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Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

*The Jungle*  
*by Upton Sinclair*

written by Amber Reed

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*The Jungle*

## **T o T h e T e a c h e r**

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.



\_\_\_\_\_

# Response Sheet

Date\_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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## *The Jungle*

### **Chapter One**

1. Marija has difficulty directing the coachman because he does not understand her native tongue, Lithuanian. Only when Marija speaks Polish does the coachman understand. Think of a time when you or someone you know had trouble communicating with another person. Write a paragraph describing the event. What was the source of the problem, and how was it resolved?
2. According to tradition, any person who enters the wedding feast is offered food. The family, despite poverty, manages to uphold its tradition and feed the numerous strangers that drift in to the reception. Write a journal entry about one of your family's traditions. The tradition may be a daily occurrence or an annual event. How does the custom affect your family? For example, are family members closer or more functional? Also include how you feel about the tradition.
3. The family is dismayed to find that several wedding guests are leaving the feast without contributing to the wedding purse. Young men, instead of giving a gift to the bride, "would come in crowds and fill themselves with a fine dinner, and then sneak off." Other guests, however, give more money than they can afford. Complete the following conversation by telling a friend about an extremely generous character from a book or movie that sacrifices something to help another person.

**Friend:** I can't imagine how some of these people gave any money at all to Ona and Jurgis. Aniele, for instance, scrubs clothes for a pittance to support three children, but she gives the couple several months of her salary. I never heard of someone so nice.

**You:** I've seen the same generosity in...

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## *Response Journal*

### **Chapter Two**

4. While in Lithuania, Jurgis travels four hundred miles to work on a railroad in order to earn enough money for passage to America. He struggles with horrid living and work conditions by focusing on his goal of marrying Ona. His determination pays off, and the family departs for America in the summer. Think of a figure that you admire for his or her hard work and determination. The person may be deceased or still living. Write a letter to this person expressing your admiration.
5. Once in America, the family members face one disappointment after another. Items cost more than they had anticipated; con artists take advantage of them; and the living conditions in Packingtown are deplorable. Write a paragraph about a time that you were disappointed or disillusioned. What were the circumstances, and how did you react?
6. The stockyards of Packingtown are described as having dingy sights, disturbing sounds, pungent smells, and crude tastes. As you read, which sensory images do you find the most effective? Which description impacts you the most? Create a short journal entry discussing your reaction to the text.

### **Chapter Three**

7. Jokubas shows his friends around the yards and the production plants. The rendering processes are described in graphic detail, and Upton Sinclair writes, "One could not stand and watch very long without becoming philosophical [. . .]." Write an editorial discussing your reaction after reading about the killing beds. Describe any emotions that you felt while reading. The editorial should be about a page in length.



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## *The Jungle*

### **Chapter Four**

8. Jurgis begins his job at Brown's, which involves sweeping entrails off the floor. He is eager to work despite the heat and overpowering stench. At the end of the day, Jurgis proudly goes home with the dollar and a half that he earned. Write a brief paragraph describing your first job. How did you feel on your first day? If you have not started working, write a paragraph describing where you would like to work.
9. The family cannot decide whether to rent or buy a home. Szedvilas, a friend, warns Jurgis that many poor people are swindled when buying a house. He warns against hidden costs, shoddy building quality, and signing a contract. Szedvilas also admits, however, that paying rent is a rip off. Pretend that you are Jurgis' friend. Write a letter to Jurgis advising him on whether to rent or buy. Provide at least two reasons to support your opinion.

### **Chapter Five**

10. Jurgis' job is physically demanding, but Jurgis feels satisfied when the work is complete. Write a journal entry about a time when you worked hard and felt rewarded for your effort. What was the task, and do you believe that it was worthwhile?
11. The union representative explains to Jurgis that the union is trying to help workers by slowing down the production pace. Jurgis, however, does not sympathize with the workers, insisting that, "if they couldn't do it, let them go somewhere else." Consider Jurgis' point of view, and compose a response in the form of an editorial for your school paper. Do you agree or disagree with Jurgis?

