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# Individual Learning Packet

## Teaching Unit

# *The Jungle*

by Upton Sinclair

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# *The Jungle*

## Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. relate significant details from the story illustrating the hardships the men and women endure working in the Chicago stockyards in the early 1900's.
2. define vocabulary words from the text.
3. point out instances of the following literary devices: allusion, flashback, in media res, foreshadowing, and irony.
4. discuss the following themes:
  - People in authority use their positions to take advantage of others.
  - The capitalist economic system promotes economic efficiency at the expense of the health of the people.
  - The capitalist economic system promotes anti-social behavior.
  - There is little justice in a capitalist economic system for the lower class, the unskilled laborer.
  - Those in authority in the capitalist system will take unfair advantage over those less powerful.
  - In a capitalist society, marriage and children severely limit a man's economic prospects.
5. point out instances of the following uses of language: descriptive imagery, personification, simile, metaphor, and repetition.
6. cite incidents from the story to illustrate that Jurgis is an example of the classic literary type, a *naif*.
7. discuss in what sense Sinclair's description of the killing of the hogs is an allegory representing the lives of the unskilled stockyard workers.
8. define "muckraker," and point out details which illustrate *The Jungle* is a muckraking novel; comment on the author's reasons for writing a muckraking novel.
9. discuss the following as possible symbols in the story: the house Jurgis buys, Jurgis' bath in the stream, and Marija.
10. define the following terms associated with the stockyards: pacemakers, speeding up, graft, the War Whoop League, the killing beds, duffers and dope, blacklisted, and scab.

11. understand the differences between a capitalist economic system and a socialist economic system including the definitions of the following terms: competitive wage system, Communism, and proletariat.
12. discuss the extent to which labor unions in this novel are effective in helping to improve working conditions for the unskilled laborer.
13. point out incidents in the story which illustrate the following characteristics of the naturalistic movement in literature:
  - people in lower economic classes who must fight against overwhelming odds to survive.
  - an urban rather than a rural setting.
  - a story that describes the harsh realities of life and the unsuccessful attempts that the characters make to change the circumstances of their lives.
14. discuss the significance of the title of this story; include: the importance of Sinclair's use of animal imagery and his ties to the naturalistic movement in literature.
15. relate significant details from the story to illustrate Sinclair's belief that in a capitalist economic system, the justice system, the political system, and big businesses all work together to oppress the working man.
16. cite instances from the story to trace Jurgis' transformation from a naive immigrant, to a disillusioned, defeated man, to a criminal, and finally to a socialist.
17. discuss how Jurgis' journey also serves to illustrate Sinclair's naturalistic writing style and his socialist beliefs.
18. discuss the pros and cons of Schliemann's vision of a socialist society and state your opinion of the merits of his position.
19. comment on the ending of the story and the extent to which you believe the ending provides a satisfying conclusion to the story of Jurgis' life.

# The Jungle

## Definitions and Terms

*Allegory* - a story that represents abstract ideas or moral qualities. As such, an allegory has both a literal level and a symbolic level of meaning. Example: *Gulliver's Travels*.

*Allusion* - a reference to a person, place, poem, book, event, or movie outside of the story that the author expects the reader will recognize. Example: In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tom speaks of "Chamberlain's umbrella," a reference to the British Prime Minister.

*Climax* - the point of greatest dramatic tension or excitement in a story. Example: Othello's murder of Desdemona.

*Flashback* - a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happened earlier.

*Foreshadowing*- the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense.

*Imagery* - the use of words to evoke sensory impressions that are beyond the words themselves. Similar to *symbol* and *motif*. Example: "Get thee to a nunnery," from *Hamlet* implies purity and chastity, not simply a convent.

*in media res* - a Latin expression meaning the story begins in the middle of the action. Example: the audience listening to an epic already knew most of the details, the teller of the tale did not need to start at the beginning of the action.

*Irony* - a subtle, sometimes humorous perception of inconsistency in which the significance of a statement or event is changed by its content. For example: the firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic irony* - the audience knows more about a character's situation than the character does, foreseeing an outcome contrary from the character's expectations. The character's statements have one meaning for the character and a different meaning for the reader, who knows more than the character.
- *Structural irony* - a naïve hero whose view of the world differs from the author's and reader's. Structural irony flatters the reader's intelligence at the expense of the hero.
- *Verbal irony* - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. Example: calling a stupid man smart.

