Many people think that children’s literature is just for a child’s entertainment. They don’t stop to think about the moral lessons that the stories are teaching the children. *Little Red Riding Hood* teaches kids not to talk to strangers, *The Ugly Duckling* teaches kids that outer beauty wasn’t the most important thing, and *Stone Soup* teaches kids the importance of sharing, etc.…. *The Jungle Books* by Rudyard Kipling is another example to the many lessons that children’s literature teaches kids. What is interesting about this set of stories is how they have been told through the years.

*The Jungle Books* have had many adaptations and retelling of Mowgli’s tale. The most known adaptation of Kipling’s stories was Disney’s animated film *The Jungle Book* (1967) and Disney’s newest live action version of the film, *The Jungle Book* (2016). The strange thing to consider is that the book and both films, while from the same source material, differ in what they offer to the audience. The original stories tell vignettes of Mowgli’s life as he grows up and what he learns from the other animals. They teach him how to be a friend to all and how to decide when a fight is worth it or not among other things. Though, a lot of the stories in Kipling’s book don’t even focus on Mowgli. They branch off to different animals and allow other characters to take the lead. In the animated film the focus of the story is just about Mowgli and his friends Baloo and Bagheera while the live action film choses to stay mostly on Mowgli and his growth from child to man.

Using film criticism, Kipling’s text, Disney’s animated film, Disney’s live action film, and criticism about Disney along with a historical timeline I argue that the reason the lessons change inside of Kipling’s stories through the different mediums and retellings is because of the society and the state it was in when the films were released. This presentation will explore how the changing climate of society will affect what we teach our children using storytelling and films. I will try to break down what was happening in the late 1800s, the 1960s, and the 2000s to explain why the messages received from the film alters depending on the context. This look into *The Jungle Book* and its changes is important because as consumers we should be aware of what’s happening around us and realize how the political state of our society saturates the media in ways we might not even realize. It’s especially important to take note of this in literature and films that are meant specifically for children. What they consume will shape their values and morals for the rest of their lives.

Performance Requirements: PowerPoint Display