

THE JUNGLE

UPTON SINCLAIR

Teacher's Guide

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LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER 1

After the wedding of Jurgis Rudkus and Ona Lukoszaite in Packingtown, Chicago's stockyard district, well-wishers celebrate in the rear of a saloon. The two Lithuanian immigrants as well as their hostess, Teta Elzbieta Lukoszaite, Ona's stepmother, live in poverty within the sight and smell of the meat-packing business. An orphaned cousin, Marija Berczynskas, manages the feast, which precedes dancing to folk music by violinist Tamoszius Kuszleika. Ona and Elzbieta worry that the celebration will exceed their meager budget. Older guests honor the European tradition of paying to dance with the bride, but younger ones enjoy themselves without offering cash to the couple. Jurgis laughs at the women's worries by promising to work harder. At the end of the celebration, the couple depart immediately and rise early the next day to go to their jobs.

CHAPTER 2

A flashback describes the Lithuanians' search for financial promise in the United States. After Ona's father dies, she and Elzbieta are penniless. At the suggestion of her brother Jonas, Elzbieta takes passage to America with her six children and sixteen-year-old Ona. Jurgis, who loves Ona, convinces his father, Dede Antanas, that they too should emigrate. At their departure, twelve people form a loosely structured family: six adults—Jurgis, Ona, Dede Antanas, Elzbieta, Jonas, and Marija—and Elzbieta's six children—Juozapas, Kotrina, Kristoforas, Nikalojus, Stanislovas, and Vilimas.

CHAPTER 3

Upon the group's docking in America, dishonest scam artists at a hotel gobble up their savings. Burdened with a low budget and the language barrier, the immigrants arrive in Packingtown. They live among fellow Lithuanians, unskilled laborers who pack meat, and receive their introduction to Chicago from Jokubas Szedvilas, a delicatessen manager who leads a tour of a pork factory. After moving into a cramped four-room tenement apartment rented from the Widow Jukniene, the family surveys the filth of a former garbage dump. Four of the adults seek jobs, leaving Elzbieta and Ona to keep house for the six children.

CHAPTER 4

Jurgis, who is tall and strong, shovels offal from the killing beds at Brown's, where workplace injuries are common. Jonas and Marija also find jobs. Dede Antanas, however, is too old to suit meat packers. Jurgis encourages the family to leave their unsuitable rooms and buy a house. They believe the hype of a realty leaflet and display their disillusion with the actual residence.

CHAPTER 5

The immigrants agree to purchase the house for \$1,500, even though Jurgis is unclear about wording in the contract that refers to the \$12 mortgage payments as rent. With a hopeful spirit, he pours himself into his work.

CHAPTER 6

Jurgis discovers that he also owes interest of seven percent per year on outstanding principal. To meet the amount, Ona and Stanislovas, Elzbieta's oldest son, find jobs in the packing houses. Stanislovas fills cans with lard and seals the tops. Another blow to the immigrants' hopes is a report from a neighboring widow, Grandmother Majauszkiene, that the house is fifteen years old and that four previous residents—Germans, Irish, and Bohemians—lost their investment by defaulting on payments. She believes the house is cursed.

CHAPTER 7

Jurgis and Ona marry in November and incur a debt of one hundred dollars for the hire of the hall. Packingtown is rife with corruption and tainted by repulsive, unclean food handling. Owners place workers in foul conditions where they adulterate beef and pork with chemicals and mix meat from diseased animals with healthy stock. The workers struggle to survive weather extremes.

CHAPTER 8

After a lay-off at the canning factory, Marija must postpone her spring wedding to Tomaszus. Jurgis works Christmas Day until 7:00 p.m. Slowdowns lower his earnings. To counter the exploitation of management, Jurgis and Marija join unions, which are ineffective in improving their lot.

CHAPTER 9

Jurgis studies English with the children, who learn at school. He becomes a citizen and votes in an election.

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CHAPTER 10

In spring, conditions worsen for the family. Pipes burst; the immigrants discover they must pay insurance premiums. Marija loses her job as a can painter by demanding her pay for painting 300 cans. When she begins working at another location trimming diseased beef, she stops fighting the system. Dede secures a job by promising a kickback of one-third of his wages to his employer. The old man sickens from mopping floors in a cold cellar and dies of tuberculosis. The family can't afford a funeral.

Ona, who is weakened by pregnancy, works for Miss Henderson, who also operates a brothel and who gives preferential treatment to prostitutes. Ona gives birth to a strong boy, Little Antanas, whom she names for Jurgis's father. She returns to work before she has healed and begins the ruin of her health.

CHAPTER 11

Because Jonas deserts the family and disappears, more of Elzbieta's children must go to work. A run on the bank causes Marija to withdraw her savings. In January, during a panic caused by a wild steer, Jurgis sprains his ankle and must recuperate in bed for three weeks before returning to the killing beds.

CHAPTER 12

Because a twisted tendon has compromised Jurgis's stamina, for two months, he sulks at home during winter blizzards. By trying to wade through snow drifts, Stanislovas damages his fingers with frost-bite; Ona's health deteriorates. In April, Jurgis is healed, but unable to find work.

CHAPTER 13

Kristoforas dies of convulsions and lies buried in a pauper's grave. In summer, Jurgis shovels foul-smelling powder at a fertilizer factory, the worst of jobs in Packingtown. Elzbieta leaves thirteen-year-old Kotrina in charge of home and takes a job making sausage.

CHAPTER 14

To alleviate his misery, Jurgis drinks heavily. Ona, who is again pregnant, develops a cough and hovers on the edge of hysteria.

CHAPTER 15

Ona begins wandering the streets and lying about her whereabouts. Jurgis discovers that she stays out overnight on December 22 at Miss Henderson's house to comply with the demands of Phil Connor, an Irish loading dock boss, who demands sexual favors from Ona. As her pregnancy advances, Connor kicks her out for being ugly. Jurgis attacks Connor and is arrested for assault.

CHAPTER 16

Only two and a half years after emigrating from Lithuania, Jurgis sits in jail. On Christmas Eve, he lies on a cell floor and worries about his family.

CHAPTER 17

While awaiting trial, Jurgis encounters Jack Duane, an amiable safecracker, who corrupts Jurgis's morals. Judge Pat "Growler" Callahan sentences Jurgis to thirty days at Bridewell prison. A week later, Stanislovas visits his cell to report that Ona is sick. The family is starving and may lose their house. Marija can't work because of a cut on her hand. The children sell papers downtown to help out. Kotrina helps and begs for food. Jurgis gives Stanislovas his last fourteen cents.

CHAPTER 18

On his release, Jurgis walks twenty miles back to Packingtown and finds strangers in his house. Elzbieta, Ona, and the others live in their old quarters because they can no longer afford house payments. When Ona goes into premature labor, Jurgis takes 34 cents from the Widow Jukniene and donations from other neighboring women and runs to find a midwife.

CHAPTER 19

Working in a filthy attic, the Dutch midwife, Madame Haupt, delivers the stillborn child shortly after 4:00 a.m. Ona dies. Jurgis takes three dollars Kotrina earns from selling papers and wastes it on a drunken spree.

CHAPTER 20

Ona is buried in potter's field. Elzbieta convinces Jurgis that he must get hold of his emotions and work to support Antanas. Because he has been blacklisted for attacking Connor, Jurgis must look outside the packing houses for work. He locates a good job at Harvester Trust and studies English each evening.

CHAPTER 21

After a lay-off, Jurgis's family subsists on a food basket from a settlement worker. With her letter of introduction, Jurgis moves on to the steelworks fifteen miles from home for employment. He enjoys rearing his eighteen-month-old son until the child falls from a rotted sidewalk board and drowns in the runoff of heavy rain.

CHAPTER 22

In deep despair, Jurgis abandons the family and hops a boxcar. In summer, he wanders the rural Midwest. In late July, he harvests crops in Missouri while wasting his cash on women and liquor. Despite bouts of conscience, he finds America's heartland more appealing than Packingtown. A visit to a Slavic family causes him to weep for Ona and their son. Jurgis rushes out into the rain.

CHAPTER 23

In fall, Jurgis returns by rail to Chicago. Still estranged from the family, he works in heavy construction at a subway tunnel. After a loaded car strikes his shoulder, he is hospitalized over Christmas 1903 with a broken arm. On his release two weeks later, he finds no work and must beg to survive. He wastes money in saloons that offer free lunch with drinks. At night, he sleeps in police stations and seeks shelter at a revival meeting.