*Metaphor* - a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar but are brought together in order to create a sharp image. Example: The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

*Mood* - the emotional aspect of the work, which contributes to the feeling the reader gets from the book. Example: Gothic novels like *Frankenstein* have a gloomy, dark quality to them reflected by nature, character, and plot.

*Naif* - an innocent; a person unfamiliar and unaware of the dangers and temptations of the world. Examples: *Benjy* in the *Sound and the Fury*.

*Narrator* - the one who tells the story. If the narrator is a character in the book, the term is first-person narration. (Example: *Moby Dick* is narrated by Ishmael, a crew member). If the narrator is not a character, the term is third-person narration. (Example: *Sense and Sensibility*).

*Naturalism* - a literary movement that began in the late nineteenth century, which emphasized that man was as much a prisoner of instinct, environment, and heredity as animals; man has no free will in the theory of naturalism. Examples: *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, *The Call of the Wild*.

*Personification* - a figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human characteristics. Example: The pig laughed all the way to the barn.

*Propaganda literature* – writing designed to sway and persuade the reader toward or away from a certain belief. Ex: Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*

*Protagonist* - the central or main character in a story around which the plot centers. Example: Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*.

*Round Character* - characters that have many sides; they have both faults and virtues and, therefore, are able to surprise the reader. They are more like real people. Example: Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* is both arrogant and humble.

*Sarcasm* - the use of harsh words to deride someone. Sometimes sarcasm is only apparent by the way something is said rather than the actual words that are used. Example: Stage directions in *The Taming of the Shrew* are sometimes meant sarcastically.

*Setting* - when and where the short story, play, or novel takes place. Example: *Macbeth* takes place in the eleventh century in Scotland, which greatly influences the story and adds the elements of truthfulness to its violence.

*Simile* - a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. Example: I am as hungry as a horse.

*Symbol* - an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. Example: The sea could be symbolic for “the unknown,” since the sea is something which is physical and can be seen by the reader, but has elements which cannot be understood, it can be used *symbolically* to stand for the abstraction of “mystery,” “obscurity,” or “the unknown.”

*Theme* - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different devices: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them.

In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: “real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance.” In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: “youth fades and death comes to all.”

*Tone* - the atmosphere in a literary work or the attitude the author puts in a literary work. Examples: The gloom and representation of decay is the dominant tone in Poe’s *The Fall of the House of Usher*; the tone of *Catch-22* is one of sarcasm and absurdity.

# *The Jungle*

## Test

### Multiple Choice

1. Sinclair begins this novel by describing Jurgis and Ona's wedding. This beginning is an example of:
  - A. naïf.
  - B. in media res.
  - C. third person omniscient narration.
  - D. muckraking.
  - E. allusion.
  
2. One important mistake Jurgis and Ona make when they first arrive in Chicago is to
  - A. get married.
  - B. agree to share expenses with Elzbieta, Marija, and the children.
  - C. buy a house.
  - D. listen to the advice of Jokubas and Lucija Szedvilas, the proprietors of the delicatessen.
  - E. fail to heed the advice of Grandmother Majauszkiene.
  
3. Which literary device(s) are present in the following excerpt from the story which describes the view Jurgis and Ona have of Chicago as they first enter the city?

“They sat and stared out of the window. They were on a street which seemed to run on forever, mile after mile – thirty-four of them, if they had known it – and each side of it one uninterrupted row of wretched little two-story frame buildings. Down every side street they could see, it was the same – never a hill and never a hollow, but always the same endless vista of ugly and dirty little wooden buildings. Here and there would be a bridge crossing a filthy creek, with hard-baked mud shores and dingy sheds and docks along it; here and there would be a railroad crossing, with a tangle of switches, and locomotives puffing, and rattling freight-cars filing by; here and there would be a great factory, a dingy building with innumerable windows in it, and immense volumes of smoke pouring from the chimneys, darkening the air above and making filthy the earth beneath. But after each of these interruptions, the desolate procession would begin again – the procession of dreary little buildings.” (Pg. 32)