## **Chapter Six**

12. Shortly after buying a house, the family members begin to realize that they have been swindled. The house is not new, as was advertised by the agent. Also, Grandmother Majauszkiene informs them that there are additional costs, such as interest, that they have not taken into account. Think of another character from a book or movie that is conned. Compose a page-long summation of the story, including a description of the character, his or her experience, and how the issue was resolved.
13. The law states that children must be sixteen to work, but people bypass the law by lying about their children's ages. Many people must send their children to work in order to survive. In some instances, the child's income is the only source of money for the family. Unfortunately, dangerous working conditions result in injury or death for many children, some as young as eight years old. Consider the era and the reasons that young children were sent to work, and create a list of ten advantages and disadvantages to child labor. When the list is complete, write a summary paragraph stating whether you ultimately agree or disagree with people in that period allowing their children to work.
14. Grandmother Majauszkiene warns the family that the house is cursed because every previous family that lived there had a member die of consumption. She explains that "there must be something about a house, or the way it was built—some folks said it was because the building had been begun in the dark of the moon." Her superstitious attitude is not uncommon in her community. Are you or someone you know superstitious? Write a brief description about the superstitious beliefs that you or this person exhibits. If you do not know of anyone, write about a fictional character that portrays superstitious qualities.

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*The Jungle*

## **Chapter Seven**

15. Jurgis' experience in Packingtown has left him extremely bitter:

He had learned the ways of things about him now. 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 who used all the virtues to bait their traps with.

Do you feel that Jurgis is justified? Compose a letter to a friend expressing your opinion about Jurgis' cynicism. In the letter, include a description of another person you know or a character from a book who has a similar disposition.

16. Stanislovas develops an extreme fear of the cold after his co-worker loses his ears from frostbite. Stanislovas is unable to conquer his phobia, so he must travel to work with Jurgis everyday. Do you or someone you know have a fear of something, such as heights, spiders, or speaking in public? Create a journal entry about this fear and how it is handled.

## **Chapter Eight**

17. Tamoszius is a passionate fiddle player, and his love of music is evident in his playing. The fiddle serves as a way for Tamoszius to express himself while entertaining his listeners. Choose one of the following questions to complete:
- A. Write a paragraph about an instrument that you play. What type of music do you enjoy playing, and how does playing music make you feel?
  - B. Write a paragraph about an instrument that you enjoy listening to or that you'd like to learn how to play. Why does this instrument appeal to you?
18. Marija accompanies Tamoszius when he plays at parties and state functions. When she returns home, Marija brings treats for the children and gossip for the adults. How do you feel about gossip? For example, are certain types of gossip acceptable, or is gossip always improper? Have you or someone you know ever been hurt by rumors? Answer these questions using complete sentences.
19. In Packingtown, Jurgis experiences the brutal conditions that the workers endure. He becomes convinced that the union is a wonderful way for workers to unite and conquer the packers. Jurgis eagerly joins the union and, in a short time, he also enlists all the working members of his family. Consider a group or non-profit organization that you respect for its work. Write a brief paragraph explaining how the group functions and the qualities that you admire.

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## *The Jungle*

### **Chapter Nine**

20. A scandal develops about Mike Scully, the Democratic Party leader. According to the media, Scully sold ice cut from stagnant water and did not pay taxes on the profits. In addition, his icehouse was built from city lumber that he did not purchase. Scully avoids responsibility, however, by paying a man to take the blame and flee the country. Think of a scandal that you heard about involving a politician or official. The incident may have occurred locally, nationally, or internationally. In the form of an editorial, write a brief explanation of the event, and give your opinion of whether or not the person should be held accountable. If so, how should he or she compensate?
21. Various positions are described, such as the butchers, beef-luggers, hoisters, fertilizer men, and cooking room workers. Review the positions described on page 99, and decide which is the best and the worst job. Explain your choices with complete sentences.

### **Chapter Ten**

22. A class system exists in the plants between blue-collar and white-collar employees. The groups dress differently and live in separate parts of town, so that “the people who worked with their hands were a class apart, and were made to feel it.” Write a journal entry about a character from a book or movie that faces similar degradation, whether from society or another character. What difficulties does the character endure? How do you suppose this character feels?
23. Marija’s pay is shorted and, instead of letting the matter go, she complains to the forelady and superintendent. After several days, Marija makes repeated complaints, which leads to her termination. Now she is unemployed, her family is desperate for money, and jobs are scarce. Considering the circumstances, do you feel that she handled the matter at work appropriately? Compose a letter to Marija in which you offer advice on her situation. If you agree with her actions, however, write a letter to the superintendent giving him your opinion about his decision to dismiss Marija.