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CHAPTER 24

Jurgis meets Freddie Jones, a drunken playboy, who gives him a hundred-dollar bill. At the Jones mansion on Lake Shore Drive, Freddie welcomes Jurgis to a sumptuous dining table. After Freddie falls asleep, Hamilton the butler tosses Jurgis out.

CHAPTER 25

When Jurgis attempts to cash the large bill, a saloon keeper cheats him of \$99. Jurgis attacks the man; the police return him to jail for ten days. During his second incarceration at Bridewell, he re-encounters Jack Duane, boards at "Papa" Hanson's dive, and partners with Jack in stick-ups. Jurgis learns that meat packers and criminals share in a corrupt political machine that governs the police and court system. He falls into company with Buck Halloran and Bush Harper, two henchmen of Mike Scully, an alderman and pawn of the packing elite. The ward heelers remove Jurgis from blacklisting; he returns to the stockyards as a supervisor. While enjoying a brief period of success, he helps to rig an election.

CHAPTER 26

After the celebration that follows the election, late into summer, Jurgis helps break a strike. On a chance encounter with Connor, he again attacks him. Bush Harper pays \$300 in bail to get Jurgis out of jail. Jurgis jumps bail.

CHAPTER 27

Broke, crippled, and cut off from the shelter of Boss Scully, Jurgis becomes a street bum living off stale bread from bakeshops. To keep warm, he frequents saloons, soup kitchens, and indoor gatherings. With information from Alena Jasaityte, he locates Marija, who works as a prostitute to support the family. During a police raid of the brothel, he feels intense shame.

CHAPTER 28

Marija has become addicted to morphine. She tells him where the dwindling group of immigrants lives. He looks for work and attends a socialist rally. The main speaker, a tall, gaunt orator, changes Jurgis's life by promising hope for the oppressed laborer.

CHAPTER 29

Converted to socialism by Ostrinski, a Polish tailor, Jurgis abandons his profligate lifestyle.

CHAPTER 30

Jurgis leaves Ostrinski's home after breakfast and reunites with Elzbieta. A week later, he takes a job as porter in a small hotel run by Tommy Hinds, a socialist organizer. Jurgis educates himself and diverts his salary to support the family.

CHAPTER 31

Jurgis fails to convince Marija to abandon prostitution. Socialists make significant gains in a Chicago election.

TIMELINE

- 1865** Union Stock Yard & Transit Company in Chicago opens for business.
- 1889** Jane Addams begins settlement work at Hull House.
- 1897** The Chicago loop opens.
- winter** Jurgis Rudkus meets Ona Lukoszaite at a horse fair in Lithuania.
- Ona's father dies.
- 1900** Riots, extortion, prostitution, and scams are frequently reported crimes in Chicago. Gambling, cocaine, and alcohol are rampant, as are deaths from tuberculosis and pneumonia.
- summer** The family of twelve Lithuanians immigrates to the United States.
- on arrival Inflated prices at a New York City hotel devour their savings.
- July** In Chicago, they buy a house in Packingtown. Jurgis works a twelve-hour day in the killing beds; Marija becomes a can painter.
- November** 4:00 p.m. Jurgis and Ona marry.
- winter** The workers struggle to survive weather extremes. Antanas dies of tuberculosis. Marija is laid off her job.
- December** Christmas Day Jurgis works until 7:00 p.m.
- 1901** Work begins on the Chicago freight tunnels.
- spring** Conditions worsen for the family. Ona gives birth to Little Antanas.
- next week Ona returns to work without adequate time to heal. Jonas deserts the family and disappears.
- December** Ona is too ill to face the walk to work.
- 1902**
- January** Jurgis sprains his ankle and must recuperate in bed for three weeks.
- three days later Stanislovas suffers permanent disability to his fingers from frostbite.
- April** Jurgis is healed, but unable to find work.
- spring** Kristoforas dies of malnutrition.
- summer** Jurgis works at a fertilizer factory and drowns his grief in drink. Ona develops a cough.
- October** Jurgis spends evenings in saloons.
- November** two days before Thanksgiving Ona fails to come home.
- day before Thanksgiving at 7:15 Ona appears after spending the snowy night with Jadvyga.
- December** 22nd Ona complies with the demands of her loading dock boss, who expects sexual favors.

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- 23rd mid-afternoon She returns by streetcar.
shortly after Jurgis attacks Connor and is arrested.
24th Jurgis lies on a cell floor and worries about his family.
31st The judge sentences Jurgis to 30 days in Bridewell prison.
- 1903**
- January** 10th Stanislovas visits to report that Ona is sick and the family is starving.
- March** 2nd Jurgis walks 20 miles to reach home and finds strangers in his house.
3rd, 4:00 a.m. After Ona dies after giving birth to a stillborn child, Jurgis goes on a drunken spree.
4th Ona is buried in potter's field.
5th Jurgis is unable to get his old job at the fertilizer factory.
12th He realizes that he has been blacklisted.
late March With a letter from a settlement worker, he finds work at Harvester Trust and studies English.
nine days later The factory closes.
- April** Jurgis is employed at the steelworks when his son drowns.
- summer** Jurgis wanders the rural Midwest.
- July** He harvests crops in Missouri while wasting his cash on women and liquor.
- later** A visit to a Slavic family causes him to weep for Ona and their son.
- fall** Jurgis returns by rail to Chicago and works in heavy construction of a subway tunnel.
- December** Christmas After a loaded car strikes his shoulder, he enters the county hospital.
- 1904**
- January** 8th Upon release, he finds no work and must beg to survive.
one snowy night Freddie Jones gives Jurgis a one hundred-dollar bill.
next morning After a fight with a barkeep, Jurgis gets into a brawl and wakes up in jail.
ten days later He completes his second term at Bridewell, where he works in the stone quarries.
- February** He joins up with criminals.
- spring** His connections with the underworld end his black-listing.
- May** Worker unrest builds.
- June** The union calls for a strike.
- August** 19th Strikers die in Chicago's stock yard riots.
later Jurgis is involved in union violence.
that night He goes to jail a second time for attacking Phil Connor.
next day Bush Harper pays \$500 to get Jurgis out of jail.
- winter** To keep warm, Jurgis frequents saloons, soup kitchens, and indoor gatherings, where a socialist changes Jurgis's life.
a week later He takes a job as porter in a small hotel run by Tommy Hinds, a socialist organizer.
- 1906**
- February** Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*.

AUTHOR SKETCH

Propagandist and news reporter Upton Beall Sinclair used fiction to voice the discontent of the laboring class. Born in Baltimore on September 20, 1878, to an alcoholic ne'er-do-well, Sinclair entered public schools at age ten. Four years later, he enrolled at City College of New York. After a grounding in the composition of numerous dime adventure novels and stories for pulp magazines, he became a serious writer in his late teens, when his political views were strongly socialist. While publishing one novelette per week, he completed his education at Columbia University with the intent of becoming a poet.

At age 22, Sinclair wed Meta H. Fuller and began writing verse and a first real novel, *Springtime And Harvest* (1901), which describes his unhappy marriage. He settled his family in a handmade cabin in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1903, when he published *The Journal Of Arthur Stirling*, a psychological novel about the suicide of a poet. He followed with *Manassas* (1904), the beginning of a series on the Civil War that he later abandoned. On assignment for *Appeal To Reason* magazine in 1904, he began writing a muckraking series on the Chicago stockyards, where he lived among workers for seven weeks. His articles were the basis for *The Jungle* (1906), a classic proletarian novel, which he self-published with the aid of novelist Jack London.

Sinclair invested his royalties in Helicon Hall, an experimental commune in Englewood, New Jersey, that burned after its first year. From 1909 to 1912, he attempted a second commitment to colony life in Arden, Delaware. At age 33, he moved to Holland to obtain a divorce. He sensationalized a Colorado coal mine strike in 1914 by getting arrested at a demonstration. The event was the basis of *King Coal* (1917), one of his many books that found favor with Russian readers. He settled in Pasadena, California, and involved himself in state politics. In September 1917, he differed with socialists on the country's role in World War I. He supported Woodrow Wilson's decision to fight Germany, dropped out of the Socialist Party, and wrote a propagandist novel, *Jimmie Higgins* (1918), to alter left-wing views of pacifism.