  - A. This excerpt foreshadows the relentless, hopeless cycle of oppression the young couple will find in Chicago.
  - B. Sinclair sometimes shifts the point of view from classic third person omniscient narration to a narrative style that seems to speak directly to the reader. This excerpt is an example of this shift.
  - C. This excerpt marks the end of the incidents describing Jurgis and Ona's past which is told as a flashback in the first six chapters of the book.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C



4. Sinclair is a muckraker who writes this novel to
  - A. educate his readers on some social issues and conditions that he believes needs to be changed.
  - B. promote socialism and condemn capitalism.
  - C. point out the importance of competition in big business to protect the worker from abuses.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
5. Pacemakers are
  - A. men in key positions in the meat processing plant who speed up the work, so that the whole line must speed up.
  - B. men who take the jobs of union workers during a strike.
  - C. men who are denied every job they apply for because their names appear on a secret list.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
6. Which of the following incidents from the story illustrates the theme that the capitalist economic system promotes immoral behavior?
  - A. Marija becomes a prostitute.
  - B. The children must leave school to sell newspapers.
  - C. Ona is unfaithful to Jurgis.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
7. The War Whoop League is
  - A. the secret name for the meatpacker's union.
  - B. a socialist club founded by Schliemann and Ostrinski.
  - C. a political club comprised of thugs like Scully.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
8. Many of the men in Packingtown turn to drink because
  - A. there is no warm place for a man to eat unless he goes into a saloon.
  - B. the packers pay the men with checks. The only place to cash these checks is in a saloon.
  - C. most of the men in Packingtown do not have families to go home to.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C

9. At first, joining the union seems to be beneficial for Jurgis because after joining he
- A. wants to learn English and begins to pay attention to the politics of the country.
  - B. receives a 5 cent an hour raise.
  - C. is able to rise in status, so that he becomes one of the bosses.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
10. The superfluity of employees in the packing plant helps to
- A. break the union strikes.
  - B. reduce Jurgis' hours and therefore his income.
  - C. provide more work for Jurgis.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
11. Which of the following is an example of irony?
- A. Elzbieta must work in a sausage plant to earn money to support herself and her children, yet Elzbieta's son dies from eating tainted sausage.
  - B. Antanas is named after his grandfather.
  - C. Ona is only eighteen years old when she dies.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
12. Ona becomes a nervous woman because
- A. she is sexually harassed by her boss.
  - B. she does not get along with Elzbieta and the other women in the household.
  - C. she no longer loves her husband.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
13. Ona's death in childbirth illustrates the theme that
- A. There is little justice in a capitalist economic system for the lower class, unskilled worker.
  - B. The capitalist economic system promotes immoral behavior.
  - C. The capitalist economic system promotes economic efficiency at the expense of the health of the people.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C

14. Which of the following statements can be attributed to Ona?
- A. "Leave it to me; leave it to me. I will earn more money – I will work harder." (Pg. 28)
  - B. "I would not put on my hat for a dollar and a quarter." (Pg. 178)
  - C. "I tried – I tried not to do it. I only did it – to save us. It was our only chance." (Pg. 145)
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
15. Which literary device(s) are present in the following passage from the story?
- "The word rang through him like the sound of a bell, echoing in the far depth of him, making forgotten chords to vibrate, old shadowy fear to stir – fears of the dark, fears of the void, fears of annihilation." (Pg. 183)
- A. repetition, allusion, personification
  - B. repetition only
  - C. personification only
  - D. simile only
  - E. repetition, simile
16. The two major turning points in Jurgis' life are
- A. when his son dies and when he goes to jail.
  - B. when he learns about socialism and when his son dies.
  - C. his marriage to Ona and her death.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
17. Jurgis is moved by the socialist speaker because
- A. he has lived through most of the hardships the speaker describes.
  - B. Jurgis realizes that he is not powerless to resist the oppression of the packers.
  - C. he is drunk.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
18. Using animal imagery, a writer in Sinclair's day might have described the businesses in Packingtown as
- A. fusillade
  - B. predaceous
  - C. seraphic
  - D. felicitous
  - E. slunk