## **Chapter Eleven**

24. A strike erupts in the canning shop shortly after Marija is dismissed. Write a brief paragraph explaining the irony of the following passage:

A new union was the result of this outburst, but the impromptu strike went to pieces in three days, owing to the rush of new labor. At the end of it the girl who had carried the red flag went down-town and got a position in a great department store, at a salary of two dollars and a half a week.

25. Jurgis learns that the Beef Trust controls numerous companies in Packingtown. The Beef Trust sets a quality standard and production quota for all plants, and it also fixes the national price for beef. Jurgis does not understand how fixed prices affect his life or the lives of other Americans; he does not know the merits of a competitive market. Pretend that you are going to present a speech on the disadvantages of monopolies. Draft your speech, which should not exceed two pages in length.
26. A crowd gathers when a policeman attempts to arrest a drunken man in a saloon that is adjacent to a bank. The crowd's misunderstanding develops into a public panic, and a run on the bank ensues. Write an account of an instance in a book, movie, or real life when a small event resulted in a large-scale ordeal.

## **Chapter Twelve**

27. Jurgis' swollen ankle worsens, and he is unable to walk. To the family's dismay, the doctor instructs Jurgis to stay off his feet for two months. Jurgis knows that, without his income, they will barely be able to survive, but he is powerless to help. Think of a time when you or someone you know felt helpless. Describe the situation in the form of a journal entry.
28. Jonas, Teta Elzbieta's brother, fails to return home one Saturday. The family fears that Jonas may have died in a factory accident, but they realize that he most likely abandoned them. Jonas is a single man who earns good money; living with a starving family and irritable children is more than he wants to endure. Write a paragraph discussing what you think about his desertion. In your opinion, is Jonas obligated to sacrifice his money to help the family, or is he entitled to be on his own?

## **Chapter Thirteen**

29. Kristoforas, Teta Elzbieta's youngest child, is undersized and crippled. When he dies, presumably from food poisoning, Elzbieta is the only person who mourns his death; the rest of the family sees his death as a relief. Are you surprised by the family's reaction to the child's death? Complete the following conversation in which you discuss the matter with a friend.

**Friend:** I can't imagine someone being relieved that a child dies.  
Wouldn't they be at least a little upset?

**You:** Considering the situation, I think that...

30. Jurgis decides that Vilimas and Nikalojus should return to school in the fall because they are too independent. Elzbieta is instructed to find a job, and Kotrina will stay home to care for the young children. Answer the following questions in complete sentences:
- A. Why do you suppose Jurgis cares about Vilimas and Nikalojus running away if he was indifferent about Kristoforas' death?
  - B. In your opinion, is it wise to allow the boys to return to school, or should they continue to work? Provide a reason to support your answer.
  - C. Should Kotrina also be allowed to attend school? Why or why not?



## **Chapter Fourteen**

31. Several methods are described regarding how spoiled meats are disguised and sold as quality products. For instance, moldy, white sausage that is rejected by Europe “would be dosed with borax and glycerine, and dumped into the hoppers, and made over again for home consumption.” Why do you suppose that Upton Sinclair thoroughly illustrates these processes? What, in your opinion, is his purpose? Provide your answer in a paragraph.
32. Ona suffers from her illness and destitute living conditions; she has a bleak attitude towards the future for herself and the family. Pretend that you are Ona, and compose a poem expressing your outlook on life. You may follow any form of poetry or rhyme scheme that you wish. The finished product should range from six to ten lines.
33. Jurgis develops a drinking habit as a means of escaping the dreariness of his life. He attempts to quit drinking, however, after he spends all the family’s money at the saloon. Compose the dramatic scene in which Jurgis admits to Ona that he has spent all of their money. Ona is unaware that her husband drinks, so that issue must also be addressed. Your final piece should range between two and three pages in length.