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In the years following World War I, Sinclair issued a stream of drama, fiction, and nonfiction. In 1927, he wrote *Oll*, which describes the Teapot Dome scandal during the Harding administration. He followed with condemnation of the trial of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti in Boston (1929). Although his earnings from self-published novels were limited, he continued to voice his views through fiction and pioneered the concept of cheap paperbacks, issued by Vanguard Press, which he founded. After returning to New Jersey to live with his son, Sinclair died in Bound Brook on November 25, 1968.

CRITICS' CORNER

Upton Sinclair espoused an ardent socialism that popularized his name at the same time that his earnest naturalistic novel alerted the public to the corrupt meat packing industry and the sufferings of the working class. *The Jungle*, the most revolutionary book of its time, presented so unrelieved a picture of human despair that five publishers advised the author to forego issuing it as a book. Sinclair persevered and also adapted *The Jungle* for the stage, which he presented in Trenton, New Jersey. Because of Sinclair's truthful exposé, President Theodore Roosevelt took action against Packingtown. Federal investigators began inspecting the Chicago stockyards and processing plants. Their fact-finding and pressure from citizens became the impetus for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act, both passed in 1906. Sinclair went to the White House to advise Roosevelt and returned during the tenure of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Generally relegated to the secondary tier of literature, Sinclair outlived his notoriety and was dismissed as a failed crusader for socialism, mental telepathy, and a meatless diet. He received nomination in 1932 for a Nobel Prize and won a Pulitzer Prize for *Dragon's Teeth* (1942), a fictionalized view of Hitler's rise to power. Four of his novels were the basis for films—*The Adventurer* (1917), *The Money Changers* (1920), *Marriage Forbidden* (1938), and *The Gnome-Mobile* (1967). A year before Sinclair's death, President Lyndon B. Johnson invited the novelist to witness the signing of the Wholesale Meat Act.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the impact of industry on a community
2. To account for the placement of immigrants in low-paying jobs
3. To interpret social and political customs
4. To establish causes of bias, crime, and substance abuse
5. To discuss the themes of collective action, striking, and riots
6. To explain the early twentieth-century milieu
7. To analyze the influence of sanitation on national health
8. To describe attitudes toward police, courts, prison, and crime
9. To describe elements that shape atmosphere and tone
10. To analyze the role of greed in creating social misery

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain how Jurgis perceives his losses
2. To analyze the symbolism of the title
3. To summarize the importance of work to the Lithuanians
4. To account for Jurgis's summer in the rural Midwest
5. To justify Marija's choice of prostitution as a source of steady income
6. To predict how Jurgis will rebuild his life among fellow socialists
7. To summarize the novel's impact on workplace sanitation and safety
8. To discuss the implications of a corrupt judge and rigged elections
9. To describe the roles of Madame Haupt, Jack Duane, and Phil Connor
10. To list events caused by fear, injustice, desperation, and revenge

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Upton Sinclair's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

anti-hero a protagonist or central figure who lacks the usual heroic qualities of an admirable person or leader, particularly skill, grace, honesty, courage, and truth. Jurgis bears the qualities of an anti-hero because of his perpetual bad luck and his reliance on escapism as a means of coping with the depths of despair. Although his family needs every cent they can scrape together, he deserts them, wanders the Midwest, and wastes his funds on liquor and women. Reduced to begging on the streets the next winter, he manages to lose a one hundred-dollar bill rather than apply it to the family's needs.

existentialism a loosely defined philosophy that contrasts the random nature of the universe with the inadequacy of human control or intelligence. Sinclair's novel stresses the unpredictability of commerce and of the demand for workers. When factories slow down or close, people like the immigrant Lithuanians have no alternate resources to carry them through hard times. Adding to their misery are the problems of transportation to and from work during heavy winter snows and the wear on their bodies from constant struggle, hunger, cold, and poor health. Chained to the low end of the economic scale like slaves, they can't escape a constant battle for lucrative jobs.

sociological novel reform literature that uses character and action to delineate a social problem. *The Jungle* is a literary monument to early twentieth-century socialism and to journalism's venture from news gathering to investigative reporting. Sinclair, like Nellie Bly, Ida Tarbell, and publisher William Randolph Hurst, pioneered the use of sensationalism to build reader interest in problems such as infant mortality, health care for the poor, child labor, civic corruption, and discrimination against women in the workplace. Sinclair expands on the concept of fictional exposé by tackling a complex network of human sufferings—immigrant language barriers, scams, irregular

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work, blacklisting, hunger, workplace hazards, unavailability of health care, inadequate city services, crime, prostitution, alcoholism, drugs, and unjust police and courts.

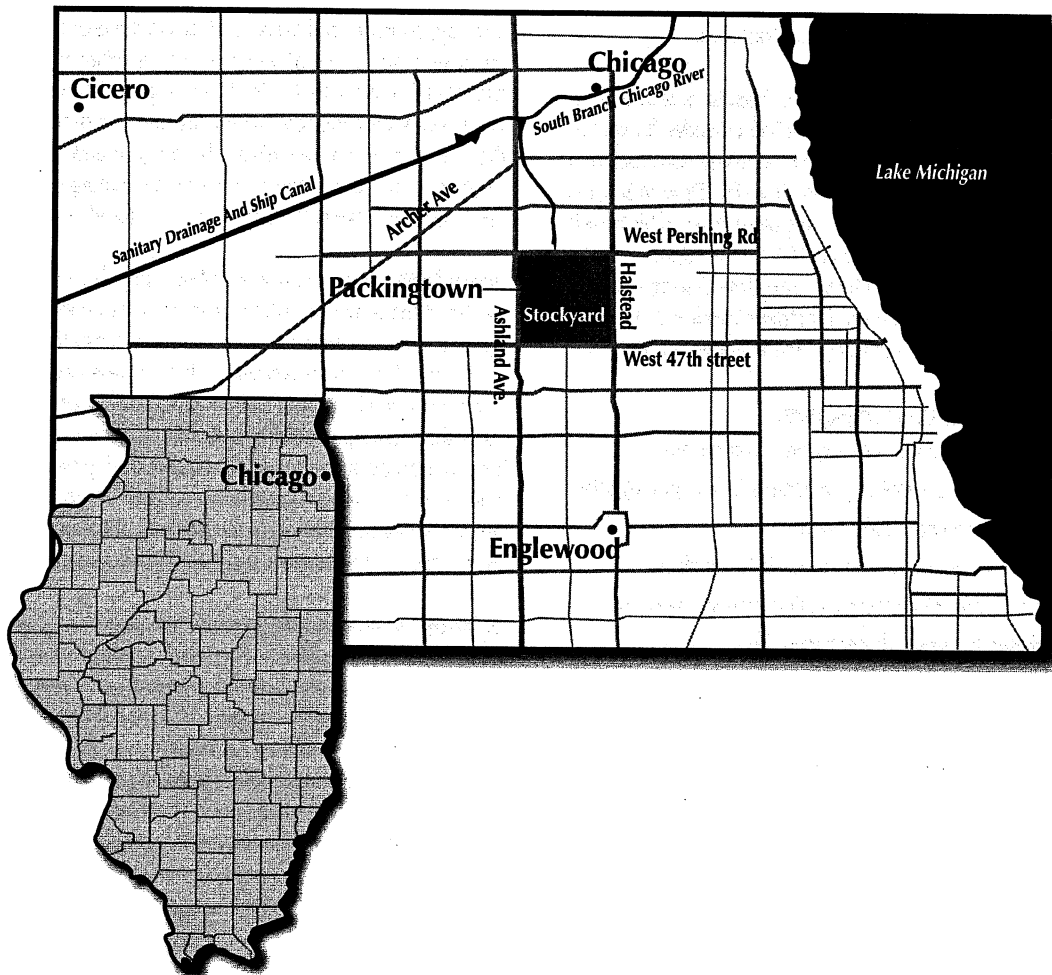
THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* becomes a character in itself by presenting insuperable problems. Immigrants arriving from Lithuania via New York City expect great things of Chicago, but discover that Packingtown is a fetid ghetto of laboring-class families. Among other unskilled workers, Jurgis and the others accept what lodgings they can afford with the Widow Jukniene and flee from her crowded, filthy tenement to buy a house in an area that had once been a garbage dump. Without skills in judging real estate, they learn too late that the house is fifteen years old and the construction does not bear up well in extremes of weather. Muddy streets and drafty street cars are their only source of transportation as they survey the meat packing industry in search of work.