19. A system in which men and women who are dependent on a job to survive bid against each other to get that job, in order that no one is paid more than the lowest bid, is called
- A. the proletariat.
  - B. communism.
  - C. socialism.
  - D. the competitive wage system.
  - E. thralldom.
20. One of the benefits of a socialist system is
- A. the economy of co-operative cooking.
  - B. the abandonment of frivolous pursuits such as the arts.
  - C. the owners of the big businesses will be forced to pay the workers enough money to live decent lives.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C

### Essay (Select any two.)

1. Discuss the significance of the title of the novel. Consider Sinclair's use of animal imagery in the story and his belief in naturalism.
2. Cite incidents from the story to prove the following statement. In a capitalist economic system, the justice system, the political system, and big business all work together to oppress the working man.
3. Read the following description of the killing of the hogs. In what ways is this description an example of an allegory?

"There were groups of cattle being driven to the chutes, which were roadways about fifteen feet wide, raided high above the pens. In these chutes the stream of animals was continuous; it was quite uncanny to watch them, pressing on to their fate, all unsuspecting – a very river of death. Our friends were not poetical, and the sight suggested to them no metaphors of human destiny; they thought only of the wonderful efficiency of it all. The chutes into which the hogs went climbed high up – to the very top of the distant buildings; and Jokubas explained that the hogs went up by the power of their own legs, and then their weight carried them back through all the processes necessary to make them into pork." (Pg. 39)

4. Some critics believe that Sinclair had a dual purpose in writing this novel. He wanted to expose the injustices that common laborers suffer working in the stockyards of Chicago. Additionally, he wanted to establish socialism as the solution to the oppression of unskilled workers. Cite incidents from the story to support these statements.
5. Define the American Dream. Cite incidents from the story to illustrate why Jurgis comes to believe that the American dream is false.

# *The Jungle*

## Notes

One of Upton Sinclair's purposes in writing this novel was to expose the abuses of the meat packing industry in the early 1900's, which he does in graphic detail. Due to the outrage of the public, which read the book in a serial form, the 1906 Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Acts were established.

In addition to muckraking, *The Jungle* is also an example of naturalistic fiction, a type of literature that describes the often harsh realities of life in an effort to illustrate the naturalistic principle of the survival of the fittest.

Sinclair was also a socialist who believed that the capitalist economic system was responsible for all of the working man's troubles. In *The Jungle*, Sinclair relentlessly points out the flaws in capitalism and brazenly presents socialism as the solution to all of the workers' problems. Some students may be disturbed by a novel that criticizes "the American way," but it is important for students in today's global economy to understand why some people or some cultures might dislike our capitalistic system.

It must be noted that in one small section of this story, Sinclair uses prejudicial language to describe African-Americans, which, unfortunately, was commonly accepted at the time; there are also mentions of prostitutes and prostitution and a few slight uses of profanity. *The Jungle* contains many horrible details depicting the suffering of the immigrant family, which may be disturbing to some readers. The book also served as a vehicle to promote Upton Sinclair's socialist, anti-capitalist beliefs. Numerous questions deal with that type of propagandizing. Students should be aware that Sinclair's views colored his thoughts and writings.

# *The Jungle*

## Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Find three vocabulary words for each of the following categories.
  - A. Words describing the work in the packing plants.
  - B. Words describing character traits.
  - C. Words defining political ideas or concepts.
2. Relate an incident from the story describing the ways the capitalist economic system, in Sinclair's view, harms the elderly, the children, and the women in Packingtown.
3. For what reasons does Jurgis embrace the ideas of socialism?
4. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement: Marriage is not good for a man working in Packingtown.
5. Why does Ona give in to Connor's advances? Why does she hide her problems at work from her husband?
6. Define the "American Dream." What might the house Jurgis buys symbolize or represent in the story? What theme for this novel does this incident illustrate?
7. Cite two incidents from the story to support the following theme: the capitalist economic system promotes economic efficiency at the expense of the health of the people.
8. Describe life in a socialist community as defined by Schliemann. Discuss the merits and the drawbacks of such a system, basing your answer on your own observations, experiences, and opinions.
9. Define the term "muckraker." Find a passage in the text where Sinclair seems to be more interested in muckraking than he is in telling Jurgis' story.
10. Some critics believe Jurgis experiences two turning points in his life. One of these is when little Antanas dies. Which incident do you think is his second turning point?

