importance of nature to everyone who is against nature. It is a time to tell man to stop pollution otherwise his life will be in danger. Thus present paper throws light on some jungle and animal authors who proved – '*pen is mightier than the sword*' – through their literature.

Keywords: deforestation, pollution, destruction of human life, natural calamities.



Introduction:

Man has close relation with jungle. Before living in cement-concrete jungle, jungle was his home. Today also from his childhood he loves listening jungle stories. Learning morality through animal fables has become need of time. First of all he struggled to be a man from being a beast and now transforming himself into beast. Aesop's Fables show man-animal similarities and controversies by personifying animals. So are our i.e. Indian *Panchtantra* classic stories in Sanskrit. Colonialism, racial discrimination and gender discrimination etc. show man's beast-like behavior with his own species. Rudyard Kipling explores imperialism through his *The Jungle Book*, *The Second Jungle Book* and *The Just So Stories*. He used animals to show the savagery of imperials. Ngugi Wa Thiang O, a Kenyan novelist and dramatist, shows this in his *Petals of Blood*.

Jungle literature, in the course of time, took various forms to entertain its readers. When man detached himself from jungle, it became all surprising for him to see animals face to face. He satisfied to see animals either in zoological gardens or in the previous circus shows and later on theatre and TV screen. The people living in the lap of nature i.e. in the villages surrounded by jungle, people being forest authorities, people being animal lover and researchers craving for bird and animal activities started sharing thrilling experiences through their writings. These became, for others, sources of to be in animal world. National Geographic channel on television and Discovery then catered children and the grown-ups to come their dream of being with animals true. Thanks to the technologies!

Authors of various languages, as George Orwell (England), found few similarities in human and animal behavior which compelled him to write *Animal Farm* (17 August, 1945). Thus it becomes consequent to know what jungle literature is and who its contributors are. The present article commemorates great pioneers of jungle literature. The paper will prove useful for upcoming authors, researchers and lovers of jungle literature.

What is Jungle Literature?

Literature about jungle life, wild and tribal life is called 'Jungle Literature'. It gives record of animals, birds, flowers, trees and tribes with their all-time activities. It tells thrilling jungle stories of man-animal encounters in real, adventurous experiences of authors in jungle. It gives interesting descriptions of jungle, birds and animals. It reveals many secrets of jungle life which are surprising for urban people. As it is author's love for jungle, that he is sincere towards his writings. His natural intuition and inborn talent lead him to go on thrilling excursions in jungle. Similarly, we are interested in stories of great kings who had hunting as hobby. Many authors love to describe their hunting experiences. They like to share their adventurous stories with the readers. Jim Corbett, an Indian English author and a forester, has written *The Man-Eaters of Kumaon* which is still a benchmark for the jungle story lovers.

Salient Features of Jungle Literature:

- Jungle literature describes animals, trees, birds and jungle tribes.
- It is sometimes the story of hunting experience of the author.
- Jungle literature is genuine experience and not cannot be written imaginary.
- It can also be the description of single creature in jungle.
- It is thrilling story of real encounters with animals in jungle.
- Jungle literature may also include forest information than that of animals.
- Only animal fables can be imagined and not encounters as if real.
- The author of Jungle literature can describe scenes in a dense jungle.
- Jungle literature can be enjoyed by group of reader.
- Jungle literature is a passionate work of its author.
- This type of literature can also help to aware society about saving rare animals.
- Jungle literature expresses authors concern towards wild life and jungle tribes.
- Jungle literature may helpful for the curiosity monger trackers.
- Jungle literature means not only geographical details of a forest but its wild life.
- Some birds' species may fall in this category.
- Jungle literature makes people aware of their duty towards wild life preservation.

Major English authors in Jungle Literature:

We should salute the adventurous authors who actually encountered wild animals in jungle. They made their literature available for the urban people, especially, as one can only guess how would it be being in front of a lion or elephant. Visiting zoo is just a part of amusement where children too tease animals from the either end of the bars; but facing a free animal wipes out all misconceptions. Some major contributors of animal or jungle literature are as follows:

- 1) **Frederick Walter Champion (1893-1970):** He was a British forester. He worked in India and East Africa. He became famous as a wild photographers and conservationist. He came in India in 1913 and worked in the police department in East Bengal in 1916. He retired a lieutenant but was granted a rank of captain. He was a passionate conservationist. He campaigned very hard for protection of tigers and their forest habitats. He published *With Camera in Tiger-Land* in 1927. *The Jungle in Sunlight and Shadow* published 1934. The record of Champion's adventures is available with army records as well as in the writings of wild life lovers' magazines and publications.
- 2) **Edward James 'Jim' Corbett (1875-1955):** He was a famous British hunter and conservationist. Still famous for his hunting man-eating tigers and leopards in Himalayan foothills. Like Champion he also worked as British Indian army colonel. Inspired by Champion he purchased a camera to be a photographer and became a conservationist after his retirement. He established India's first national park with Champion. After India's independence in 1947, he settled in Kenya. He died of heart-attack after finishing his sixth book, *The Trees*. His other best-selling publications are- *Jungle Stories (1935)*, *Man-Eaters of Kumaon (1944)*, *The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag (1947)*, *My India (1952)*, *Jungle Lore (1953)*, *The Temple Tiger and More Man-Eaters of Kumaon*. Not only are these works but also there are some unpublished books by him. Numbers of publishers have Corbett's books in published and unpublished forms.
- 3) **Ruskin Bond (b. 1934):** He is an Indian short-story writer, poet and novelist. He is the winner of John Llewellyn Rhys Prize (1957), Sahitya Akademi Award

(1992), Padma Shri Award (1999) and in yester decade, he has won Padma Bhushan Award (2014). His works are influenced by life in the hill stations at the foothills of the Himalayas, where he spent his childhood. We are proud to mention that his novel, *The Flight of Pigeons*, has been adapted into the film *Junoon*. Similarly, *The Room on the Roof* has been adapted into a BBC-produced TV series. He has written interesting animal stories besides his novels and poetry. His stories like “*The Tiger in the Tunnel*”, “*The Leopard*” and “*The Regimental Myna*” deals with the animal world. He is the editor of great animal stories, shikar stories and travelers’ tales.

- 4) **Kunwar ‘Billy’ Arjan Singh (1917 – 2010):** He was an Indian hunter who later became a conservationist and author like Champion and Corbett above. He was the first who tried to reintroduce tigers and leopards from the captivity into the wild. But in his youth he was passionate hunter. Suddenly, he turned to be a conservationist after injuring a leopard in its thighs. His work with wildlife is best known for his reintroduction of both leopards and tiger into the wild. His well-known works are: *Tiger Heaven (1973)*, *Tara, A Tigress (1981)*, *Prince of Cats (1982)*, *Tiger! Tiger! (1984)* and *The Legend of the Man-Eater (1993)*. Thus his works have become a guiding star for upcoming conservationists.
- 5) **Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936):** This English was famous for writing poetry and prose in late 18th and in early of 19th century. He was the first Nobel Prize winner in Literature writing in English language i.e. in 1907. *The Jungle Book* by him is an evergreen story of a man-cub, Mowgli in jungle. It’s very interesting that how jungle animals bring up the lad. The jungle is depicted in a very nice way that the readers imagine themselves to be with Mowgli, Baloo- bear, Bageera – the black panther, Sher Khan- the tiger and father wolf takes care of his man cub. Kipling's bibliography includes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Several of his works were collaborations. His other works are *Just So Stories*, *Kim*, *Captain’s Courageous*, *If*, *Gunga Din*, *The White Man’s Burden*.

Thus, there are number of writers who contributed for jungle literature such as Davidar’s *The Chital Walk: Walking in Wilderness*; A. A. Dunbar Brander’s *Wild*

Animals in Central India; Valmik Thapar's *The Tiger: Soul of India* and *The Secret Life of Tigers*; M. Krishnan has widely contributed in the newspapers and magazines; Kilash Shankhala's *Wile Beauty* and *Tiger Land*; Salim Ali who was a bird watcher, wrote *The Fall of a Sparrow*, *The Book of Indian Birds*, *Indian Hill Birds*; James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small*; Gerald Durrell's jungle expedition accounts in *The New Noah*; George Schaller's books are famous world-wide such as *The Deer and The Tiger*, *The Last Panda*, *Tibet's Hidden Wilderness*. John Muir was a Scottish writer. His essays and books give message of conservation. His book is *First Simmer in Sierra*. Peter Matthiessen, Jack London, Joy Adamson and Jane Goodall are some other names who actually lived in the company of wild animals and observed their activities and wrote books on it.



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