The unbearable odors, offal, and pollution of Chicago's stock yards assail workers who must accept jobs in dangerous assembly line work. Jurgis begins the meat cutting process on the killing beds,

where workers stun and slaughter steers. Dede Antanas sweeps the damp, freezing cellar of an abattoir. Elzbieta services a sausage mill; Stanislovas fills cans with rancid lard. Marija declines from painter of cans to trimmer of diseased beef. Because work extends over most of the characters' waking hours, there is little relaxation in their lives to contrast toil. Even the wedding reception in Chapter 1 bears a dismal atmosphere of worry about money and concern that employees must rise early the next day to work.

As Jurgis lapses into escapism, Sinclair presents the Chicago underworld as a contrast to the stock yards and meat canneries. Free lunches amid rowdy drunks become Jurgis's refuge from homelessness, hunger, and cold. Sharing the sidewalks of the working-class neighborhood are prostitutes like Marija, who drops out of respectable work to make her family's living from illicit sex. Stick-up artists like Jack Duane roust bar patrons in the alleys. The police apply the unpredictable justice of the ward heeler, who shares power with the stock yard owners. Jurgis's summer in the Midwest heartland offers a variety of releases from cares, hunger, and physical torments, but a glimpse of a Slavic family reminds him that his own family can't escape Packingtown.



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THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *The Jungle* should include these aspects:

Themes

- immigration
- factory labor
- family
- corruption
- ownership
- exploitation
- loss
- crime
- justice
- escapism
- socialism
- hope

Motifs

- coping with family and financial setbacks
- understanding the assembly line mentality
- assuming family responsibility
- comprehending workplace hazards
- accepting personal loss

MEANING STUDY

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. It seemed as if there must become subtle poison in the air that one breathed here—it was affecting all the young men at once. (Chapter 1, p. 20)
(Just as the foul air of Packingtown poisons the body, the moral and spiritual corruption poisons the soul. Early in the novel, Upton Sinclair points out the change in the attitude of the young toward values and traditions honored in the old country. At Jurgis and Ona's wedding feast, the young men ignore the veselija, a custom requiring each wedding guest to give money to the bride and groom. Instead of honoring the tradition, many young guests, eat, get drunk, dance, and sneak off. The decay of Packingtown has poisoned them by corrupting their morals and making them cynical. Cheated at every turn and surrounded by venality, even Jurgis eventually loses faith in the old ways and virtues. In Chapter Seven, he realizes "It was a war of each against all, and the devil take the hindmost. You did not give feasts to other people, you waited for them to give feasts to you. You went about with your soul full of suspicion and hatred; you understood that you were environed by hostile powers that were trying to get your money, and used all the virtues to bait their traps with.")

2. I will work harder. (Chapter 1, p. 22)
(At each economic crisis, Jurgis makes the same vow to rely on personal strength and to push himself harder. He is confident that his determination, youth, and physical powers are enough to provide for the family. His dependence on health and stamina reflects an aspect of the American Dream—that hard work and perseverance assure success. His naivete leaves him open to disillusion and defeat. After his miserable failure, the family falls prey to Packingtown's ruthless exploiters. While he wears himself out with labor, grafters, bribe-takers, and connivers at the stock yard succeed and grow rich.)
3. Had he not just gotten a job, and become a sharer in all this activity, a cog in this marvelous machine? (Chapter 3, pp. 36-37)
(On first viewing the stock yards, Jurgis is astonished and fascinated by the immensity and efficiency of their operation. He takes pride in being a small part of this tremendous industry and in providing food for millions of people. However, he sees only half of what is in store for him. He becomes a minor cog and, at the same time, loses his humanity. At first, health and vigor empower him to work long hours and perform well, but the demands on his body damage his spirit and stamina, robbing him of joy. After he sprains his ankle, he is no longer eligible for the best unskilled labor positions. He declines into one of the "worn-out parts of the great merciless packing machine." The packers discard him in the same way that they toss out a bit of metal for which they have no further use.)
4. This was in truth not living; it was scarcely even existing, and they felt that it was too little for the price they paid. They were willing to work all the time; and when people did their best, ought they not to be able to keep alive? (Chapter 10, p. 103)
(Americans honor the tradition that rewards follow hard, steady toil. The author, a minority voice, condemns the whole laissez-faire system by which managers and owners succeed by conniving, cheating customers, and exploiting workers. Jurgis's family members are willing to work, but they remain destitute. It seems unfair to him that their only reward is crushing poverty, poor health, hunger and cold, and fear for the future. The system of unbridled capitalism with shutdowns, fierce competition for work, irregular hours, cruel speeding up of assembly lines, and the lowering of wages and raising of prices grinds down the immigrants, of whom America seems to have an unending supply. Sinclair remarks, "All of these things had worked together for the company that had marked them for its prey and was waiting for its chance. And now, with this last hideous injustice, its time had come, and it had turned them out bag and baggage, and taken their house and sold it again! And they could do nothing, they were tied hand and foot—the law was against them, the whole machine of society was at their oppressors' command!" The honest labor of the Lithuanian immigrants stands no chance of overcoming so entrenched an adversity.)

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5. With what had been told them by Jonas, who had worked in the pickle rooms, they could now study the whole of the meaning into that old Packer town jest—that they use everything of the pig except the squeal. (Chapter 14, p. 135)

(This grim joke is a Packer town truth that no part of a pig is thrown out. That which the factory does not ship as table cuts of bacon, ham, or pork goes to the sausage mill, lard and potted ham factory, and fertilizer plant. The industry even recycles the bristles in brushes. Later, when the immigrants acquire first-hand knowledge of Packer town swindlers, they realize the full truth of the joke. Even diseased and spoiled meat finds its way to the consumer. With chemical techniques, the packers can disguise the color, taste, and odor of any cut or meat product and turn it into saleable goods.)

6. The product of the labor of society, the means of existence of the human race, will always belong to idlers and parasites, to be spent for the gratification of vanity and lust—to be spent for any purpose whatever, to be at the disposal of any individual will whatever—that somehow, somewhere, the labor of humanity will not belong to humanity, to be used for the purposes of humanity, to be controlled by the will of humanity. (Chapter Twenty-eight, pp. 301-302)

(According to the socialist orator, rich capitalists are heartless social parasites who live off the sweat and agony of their hosts, the working class. Sinclair uses Freddie Jones as a model of parasitism—the drunken son of a packing magnate who spends an idle life in the midst of opulence. As a wastrel, Freddie contrasts Jurgis's earnest regard for hard work and family.)

7. "What," asks the prophet, "is the murder of them that kill the body, to the murder of them that kill the soul?" (Chapter 28, p. 303)

(Jurgis concludes from the socialist orator's words that the system has destroyed him. Instead of a clean kill, it has murdered his spirit, annihilated his hope and willingness to struggle, drowned him in degradation and despair. After the hardship kills his wife and newborn child, he gives up the struggle, drifts into crime, and becomes a part of the corrupt, anti-labor political machine. He allows himself to become a tool of the system that has obliterated his dream of prosperity in a new land. To the author, such oppression robs people of dignity and kills love, compassion, and human feeling.)

8. That was the competitive wage system; and if Jurgis wanted to understand what Socialism was, it was there he had best begin. (Chapter 29, p. 308)

(Sinclair describes the factory system as an exploitation of the laboring class that drives it deep into poverty. Lured by the promise of high wages and steady work, many immigrants come to Packer town and provide the packers with an oversupply of labor. Because the jobs require little training, the packers lower wages and still get new applicants to fill jobs. Being much weaker in the early part of the 1900s, the unions cannot prevent scabbing or the importation of workers to break a strike. Because of intense wage competition, workers become wage slaves compelled to toil harder and longer hours for less money. Even when

every member of the immigrant family works up to fourteen hours a day, the Lithuanians live on the verge of starvation.)

9. "It would not do," Ostrinski explained, "for the proletariat of one nation to achieve the victory, for that nation would be crushed by the military power of the others; and so the Socialist movement was a world movement, an organization of all mankind to establish liberty and fraternity. It was the new religion of humanity." (Chapter 29, p. 310)

(The International Workers of the World (IWW) crusades against private ownership of industry and advocates public ownership of all resources, goods, and means of production. The socialist believes first in "the common ownership and democratic management of the means of producing the necessities of life; and second, that the means by which this is to be brought about is the class-conscious political organization of wage earners.")