## **Chapter Fifteen**

34. Ona confesses that she is being blackmailed to sleep with her boss, Connor. She tells Jurgis, “He told me he would—we would all of us lose our places. We could never get anything to do—here—again. He—he meant it—he would have ruined us.” Imagine that you are Ona’s friend, and she confides in you about her situation before she tells Jurgis. Write a letter to Ona offering her advice on how to deal with her problem. Also, advise her on whether or not she should tell Jurgis, and why.
35. Connor abuses his power by manipulating Ona, who is naïve and desperate. Ona feels that she has no choice but to submit to Connor’s demands. Think of another character from a book or movie that is blackmailed. In a paragraph, describe the situation, including whether or not the character submits.

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*The Jungle*

## **Chapter Sixteen**

36. The pride that Jurgis feels from beating up Connor begins to fade, and he realizes that his actions have further endangered his wife and child. Ona will certainly lose her position, and Jurgis is unable to support his family while in prison. Recall a time when you or someone you know regretted doing or saying something. Write a journal entry about the incident.
37. The ringing church bells remind Jurgis that it is Christmas Eve. Jurgis reminisces about Christmastime in Lithuania with his father and brother, and with Ona the previous year. Write a journal entry about your favorite holiday. Why is the holiday special to you?
38. Jurgis is tortured by the thought that his family is starving while he sits in jail, and he assigns blame for his situation. Write a paragraph explaining who or what Jurgis means by “they” in the following passage:

They had ground him beneath their heel, they had devoured all his substance; they had murdered his old father, they had broken and wrecked his wife, they had crushed and cowed his whole family; and now they were through with him, they had no further use for him—and because he had interfered with them, had gotten in their way, this is what they had done to him!

## **Chapter Seventeen**

39. Jurgis is surprised when he meets Jack Duane because Jack looks like a gentleman, and not a thief. Jurgis cannot imagine that an educated man would commit a crime. Think about a time when you or someone you know misjudged someone or something. In what way were appearances deceiving? Relay the experience in a letter to Jurgis.
40. Jurgis determines a gentleman by his manner of speech, as in proper pronunciation and an extended vocabulary. How do you determine an educated person? Create a list of five qualities that you believe are representative of a learned or genteel individual.
41. The following passage describes life in Packingtown according to Jurgis' observations:

A city in which justice and honor, women's bodies and men's souls, were for sale in the market-place, and human beings writhed and fought and fell upon each other like wolves in a pit; in which lusts were raging fires, and men were fuel, and humanity was festering and stewing and wallowing in its own corruption.

In your opinion, how does this passage relate to the title of the novel, *The Jungle*? Write a paragraph describing how city life and prison life are like living in a jungle.

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## *The Jungle*

### **Chapter Eighteen**

42. Jurgis is upset when he finds out that the boy deceived him. The boy's joke has cost Jurgis over an hour of walking in the wrong direction. Think of a character from a book or movie that was a victim of a practical joke. Write a brief summary of the character's experience. Include how the character felt about being the target of a joke.
43. Aniele and the women lend money to Jurgis so that he can try to hire a midwife. The women generously donate all their money despite their impoverished lifestyles. Pretend that you are a reporter, and you are writing a piece on the goodwill of people. Write a story about a time, either fictional or real, when people came together to help someone in need.

### **Chapter Nineteen**

44. Madame Haupt's twenty-five dollar fee is too much for Jurgis, who has only a dollar and a quarter. After debating for some time, the midwife finally agrees to help after Jurgis promises to pay her by the end of the month. Consider Madame Haupt's show of faith in Jurgis, and answer the following questions in complete sentences:
  - A. When, if ever, have you witnessed or heard about someone trusting or relying on a stranger?
  - B. In your opinion, are people today more or less likely to trust others?
  - C. Do you believe that Madame Haupt would still trust Jurgis if the situation occurred in modern times?