11. Naturalism is defined as a literary movement that began in the late nineteenth century, which emphasizes that man is as much a prisoner of instinct, environment, and heredity as animals; man has no free will in the theory of naturalism. Novels written in this form often include: people in lower economic classes who must fight against overwhelming odds to survive, an urban rather than a rural setting, a story that describes the harsh realities of life and the unsuccessful attempts that the characters make to change the circumstances of their lives.

Based on this definition, cite incidents from the story to prove that *The Jungle* is an example of naturalistic writing.

12. Discuss the significance of the title. Consider the reasons why Sinclair frequently uses animal imagery in his descriptions of the characters.
13. Compare the characters Ona and Marija. What characteristics does Marija possess which help her to survive life in Packingtown?
14. “There were groups of cattle being driven to the chutes, which were roadways about fifteen feet wide, raised high above the pens. In these chutes the stream of animals was continuous; it was quite uncanny to watch them, pressing on to their fate, all unsuspecting – a very river of death. Our friends were not poetical, and the sight suggested to them no metaphors of human destiny; they thought only of the wonderful efficiency of it all. The chutes into which the hogs went climbed high up – to the very top of the distant buildings; and Jokubas explained that the hogs went up by the power of their own legs, and then their weight carried them back through all the processes necessary to make them into pork.” (Pg. 39)

In what ways is the above description also an allegory for the lives of unskilled laborers in the stockyards?

15. The story begins in media res (in the middle of the action). In chapters 2 – 6, the story is told as a flashback. For what reasons do you think Sinclair chose to begin his novel in this way?
16. What is the main reason the labor unions are unsuccessful at improving working conditions in the stockyards?
17. Big businesses, politicians, and judges seem to work together in this story. Discuss how this combination of power, in Sinclair’s view, serves to oppress the working class.
18. Define each of the following terms by relating it to an incident in Jurgis’ life. For example, Jurgis receives “duffers and dope” in jail. Duffer is a slang word meaning useless. In jail, Jurgis is fed worthless bread (duffer) and drugged coffee (dope).

The War Whoop League  
the killing beds  
blacklisted  
scab

# *The Jungle*

## Test Key

1. B	6. E	11. A	16. B
2. C	7. C	12. A	17. D
3. A	8. D	13. C	18. B
4. D	9. A	14. C	19. D
5. A	10. D	15. E	20. A



# *The Jungle*

## Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Note: All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press Edition of *The Jungle*, published 2005.

### Chapter 1

#### Vocabulary

**acziavimas** – a Lithuanian wedding custom in which the men take turns dancing with the bride and leaving money in a hat at the conclusion of each dance

**altitudinous** – relating to heights

**badinage** – playful, teasing talk

**cortege** – a train of attendants, a procession

**incommode** – to bother, inconvenience

**incongruous** – lacking harmony or agreement, incompatible

**lugubrious** – sad or mournful

**perforce** – through necessity

**precipitately** – hastily or rashly

**promiscuous** – consisting of different elements mixed together

**seraphically** – in a heavenly way

**veselija** – Lithuanian wedding

1. Many interesting and important characters are introduced in this chapter. Briefly describe the following characters. Whenever possible, include in your description each character's occupation, relationship to other characters, age, and personal character traits which seem to separate one character from another.

For example, Marija Berczynskas is described as being exuberant and interested in maintaining the proprieties of a traditional Lithuanian wedding ceremony. As the bride's cousin, she takes charge of the wedding reception.