10. The Appeal was a "propaganda" paper. (Chapter 30, p. 322)
- (Propaganda is medium of persuasion that is frequently heavy-handed and always one-sided. However, it is not necessarily bad, for example, campaigns against smoking and drunk driving. Sinclair's writing style furthers a particular idea, attitudes, government, and socio-economic system. His novel is admittedly promoting economic reform through socialism. He depicts only the most blatant excesses of the capitalistic system and makes no reference to positive developments through capitalism.)*

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Motivation

1. What does marriage offer the newlyweds?

(The first chapter describes the wedding and reception of Jurgis and Ona, who first met eighteen months earlier at a horse fair in Lithuania. Jurgis loves his delicate, beautiful wife and intends to protect and provide for her with his powerful body. The fact that both must work the day after the wedding or lose their jobs hints that their financial underpinnings are unsteady. They also have no privacy in a house shared with ten family members. Long hours of work and insufficient food and rest compromise their marital satisfaction, but mutual love sustains them in the beginning. Their trust in each other suffers its greatest test after Jurgis forces Ona to explain her whereabouts on the nights she spends with Phil Connor.)

Setting

2. Describe Jurgis's flight from Chicago.

(After Ona dies, Jurgis places his hopes in parenting Little Antanas. Upon the boy's death from drowning in a muddy street, Jurgis has no ties to the Lithuanian immigrants in Packer town. His life wasted and his body wrecked, he determines to hop a boxcar traveling south into the rural plains: "There should

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be no more tears and no more tenderness; he had had enough of them—they had sold him into slavery!" As a tramp, he lives free of responsibility except for supplying his own food and lodging. In the clean outdoor atmosphere of summer, he works when he needs cash or a meal and takes whatever road looks interesting. In the fresh air and without crushing family worries, his health and outlook improve.)

Character Development

3. How does Packingtown crush minor family members? (The novel pictures all of the immigrants as victims of the stock yards. Dede Antanas is too old for good jobs and quickly succumbs to tuberculosis, which he contracts working in the pickle room. Similarly compromised, Ona ruins her health by rushing back to work after giving birth and continuing to work during her second pregnancy, even though she has severe lower abdominal pain. Her stamina gone, she is unable to bear the second child and dies in agony. Marija, her cousin, is strong and willing to work until a cut on the hand ends her usefulness. To survive, she gives up hopes of marrying Tomaszus, becomes a prostitute, and gives in to drugs. Tete Elzbieta, Ona's stepmother, loses Kristoforas, who suffers rickets and dies of malnutrition. She abandons her domestic standards from the old country, leaves the house for Kotrina to tend, and takes mind-wearying factory work. Elzbieta violates her family rules by removing her children from school and sending them out to work. Stanislovas, her oldest boy, earns five cents an hour in the factory filling and capping lard cans. His gruesome death results from falling asleep in the factory, where rats devour him.)

Historical Milieu

4. What is the purpose of the Beef Trust? (At the beginning of the twentieth century, American industry, like a medieval land grant, was the private fief of giant trusts. These monopolies owned sufficient shares of industry to freeze out all competition. By cornering the market, trustees raised and fixed prices, restrained trade, and lowered wages while demanding more from each hourly worker. In the words of Ostrinski, "They were a gigantic combination of capital, which had crushed all opposition, and overthrown the laws of the land, and were preying upon the people.")

Sinclair compares management's heartlessness with the work of the slaughterer: "There seemed to be something about the work of slaughtering that tended to ruthlessness and ferocity—it was literally a fact that in the methods of the packers, a hundred human lives did not balance a penny of profit." Ostrinski pictures the beef trust as "a monster devouring with a thousand mouths, trampling with a thousand hoofs; it was the Great Butcher—it was the spirit of Capitalism made flesh." Ostrinski also depicts the trust as a form of piracy that "declared war upon civilization. Bribery and corruption were its everyday methods.")

Theme

5. What forms of corruption destroy democracy in Chicago? (Chicago, in the hands of meat packers, becomes corrupt throughout. Mike Scully, the Democratic boss known as the "little Irishman," controls the city mayor and uses city workers and equipment in private businesses. At the time, Scully sells goods to the city at inflated prices. Under rampant civil mismanagement, the police sell tickets to dog and cock fights and take bribes from saloonkeepers for the privilege of offering gambling and of staying open on Sundays. Packers steal the city's water supply; corrupt judges decide cases in favor of the packers. After becoming embittered and disillusioned, Jurgis works for the political machine and observes from the inside its organization.)

Interpretation

6. How do packers cheat the consumer? (Meat inspectors work for the packers rather than for the government. They allow the sale and distribution of diseased meat, some of it containing poison, adulterants, and rats. They overlook the processing of tubercular steers and hogs infected with cholera to pass into the lard works. The worst of the lard processing is the loss of workers in vats which squirt out their remains as Durham's Pure Leaf Lard. Scraps blended with colorants, spices, and chemicals become canned and potted meat products. The army purchases embalmed beef, which has lain in cellars unpreserved and unrefrigerated for years.)

Conflict

7. Why does Jurgis become a criminal? (After his arrest for beating up the bartender who cheats him of \$99, Jurgis goes to jail unjustly a second time. In his cell, he encounters Jack Duane, a Chicago criminal Jurgis met after his first arrest. Duane persuades Jurgis to join him in robbery and gambling. Sinclair implies that Jurgis yields to desperation and pursues any means, honest or dishonest, to support the family. Because the system does not reward him for factory work, he becomes a parasite on society. Unjustly branded a criminal, he accepts the dishonor and enriches himself as a thief. Ironically, the police never arrest him for crimes he commits under the influence of Duane or Scully.)

Atmosphere

8. How does the atmosphere change during the strike? (The shift in the power structure occurs after workers attempt to unionize and force management to alter its oppressive ways. At his lowest point, Jurgis, a former union member, joins scabs who cross picket lines and who help break the strike, which results in assaults, rioting, and deaths. As a boss at the killing beds, he abets others who insure that the packers will continue exploitation of laborers. Dedicated to drink and corruption, he makes more money than he ever did as a family man and employee. His descent into moral depravity produces an air of self-damnation and hopelessness.)

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Author Purpose

9. Why does the novel characterize socialism as Jurgis's salvation? *(After Jurgis sinks further with loss of his job as boss and grafter for the packers, he jumps bail and wanders the streets in search of daily sustenance. He stumbles onto socialism at a speech given by a skilled orator. Ripe for conversion, Jurgis enters the meeting hall to rest and embraces the inspirational message. His moribund soul revives to life and hope; he recoils from the virtueless man he has become. After individual instruction from Ostrinski, Jurgis pledges his faith to socialism, a philosophy that the author prefers over capitalism.)*

Style

10. Why does Sinclair turn fiction into propaganda? *(Sinclair uses fiction as his vehicle to dramatize social disorder and to champion the socialist cause. His themes focus on the corruption of capitalism, which he accuses of destroying America's laboring class. To establish the evil done by the packers and their political machine, he creates a family of immigrant Lithuanians to suffer the cheating, exploitation, exhaustion, physical and spiritual breakdown, and ruin that supports industrial moguls. By elevating socialism as the worker's salvation, he rules out other sources of relief, for example, moving the family to rural farmland or pursuing other forms of unskilled labor.)*

HOW LANGUAGE WORKS

To create realistic scenarios, Upton Sinclair assigns a sparse amount of idiosyncratic dialogue to his characters:

1. Teta Elzbieta, the champion of old country traditions, refuses to abandon wedding customs: "What! . . . To be married on the roadside like a parcel of beggars! No! No!"
2. To demonstrate Ona's commitment to supporting the family, the author describes her on her wedding night refusing to miss work: "No! No! I dare not! It will ruin us!"
3. In contrast to his wife's concern for family finances, Jurgis boasts, "My back is broad," a simplistic summation of his preparations for his family's future.
4. At the height of marital conflict between Ona and Jurgis, he questions Jadvyga about Ona's claim to have spent a night with her: "She told me so—the night it snowed, and she could not get home."
5. Jack Duane, the smooth-talking thief and cellmate, speaks honestly to Jurgis of a career in crime: "My name's Duane—Jack Duane. I've more than a dozen, but that's my company one."
6. Stanislovas, Elzbieta's eldest son, visits Jurgis and stammers out the family's troubles: "It's so—so cold all the time. And last Sunday it snowed again—a deep, deep snow—and I couldn't—couldn't get to work."