## **Chapter Twenty**

45. Tragically, Ona and the baby die during childbirth, which is almost more than Jurgis can bear. In spite of the pain, Jurgis struggles on for his son, Antanas, and he immediately begins looking for a job. Think about a character from a book or movie that endures after a hardship primarily for another person. Write a paragraph about this character's misfortune and how he or she perseveres.
46. Jurgis quickly learns that he has been blacklisted in the packing plants; no one will hire him because of his fight with Connor. No one says anything, but Jurgis knows that he is banned in all packing places, with no chance to defend himself. Create a journal entry about a time when you or someone you know witnessed or experienced discrimination. How did the incident make you feel?
47. Jurgis gets a job with a forward-thinking company; "its workshops were big and roomy, it provided a restaurant where the workmen could buy good food at cost; it had even a reading-room...." To Jurgis, the Harvester Works company seems too good to be true. What do you think a company should provide or offer to its employees? Create a list of five programs or benefits that you think a company should offer to its employees. Choose the one you think is most important and write two sentences that explain why it is necessary.
48. Jurgis' outlook on life improves as he grows accustomed to his new job. He begins to plan for the future, hoping that, with his steady income, the family will move to a better neighborhood. What are your aspirations for the future? In a paragraph, describe what you plan to do over the next fifteen years. Will you attend college and, if so, where? Where do you wish to live? What career do you intend to pursue? Do you foresee marriage and children?

## Chapter Twenty-one

49. Juozapas meets a settlement worker who wants to hear the family's story of hardship. The woman is deeply moved by Elzbieta's tale, so she donates food and provides a job for Jurgis. When she sees the family's living conditions, however, she is reminded of a remark, "that she was standing upon the brink of the pit of hell and throwing in snowballs to lower the temperature." Create a journal entry in which you discuss this statement. First, explain what the comment means. Next, discuss whether or not you agree. In your opinion, are the woman's efforts fruitless or worthwhile? Provide reasons to support your opinion.
50. The family learns that the settlement worker is a member of a local charity group. Group members are rich people who move to the neighborhood to better understand the poor. Elzbieta does not understand the group's motives, but she is grateful for the help she receives. Choose one of the following questions to complete:
- A. Imagine that you are the settlement worker, and you are writing a letter to your fiancé about Elzbieta and her family. Describe their situation, including how you felt when you heard their story and saw their dwelling. In the letter, explain to your fiancé why he must provide a job for Jurgis.
  - B. Pretend that you are Elzbieta, and you are writing a thank you letter to the settlement worker. In the letter, express how much she has helped your family, and what her actions mean to you.

## **Chapter Twenty-two**

51. Antanas' death is a great shock to Jurgis, who immediately leaves the house and wanders through the city. When he sees a passing train, "a wild impulse seized him, a thought that had been lurking within him, unspoken, unrecognized, leaped into sudden life." Jurgis jumps on a freight car and begins a life of tramping. Have you or someone you know ever done something spontaneously? Complete the following conversation by telling a friend about the incident.

**Friend:** I can't imagine doing something like Jurgis. He just walked away from his family and job like that! I'm more of a planner myself. What about you?

**You:** Well, I don't know about jumping onto a moving train, but I can tell you about. . .

52. Once in the country, Jurgis tries to heal from the death of his son. He decides that compassion was his downfall, and so he begins "tearing up all the flowers from the garden of his soul, and setting his heel upon them." Jurgis' solution is that he should never care so much again for another person. Write a paragraph about another character from a book or movie that is emotionally devastated or destroyed. What happens to the character, and how does he or she react?
53. Jurgis asks for food at a farm, but the farmer refuses to sell to Jurgis because he is a tramp. In retaliation, Jurgis uproots a hundred young peach trees as he leaves the farm. Jurgis thinks that his vandalism is justified. Do you agree or disagree? Write an editorial for your school paper discussing the pros and cons of revenge, and use Jurgis' situation as an example.



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*The Jungle*

## **Chapter Twenty-three**

54. As the winter approaches, Jurgis returns to Chicago and searches for work. Why do you suppose he chose Chicago instead of another city, especially since he is blacklisted in the stockyards? Write your answer in a short paragraph.
55. Jurgis is unable to work after he is injured, and he is forced to beg. Professional beggars, however, make Jurgis seem ineffectual; he must compete against people who wear makeup and mutilate their bodies for sympathy. Choose one of the following questions, and answer it with complete sentences:
- A. Write about a time when you or someone you know encountered a beggar. How did you react or feel?
  - B. Write about a character from a book or movie that becomes homeless. What difficulties does the character face, and how do people react to him or her?