7. Freddie Jones appears almost comic in his drunken babblings: "A nice, quiet—hic—good-hearted young feller like me, an' his daddy can't go to Europe—hup!—an' leave him in peace!"
8. In defense of her dissolute life, Marija rationalizes her work as a prostitute: "What can I do? I either have to stand it or quit, and it would be the same anywhere else."
9. The socialist orator overwhelms Jurgis with a startling testimony: "The voice of the poor, demanding that poverty shall cease! The voice of the oppressed, pronouncing the doom of oppression! The voice of power, wrought out of suffering!"

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Law

1. Read aloud federal laws from 1906 governing the responsibilities of meat packers to assure quality products. Determine why government funding for inspection is crucial to enforcement.
2. Make a chart of advice to Jurgis concerning workers' rights to compensation, back pay, and their old jobs after workplace accidents like his sprained ankle at the killing beds and his broken arm as a result of the tunnel mishap.
3. List current laws that would prevent Katrina from selling newspapers on the street or begging door to door.

Music and Dance

1. Select saloon and theater music common in Chicago in the early 1900s. Name popular entertainers like Victor Herbert and George M. Cohan who advanced their careers in the area. Give a demonstration of ragtime and the cakewalk.
2. Contrast music of the pre-jazz era with the folk tunes that Lithuanian immigrants brought from home and enjoyed at the wedding feast honoring Jurgis and Ona.

Religion

1. Compose a graveside service for Dede Antanas, Little Antanas, Ona, her stillborn infant, Stanislovas, or Kristoforas. Note the family's memories of their lives and regrets about the financial situation that prevented dignified funerals and burials.
2. Outline a formal Lithuanian wedding ceremony for Jurgis and Ona.

Drama

1. Draw stage settings for a dramatization of shoveling guts, capping cans of lard, catching errant steers, holding up saloon patrons in the alley, sleeping at the police station, eating dinner with Freddie Jones, begging in the snow, buying a house, working as a scab, being attacked and devoured by rats, riding a boxcar out of Chicago, hiring a Dutch midwife, collecting food from the garbage dump, giving fourteen cents to Stanislovas, or meeting Marija at a brothel.

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2. Create a storyboard account of Jurgis's first arrest for assault, jailing, trial, judgment, and imprisonment at Bridewell, including spectators, judge, defendant, families, and Jurgis's inmates. Refer to historic photos of the Bridewell rock quarries.

Education

1. Role-play the part of an English-as-a-Second-Language teacher for newcomers like Jurgis, Ona, Elzbieta, and Marija. Outline pertinent lessons in everyday life, for example, making change for a dollar, getting a transfer on the streetcar, applying for work, investing silver dollars at the bank, buying coal, seeking prenatal care or treatment for rickets or tuberculosis, enrolling in night school, questioning a realtor about a contract, signing a loan, and attending a wedding reception.
2. Propose curriculum for a settlement house class to teach immigrants about life in America. Include details about preparing for transportation, citizenship, banking, buying land and property insurance, weatherproofing homes, registering to vote, and obeying local laws.
3. Brainstorm ways for settlement workers to teach women like Ona and Elzbieta how to feed, dress, supervise, and care for children to prevent rickets, respiratory illness, frostbite, drowning, and convulsions.

Speech

1. Organize a discussion of the persecution, classism, and exclusion of immigrants. Answer these basic questions: What makes people belittle identifiable groups, especially non-English speakers? Why does Jurgis insist on studying English? How do settlement workers help ease the suffering of people like Elzbieta's large family?
2. Compose a tour guide of the greater Chicago area. Express the importance of the rail lines, banking, and stock yards to the city's economy. Contrast the lives of people on Lake Shore Drive with Lithuanian immigrants in Packingtown.
3. Outline the work of chemist Ellen Henrietta Richards, pioneer of food and water purity studies and author of *Air, Water, And Food: From A Sanitary Standpoint* (1901). Explain why her study of human need for safe life-giving elements became a classic text on pollution. Include ideas and issues from Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Home: Its Work And Influence* (1903) and Ruth de Forest Lamb's *The American Chamber Of Horrors: The Truth About Food And Drugs* (1936).

Cinema

View films with urban settings and characters and situations growing out of immigration, such as *I Remember Mama*, *Ragtime*, *The Grapes Of Wrath*, *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*, *Lilies Of The Field*, *Reds*, *Far And Away*, *Yentl*, *The Untouchables*, and *Gangs Of New York*. Compare the movies' settings, themes, and

dialogue to those of *The Jungle*. Comment on the interplay of people of different ethnic, social, political, educational, and professional backgrounds, particularly criminal elements, dishonest police, and decent citizens.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on head wounds, drowning, frostbite, broken bones, sprains, convulsions, respiratory disease, and infected cuts. List first aid, complications, and treatment for severe industrial wounds, especially those like Marija's cut, which she incurred in unsanitary conditions. Account for the importance of health and stamina to the immigrants' survival.
2. Summarize the work of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Discuss innovations and technology that relieve laborers of workplace danger. List air purification systems, air conditioning, goggles, proximity suits, automated slicing and canning, robotized assembly lines, insulated gloves and boots, and ear plugs. Explain why shorter work days improve industry's attempts to prevent accidents and work-related stress and illness.

Geography and Culture

1. Create a mural or web site on Chicago at the beginning of the twentieth century. Note the sharp separation of classes into landowners and lower-class laborers. Account for the high employment of the working class through work-related illness and accidents, permanent disability, lay-offs, blacklisting, strikes, plant closures, and firings.
2. Make a web site or bulletin board characterizing the use of land and water in industry. Explain why the Illinois River, Bubbly Creek, the rural Midwest, the loop, and rail lines play a key role in Chicago's manufacturing history.

Art

Make an illustrated notebook of Ona's memories of her wedding celebration. Include Tomaszus's violin solos, tables of food, native costumes, and cash to pay the bride for dances.

Social Studies and Economics

1. Discuss with a small group family patterns of behavior and expectations after serious financial setbacks, including Marija's firing, Dede Antanas's upper respiratory infection, Stanislovas's horrible death by rats, Ona's humiliation by Phil Connor, and the closure of the harvester plant where Jurgis works. Explain why settlement workers are welcome mediators to families in distress.
2. Report orally on the physical, economic, and psychological effects of arrest, jailing, and sentencing to Bridewell prison, where prisoners work in rock quarries. Account for changes in Jurgis's outlook and his despair at spending Christmas away from his family.

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3. Compose an extended definition of social and emotional isolation. Explain why the term describes Jurgis, Ona, Stanislovas, and Marija.
4. Divide the class into small groups to brainstorm ways to improve community relations after the stock yard riots. Include activities that enable workers to coexist without union differences. List ways of suppressing rumor and union agitation and of promoting fair hiring and supervision practices.

Psychology

1. Describe aloud the drive for survival. Explain why Jurgis abandons the family and spends a summer in the country tramping around and enjoying farm labor. Contrast his move to that of Marija, who willingly works as a prostitute to feed the family. Account for escapism through alcoholism and drugs.
2. List aspects of the meat industry that sicken the workers of Packingtown, for example, cold and damp cellars and the foul air of the stock yards. Explain why Jurgis reaches a psychological low while shoveling powder at the fertilizer factory. Why do outsiders shun him?
3. Using incidents from the book, comment on gradual changes in Jurgis, Ona, Elzbieta, and Marija. Discuss how they cope with repeated disillusion and assaults on their dream of living well, working, raising families, and owning a house in America.