## **Chapter Twenty-four**

56. One night, Jurgis meets Freddie, a drunken young man who is wandering the streets. Freddie invites Jurgis to his home for supper, and produces a hundred-dollar bill from a large roll of bills for cab fare. Jurgis is shocked, and he considers stealing the cash. Imagine that you are Jurgis; you are starving on the streets in the wintertime, and you cannot work because of an injury. Would you steal the money? Discuss your answer in a journal entry. Also, explain when, if ever, theft is justifiable.
57. Freddie's home is a large estate that reminds Jurgis of a castle. The inside of the house is equally impressive, with marbled floors, domed ceilings, and striking artwork. Write a paragraph about a time when you were impressed by architecture or wealth. What did you find remarkable?

## **Chapter Twenty-five**

58. Jurgis and Duane rob a man and knock him out. The next day, they learn that the money they stole did not belong to the man, but to his company. Also, the victim suffered a head concussion and will lose three fingers from frostbite. Jurgis is upset about hurting the man, but Duane is unnerved by the information. Complete the following conversation by providing a response to Duane:

**Duane:** "It's a case of us or the other fellow, and I say the other fellow, every time."

**You:**

59. Jurgis learns about the various Trusts, and the way that they manipulate the government and business. The Poolroom Trust, for instance, controls race halls throughout the country. A horse can be manipulated by being "doctored, undertrained or overtrained; it could be made to fall at any moment—or its gait could be broken by lashing it with the whip...." Horseracing is no longer a sport. In your opinion, is there a sport today that is similarly rigged or unfair? Explain your answer in a short paragraph.

## **Chapter Twenty-six**

60. Contract negotiations begin between the packers and the workers, but they cannot reach an agreement. The workers want to establish a minimum wage, but the packers claim that the company is losing money. What is your opinion about the situation? Draft a contract that you think is reasonable for each party. Be sure to address the wage issue, and include at least three additional items that you think are relevant, such as holiday time or breaks.
61. A strike begins when the workers' demands are not met. The packers, however, do not panic over the loss of laborers; instead, they ship in new workers from around the country. In your opinion, how effective are strikes or protests? Write an editorial on the subject for your school paper. In your article, include an example from real life that supports your view.
62. Scully convinces Jurgis to work during the strike because there is no other work available. Jurgis also understands that his loyalty will be rewarded, but not without a price. Compose a list of three positive and three negative aspects of being a scab.
63. The media sensationalizes strike events, making tension rise in the city. Initially, Jurgis is amused by the newspaper stories, but, eventually, strikebreakers are unable to enter the city for fear of being attacked. The media's influence on public opinion is strong. Write a paragraph about a time when you knew or believed that a newsgroup exaggerated, distorted, or excluded details. How was the news story influenced?

## **Chapter Twenty-seven**

64. Jurgis is shocked to learn that Marija has become a prostitute. Over the past year, she has been forced to discard her morals in order to survive. She tells Jurgis that when starving people “have anything with a price, they ought to sell it [. . .].” Do you agree with Marija’s statement? Why or why not? Provide your answer in complete sentences.
65. Marija believes that, if Jurgis had not been naïve, he would not have attacked Connor and ruined their lives. Do you agree, or do you believe that Jurgis would have reacted the same way? Write a letter to Marija discussing the matter. In the letter, mention two of Jurgis’ characteristics or events from his life that support your view.

## **Chapter Twenty-eight**

66. Jurgis enters a conference hall to stay warm, and he becomes entranced by the animated speaker. The orator is visually excited about his topic, and he draws the audience in with his passion. Consider a public figure, either from the past or the present, who you consider a great speaker. Write an editorial about this person explaining what makes him or her an effective orator. What did this person accomplish?
67. Review the speech given on pages 280 through 285, and write a critique by discussing two positive or negative elements of the speech. In your opinion, is this a well-written speech? What elements do you believe are the most effective to the audience?

## **Chapter Twenty-nine**

68. Jurgis is so excited about Socialism that he attempts to recruit his family and anyone he meets. In a paragraph, discuss the qualities of Socialism that appeal to Jurgis. Explain the type of person that you think Socialism is most likely to attract, and why.
69. Jurgis reflects upon his first days in Packingtown, and how “he had stood and watched the hog-killing, and thought how cruel and savage it was, and come away congratulating himself that he was not a hog....” Jurgis realizes, however, that he was like a hog for the packers. Complete the following conversation by explaining to a friend how Jurgis was comparable to a hog while he worked in the yards.

**Friend:** I don’t get it. Jurgis is a man, not a hog. Maybe he smelled funny from working in the slaughterhouse, but I don’t see how he can be called a hog.

**You:** He’s not literally a hog; it’s a metaphor. While Jurgis was working for the packers, he...

## **Chapter Thirty**

70. Tommy Hinds, Jurgis' new boss, is relieved when he learns that Jurgis is a Socialist. He says, "I didn't sleep all last night because I had discharged a good Socialist!" Think about a character from a book or movie that is forced to make a difficult decision. Write a summary of the character's experience, including the decision that he or she makes.
71. Jurgis continues to be passionate about the Socialist movement despite any opposition that he encounters. No one can convince Jurgis that there are any downsides to the political party. Create a journal entry about a time when you were passionate about an issue. How did your interest begin, and how long did your enthusiasm last?
72. Main organizers of the Socialist "Army" are known by their nicknames, such as "Inky Ike" and "the Bulldog." Write a brief paragraph about a nickname for you or someone you know. How or why was the nickname assigned?

## **Chapter Thirty-one**

73. The Socialist Party does not win the presidential election, but Socialist votes dramatically increase nationwide. In Packingtown, the number of Socialist votes is amazingly close to the number of Democratic votes. Pretend that it is the day after the 1904 election. Write an editorial for the "Appeal to Reason," the Socialist paper, giving your reaction to the election. Why do you suppose popularity for the Socialist Party is growing?

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## *The Jungle*

### **W r a p - u p**

74. What seems to be Upton Sinclair's primary purpose for writing *The Jungle*? Write your answer in a brief paragraph, and provide examples from the novel to support your view.
75. Explain how this novel has influenced you. For instance, has your viewpoint on politics, immigration, or the meat industry changed?
76. Upton Sinclair uses metaphors to relay meaning. In a paragraph, explain how the hogs and cattle represent the workers, and why capitalism is referred to as the "Great Butcher."
77. Write a letter to Upton Sinclair expressing your opinion of *The Jungle*. In the letter, include your most and least favorite parts of the novel.
78. What do you think will become of Jurgis? Write a single page summary of his life ten years after the election.
79. Which is your favorite character in *The Jungle*, and why? Write a letter to the character expressing your opinion about him or her.
80. Explain how Upton Sinclair portrays the exploitation of immigrants in Packingtown. Provide two examples from the novel to support your answer.
81. Write a paragraph that explains how the title, *The Jungle*, accurately depicts the contents of the novel.

## **Test**

1. Who is getting married when the novel begins?
  - A. Antanas and Teta Elzbieta
  - B. Nikalojus and Teta Elzbieta
  - C. Nikalojus and Ona
  - D. Jurgis and Ona
  - E. Jurgis and Marija
  
2. What is Jurgis' native country?
  - A. Poland
  - B. Lithuania
  - C. Germany
  - D. Romania
  - E. Russia
  
3. What animals are processed in Packingtown?
  - A. hogs
  - B. cattle
  - C. sheep
  - D. chickens
  - E. Both A and B
  
4. What is Ona's relationship to Teta Elzbieta?
  - A. daughter-in-law
  - B. niece
  - C. mother
  - D. stepdaughter
  - E. sister
  
5. How is Jurgis' family deceived when they buy the house?
  - A. The house is scheduled for demolition.
  - B. The house is not new.
  - C. The contract is not legal.
  - D. The family is not informed of all costs.
  - E. Both B and D