Mathematics and Computers

1. Create a web site or bulletin board that identifies these terms: scab, fence, Grand Old Party, Democrat, strike breaker, run on the bank, beef trust, Bessemer furnace, morphine, per cent per annum, consumption, rickets, highwayman, Marseillaise, Tolstoi, car transfer, bone phosphate, downers, purgatory, Bohemian, dray horse, gesticulation, bail bond, sham, procurer, ward heeler, Socialist, pittance, formaldehyde, swathed, court cost, Gott in Himmel, potter's field, blacklisted, oppression, cracksman, neuralgia, Egyptian plague, and bravado.
2. Based on your understanding of the novel, lead a panel discussion of the effects of sickness, loss, insecurity, hunger, cold, disease, crime, prostitution, debt, low-paying jobs, lay-offs, interrupted education, thwarted ambition, and disillusion in Lithuanian immigrant family life. Support your opinions with facts from census reports, health and sociological surveys, and statistics obtained from almanacs and economic and employment surveys. For source material, consult the U. S. Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov>.

Language and Speech

1. Contrast news releases for radio or print announcing the stock yard riots, rigged elections, lay-offs, unsanitary workplaces, socialist oratory, settlement work, and poverty in Chicago. Which topic is more likely to gain public sympathy? Which the least?

2. With a partner, role-play a dialogue dramatizing Ostrinski's instruction to Jurgis on the value of socialism in helping poor, disadvantaged, and injured workers.
3. Summarize aloud a chapter from Barbara Ehrenreich's book *Nickel And Dime*. Explain why she displays the majority of her compassion for women workers in low-paying jobs, such as domestics, hotel maids, cooks and waitresses, and Wal-Mart clerks.

Literature and Composition

1. Read aloud from nonfiction, novels, plays, speeches, and stories that describe economic injustice and exploitation of the poor. Include Harriette Arnow's *The Dollmaker*, Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*, Isabel Allende's *Daughter Of Fortune*, Raymond Barrio's "Dawn," Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*, William E. Barrett's *Lilies Of The Field*, Toni Cade Bambara's "Blues Ain't No Mockin Bird," T. Coraghessan Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*, James Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's *Farewell To Manzanar*, Willa Cather's "Neighbour Rosicky," Hamlin Garland's *Main Travelled Roads*, and Ruthann Lum McCunn's *Thousand Pieces Of Gold*.
2. Explain in a theme the significance of the title *The Jungle*, particularly as it applies to the effects of multiple tragedies and hardships on Jurgis. Propose other titles that express Sinclair's socialist principles and the no-win situation of unskilled stock yard laborers.
3. Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor character, such as the police, Jonas, Grandmother Majauszkiene, Juozapas, Hamilton, Alena Jasaityte, Mike Scully, Jokubas Szedvilas, Madame Haupt, Nicholas Schliemann, Jadvyga, Dede Antanas, Miss Henderson, Tommy Hinds, Buck Halloran, the Widow Jukniene, Phil Connor, the Slavic farmer, Kotrina, Ostrinski, the settlement worker, Judge Pat "Growler" Callahan, and Tomaszus Koszleika. Determine which characters interact fairly with people of other cultures and backgrounds.
4. Propose an outline of a stage version of *The Jungle*. Name the major events and explain how action will link each, including riots of striking workers, Ona's last pregnancy, Marija's injured hand, Jurgis's purchase of a house, Jonas's disappearance, the socialist rally, and the blizzard that keeps the children home from work.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of hazard in the lives of the workers, for example, animals breaking free in the stock yard, cuts and sprains at work, deaths from falls into vats, long walks to work in blizzards, disease from cold and damp, sick animals, extreme heat from the Bessemer furnace, rats, and polluted air and creek water.

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2. Compile a list of actions and statements that demonstrate gender-specific expectations for women like Madame Haupt, Marija, Ona, Kotrina, the brothel keeper, Grandmother Majauszkiene, Jadvyga, Miss Henderson, and the Widow Jukniene.
3. Compose a scene in which Jurgis delivers a speech to jobless laborers who need hope for a better future in Chicago.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Jonas's abandonment of the family, Marija's feistiness, corruption among police and judges, Phil Connor's sexual predations, Madame Haupt's insistence on pay, Jurgis's dependence on drink, Miss Henderson's venality, Bush Harper's half-truths, the orator's one-sided arguments, Jack Duane's criminal past, and Mike Scully's illicit control of politics.
5. Account for the author's reliance on a string of disappointments and unforeseen catastrophes, including drowning in a street puddle, rampant typhoid and tuberculosis, layoffs and cut-backs, plant closures, scams, unforeseen payments for insurance and interest, work accidents, arrests, blizzards and heat waves, child labor, a sprained animal and broken arm, and gradual financial decline and homelessness.

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Damaged Gods, 1913
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- The Dollmaker*, Harriette Arnow
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- My Antonia*, Willa Cather
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"On The Road," Carl Sandburg

Film/Video

The Dollmaker

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I Remember Mama

Lilies of the Field

Ragtime

Reds

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Daughter Of Fortune, Isabel Allende

Farewell To Manzanar,

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I Remember Mama, John van Druten

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The Emigrants, Johan Bojer

The Grapes Of Wrath, John Steinbeck

The Kitchen God's Wife, Amy Tan

The Tortilla Curtain, T. Coraghessan Boyle

Thousand Pieces of Gold, Ruthann Lum McCunn

THE JUNGLE

VOCABULARY TEST

Part A.

Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate word from the boldface word list below. You will have answers left over when you finish.

adulterated
annihilation
bravado
broad sides
cynical
fickle

ghetto
impunity
indignation
jubilant
lamentation
lugubrious

nonchalance
nonplussed
ostentation
perpetual
pessimistic
plight

quibble
reflection
stupendous
tractable
unscrupulous

1. It is Tamoszius' task to saw out one long-drawn (sad) _____ note after another.
2. It seemed to them impossible of belief that anything so (marvelous) _____ could have been devised by mortal man.
3. Szedvilas's failing delicatessen business might account for his (negative) _____ views.
4. The gang handled the carcasses with an air of businesslike (unconcern) _____ which said plainer than any words that it was a matter of everyday routine.
5. Working men and women were dependent for their opportunities of life upon the whim of men every bit as brutal and (immoral) _____ as the old time slave dealers.
6. Duane was not always victorious, but then defeat did not mean (ruin) _____.
7. Jurgis watched all the world fade away from him—a world of shadows, of (unpredictable) _____ dreams.
8. It would print great (responses) _____ during the campaign; one copy that came to Jurgis was a manifesto addressed to striking workingmen.
9. In a spirit of (spunk) _____, Jurgis challenged three men of his acquaintance to go outside and get a drink.
10. Private industry makes ten thousand varieties of a thing for purposes of (show) _____ and snobbishness.

Part B.

Create original sentences for 10 of the unused words from the list in Part A.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

THE JUNGLE

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Select a response to complete the following statements. Place your choice in the space at left.

- _____ 1. Shaping opinions is a major purpose of
a. fiction.
b. propaganda.
c. social protest.
d. capitalism.
- _____ 2. As the orator explains how capitalism robs laborers,
a. Duane looks over the audience for people to rob in the alley.
b. police raid the group and take Marija to jail.
c. Jurgis views his plight as a form of oppression.
d. Mike Scully prepares to persuade listeners to vote for Democrats.
- _____ 3. The wedding feast
a. unites immigrants from Lithuania at the church.
b. requires donations from Madame Haupt.
c. causes Jurgis to work harder.
d. takes place shortly before the twelve immigrants leave home.
- _____ 4. The most prominent characteristic of Packingtown is
a. odor.
b. tenements.
c. a bubbly creek.
d. the cries of animals.
- _____ 5. Chicago's meat packing companies
a. compete.
b. conspire to set prices and lower wages.
c. belong to the railroad trust.
d. refuse to hire Negroes.
- _____ 6. After recovery from a sprained ankle, Jurgis
a. is too damaged for the best jobs.
b. joins strike breakers.
c. fends off an attack by Phil Connor.
d. owes Buck Halloran \$200.
- _____ 7. The worst packing job is
a. trimming diseased beef.
b. stunning hogs with a club.
c. sweeping up guts in a damp cellar of the pickle room.
d. shoveling fertilizer.
- _____ 8. Ona's hysteria derives from
a. a stillbirth.
b. Jurgis's drinking.
c. Little Antanas's illness.
d. adultery.
- _____ 9. Sinclair increases sympathy for Jurgis by
a. picturing him in jail on Christmas Eve.
b. describing how lack of milk causes rickets.
c. characterizing his enjoyment of the Slavic family.
d. mentioning his religious values.
- _____ 10. Hamilton feels superior to
a. brothel patrons.
b. Kotrina as she sells papers.
c. street bums.
d. precinct workers.
- _____ 11. At the jail, Stanilovas receives
a. advice from a seasoned safecracker.
b. treatment for an infected cut.
c. news of a child's drowning in the street.
d. Jurgis's last fourteen cents.
- _____ 12. Mike Scully is actually
a. an undercover police officer.
b. a tool of the packers.
c. a socialist organizer.
d. a scab.
- _____ 13. Marija is aware that
a. Jurgis has fled south on a boxcar.
b. Elzbieta's youngest child froze to death.
c. Stanislovas is a victim of rats.
d. Kristoforas takes the three dollars that Kotrina earned by selling newspapers.
- _____ 14. The aim of socialism is to
a. guarantee jobs for everyone.
b. slow production.
c. fix elections.
d. organize unions to control industry.
- _____ 15. For the Lithuanians,
a. any job is better than handouts from a settlement worker.
b. friendship with Jokubas Szedvilas assures them jobs.
c. the yearning to return home fills them with sadness.
d. burial in potter's field is a mark of shame.