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## *The Jungle*

6. Jurgis is arrested the first time because he
  - A. steals food.
  - B. attacks Ona's boss.
  - C. steals money.
  - D. attacks the realtor.
  - E. fights a bartender for money.
7. Which of the following concepts are not addressed in *The Jungle*?
  - A. the sacrificing nature of women
  - B. the unregulated meat industry
  - C. the ineffectiveness of child labor laws
  - D. socialism as a solution for poverty
  - E. None of the above
8. Why does Jurgis join the union?
  - A. inconsistent work hours
  - B. reduced pay
  - C. accelerated work pace
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
9. Marija is fired from the canning factory because
  - A. she yells at her boss.
  - B. she steals cans.
  - C. she bothers her bosses about pay.
  - D. she arrives late to work too many times.
  - E. Both A and B
10. Jurgis is placed on bed rest for two months because
  - A. he twists a tendon in his ankle.
  - B. he breaks his arm.
  - C. he breaks his leg.
  - D. he gets pneumonia.
  - E. his leg becomes infected.

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*Response Journal*

11. When Jurgis is released from bed rest, he cannot find a job. Where does he go to work as a final act of desperation?
    - A. coal mine
    - B. slaughter house
    - C. fertilizer plant
    - D. iron mill
    - E. the streets as a beggar
  12. Vilimas and Nikalojus are removed from school to work
    - A. in the canning factory.
    - B. in Brown's factory.
    - C. downtown selling papers.
    - D. downtown hailing carriages.
    - E. as chimney sweeps.
  13. Why does Ona fail to return home on several occasions?
    - A. She is stranded at her friend's house.
    - B. She has no money for transportation.
    - C. She is trapped by a snowstorm.
    - D. She is forced to go downtown.
    - E. None of the above
  14. Jurgis has food and shelter in prison, while his family is starving and homeless. This situation is an example of
    - A. a simile.
    - B. irony.
    - C. a metaphor.
    - D. hubris.
    - E. None of the above
  15. How does Ona die?
    - A. childbirth
    - B. pneumonia
    - C. heart attack
    - D. head injury
    - E. food poisoning
-

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## *The Jungle*

16. Jurgis is sentenced to prison on what holiday?
  - A. Easter
  - B. Hanukah
  - C. New Year's Eve
  - D. Fourth of July
  - E. Christmas Eve
17. Jurgis' first-born son, Antanas, tragically dies when
  - A. he drinks spoiled milk.
  - B. he inhales insecticide.
  - C. he falls off a plank and drowns in mud.
  - D. he falls asleep in the factory and is eaten by rats.
  - E. he freezes in the snow.
18. What does Jurgis do after his son dies?
  - A. Jurgis jumps on a moving train.
  - B. Jurgis shaves his head.
  - C. Jurgis becomes a tramp.
  - D. Jurgis stops talking.
  - E. Both A and C
19. A strike begins in the stockyards because
  - A. a non-union boss hits a worker.
  - B. a new contract cannot be negotiated.
  - C. wages are reduced.
  - D. benefits are cut.
  - E. Both B and C
20. What political party does Jurgis join because he believes that it helps the workingman?
  - A. Democratic Party
  - B. Republican Party
  - C. Socialist Party
  - D. Libertarian Party
  - E. Green Party

## **NOTES**

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*The Jungle*

Test  
Student Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Jungle*

Test  
Answer Key

1. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_E\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

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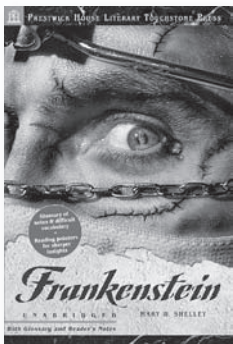
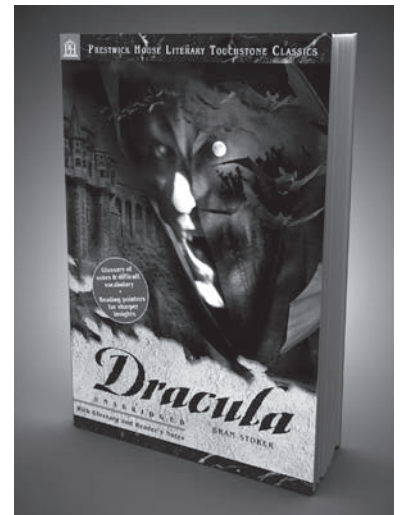
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