THE JUNGLE

Part II: True/False (20 points)

In the space at left, write T if the statement is completely true or F if any of the statement is false.

- ___ 1. Although suffering from poverty themselves, all the guests at the wedding feast give a traditional donation in cash to dance with Ona.
- ___ 2. Jurgis is unimpressed by the production line methods that turn live animals into meat products.
- ___ 3. The new house that Jurgis and the family buy is really fifteen years old.
- ___ 4. As a result of sweeping in a cold, damp cellar, Dede Antanas sickens with tuberculosis and dies.
- ___ 5. Teta Elzbieta argues against buying a new house because it is cheaper to live at the Widow Jukniene's lodging house.
- ___ 6. While Jurgis is in Bridewell, Elzbieta, Ona, Marija, and the children lose their home because they cannot meet the payments.
- ___ 7. Ona quits her job when she discovers that Miss Henderson operates a brothel.
- ___ 8. After spending the summer tramping through the rural Midwest, Jurgis returns to Chicago because he feels guilty about deserting Teta Elzbieta and the children.
- ___ 9. Jurgis becomes Jack Duane's partner in petty crime.
- ___ 10. The novel demonstrates that an individual who is strong and tough can beat the system.

Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the blanks below with a word or phrase which completes the sentence. Place your answer in the spaces provided.

- 1. Because _____ deserts the family and disappears, more of Elzbieta's _____ must go to work.
- 2. A run on the _____ causes Marija to withdraw her _____.
- 3. _____ leaves thirteen-year-old _____ in charge of home and takes a job making sausage.
- 4. Jurgis discovers that Ona stays out overnight on December 22 at _____'s house to comply with the demands of _____.
- 5. Judge Pat "Growler" _____ sentences Jurgis to thirty days in _____ prison.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose 2 and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Describe how workers respond to change.
- 2. Explain why Elzbieta trusts Jurgis.
- 3. Discuss the political influence of Mike Scully.
- 4. Account for the adulteration of meat at the stock yard.
- 5. Summarize events that acquaint workers with despair and loss.

THE JUNGLE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the bold face list below. You will use some answers more than once and some not at all.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| _____ 1. complains that Jurgis has no liquor in the house to offer | A. Kotrina |
| _____ 2. denounces the oppression of workers through wage slavery | B. Hamilton |
| _____ 3. runs a small hotel | C. Kristoforas |
| _____ 4. falls from rotted boards | D. Marija |
| _____ 5. guides newcomers through the pork factory | E. orator |
| _____ 6. has a record of jail time | F. Madame Haupt |
| _____ 7. suffers from frostbitten fingers | G. Elzibeta |
| _____ 8. loses a job by arguing about back wages | H. Ona |
| _____ 9. scorns a pregnant woman | I. Widow Jukniene |
| _____ 10. makes three dollars selling papers | J. Little Antanas |
| _____ 11. suffers ill health and rickets | K. Phil Connor |
| _____ 12. misunderstands how to transfer between street cars | L. Stanislovas |
| _____ 13. serves Freddie | M. Jokubas Szedvilas |
| _____ 14. bears a grandfather's name | N. Jack Duane |
| _____ 15. loses a doctor's services because of lack of funds | O. Tommy Hinds |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase within the parentheses that completes each of the following sentences.

1. The Lithuanians are misled at a
(*New York law office, realty firm, hotel, hospital, factory*).
2. After leaving Bridewell, Jurgis needs directions to
(*Scully's office, the fertilizer factory, Miss Henderson's brothel, a boxcar, Packingtown*).
3. The bartender cheats Jurgis out of
(*\$99, dinner with Freddie, his vote, partnership with Buck Halloran, a basket from the settlement worker*).
4. Jurgis trails Ona
(*to work, from the cars, to Miss Henderson's house, to a meeting with Phil Connor, into potter's field*).
5. Grandmother Majauszkiene believes that
(*Ona will die, the house is cursed, no doctor will treat poor immigrant mothers, Elzbieta is wrong to take her children out of school, Jurgis will never return*).
6. Marija hates to
(*see Jurgis in saloons, spend her savings on the wedding feast, leave Lithuania with her stepmother, postpone her wedding, depend on morphine*).
7. Jurgis is annoyed at having to
(*serve extra days at Bridewell prison, attend a socialist speech, beg from Freddie, dine with the Slavic family, pledge his vote to Democrats*).
8. Through connections, Jurgis
(*finds a job packing lard into cans, sells stolen goods to Mike Scully, ends the blacklisting, doesn't have to work hard during the harvest, meets Ona at the horse fair*).
9. Stanislovas brings news of
(*Jonas's disappearance, the loss of the house, Ona's illness, English classes at night, a letter for the foreman at the steel factory*).
10. The Polish tailor
(*has influence with the packers, converts Jurgis, welcomes the homeless to the station house, complains about Bubbly Creek, hands out housing leaflets*).

THE JUNGLE

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to the following questions and explain its significance. Place your response in the blank provided.

1. Who is strong and promising at birth?

2. Where do the prisoners work?

3. What interest do the immigrants owe on the house?

4. By what name do union workers call people who replace them?

5. Which character seeks citizenship?

6. What sight makes Jurgis weep and return to Chicago?

7. Who entertains the wedding guests with music?

8. Who suggests that Elzbieta emigrate?

9. Who bails Jurgis out of jail?

10. What must Dede Antanas pay his employer?

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose 2 and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain why factory work is erratic.
2. Contrast Jurgis and Elzbieta as parents.
3. Describe Bridewell.
4. Summarize the family's loss of hope after they immigrate.
5. Establish the importance of Ostrinski and Jack Duane to the novel.

THE JUNGLE

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Part A

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. lugubrious | 6. annihilation |
| 2. stupendous | 7. fickle |
| 3. pessimistic | 8. broadsides |
| 4. nonchalance | 9. bravado |
| 5. unscrupulous | 10. ostentation |

Part B

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A | 11. D |
| 2. C | 7. D | 12. B |
| 3. C | 8. D | 13. C |
| 4. A | 9. A | 14. D |
| 5. B | 10. C | 15. D |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

1. Jonas, children
2. bank, savings
3. Elzbieta, Kotrina
4. Miss Henderson, Phil Connor
5. Callahan, Bridewell

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. N | 11. C |
| 2. E | 7. L | 12. H |
| 3. O | 8. D | 13. B |
| 4. J | 9. K | 14. J |
| 5. M | 10. A | 15. D |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

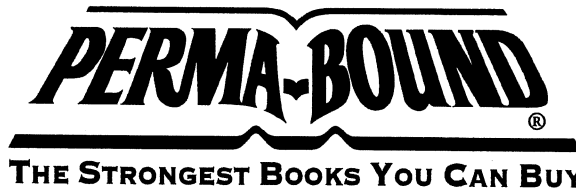
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. hotel | 6. postpone her wedding |
| 2. Packingtown | 7. serve extra days at Bridewell |
| 3. \$99 | 8. ends the blacklisting |
| 4. from the cars | 9. Ona's illness |
| 5. the house is cursed | 10. converts Jurgis |

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Little Antanas | 6. the Slavic family |
| 2. Bridewell quarries | 7. Tamoszius Kuszleika |
| 3. seven per cent per annum | 8. Jonas |
| 4. scabs | 9. Bush Harper |
| 5. Jurgis | 10. one-third of his wages |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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