Ona Lukoszaite

*Ona is the young bride who is overwhelmed by the wedding ceremony and reception. The reader understands that Ona is very young and innocent. She is a small, young girl with blue eyes and blonde hair.*

Jurgis Rudkus

*Jurgis is a large man with black eyes and thick black hair and is strong enough to carry a 250 pound quarter of beef. He is Ona's new husband.*

Teta Elzbieta

*Elzbieta is Ona's stepmother. She is a physically strong woman who is capable of carrying a large platter of food.*

Tamoszius Kuszleika

*He is a small man who plays the violin at the wedding. His violin playing is out of tune, but inspired.*

Dede Antanas

*He is Jurgis' father and is approximately 60 years old but looks to be 80 because of the difficult work he must do in America.*

Jokubas and Lucija Szedvilas

*The Szedvilases own the delicatessen. They are both very fat and are happy dancing in each other's arms.*

2. Which one of the characters introduced in Chapter 1 do you think is the protagonist of the story? Support your choice with an excerpt from the chapter establishing his or her importance in the story.

*Answers will vary. Many students will select Jurgis as the protagonist because he is described as a strong man who confidently vows to protect and provide for Ona. The story will probably revolve around whether or not he is successful. When some of the guests at the wedding eat the food, but leave without contributing any money to help pay the bill, Jurgis states, "Little one... [Ona], do not worry – it will not matter to us. We will pay them all somehow. I will work harder." (Pg. 25)*

3. What is the setting for this story? Include in your answer the city, approximate time period, and, if possible, neighborhood where the action takes place.

*Marija travels to the reception in a carriage, and she, along with many of the other guests, is a Lithuanian immigrant. This information suggests that the story takes place around 1900. Many of the men and women at the wedding work in the stockyards in Chicago.*

4. *The Jungle* was originally published in a socialist newspaper, *Appeal to Reason*, in serial form in 1905. Sinclair's assignment was to expose the injustices the workers at the Chicago stockyards must endure to survive. Use the following excerpt to answer the next three questions.

Mikolas and Alena Jadvyga are in love and have wanted to marry for five years, but they are unable to save enough money.

"This is the fifth year, now, that Jadvyga has been engaged to Mikolas, and her heart is sick. They would have been married in the beginning, only Mikolas has a father who is drunk all day, and he is the only other man in a large family. Even so they might have managed it (for Mikolas is a skilled man) but for cruel accidents which have almost taken the heart out of them. He is a beef-boner, and that is a dangerous trade, especially when you are on piece-work and trying to earn a bride. Your hands are slippery, and your knife is slippery, and you are toiling like mad, when somebody happens to speak to you, or you strike a bone. Then your hand slips up on the blade, and there is a fearful gash. And that would not be so bad, only for the deadly contagion. The cut may heal, but you never can tell. Twice now; within the last three years, Mikolas has been lying at home with blood poisoning – once for three months and once for nearly seven. The last time, too, he lost his job, and that meant six weeks more of standing at the doors of the packing-houses, at six o'clock on bitter winter mornings, with a foot of snow on the ground and more in the air. There are learned people who can tell you out of the statistics that beef-boners make forty cents an hour, but, perhaps, these people have never looked into a beef-boner's hands." (Pgs. 20-21)

- A. What social injustice(s) is described in the above excerpt?

*Working in the packing industry is dangerous. A man who is injured often loses his job while recuperating. Statistics would stress that beef-boners make a decent wage (for the 1900s), but the dangers are enormous.*

- B. Find an additional example of social injustice in this chapter.

*Answers may vary. Example: Ona must go to work the day after her wedding.*

- C. Most of this novel is written in the third-person point of view. At what point in this passage does the narrator seem to be speaking directly to the reader rather than relating the thoughts and feelings of the characters in a detached, godlike manner typical of third-person narration? Why do you think Sinclair chooses to address the reader directly?

*In the fourth sentence, beginning with "He is a beef boner...", Sinclair begins to use the word "you" when he is describing the incident. In this way, he is speaking directly to the reader as a teacher or a lecturer. When Sinclair uses this educating narrator, he is trying to persuade or sway the reader to his opinions.*

## Chapter 2

### Vocabulary

felicitous – appropriate

1. The literary term “in media res” means to begin in the middle of the action. In Chapter 1, Sinclair begins the story by describing Jurgis and Ona’s wedding. Why do you think he begins the novel in this way?

*Answers may vary. Example: Sinclair immediately grabs the reader’s attention in the first chapter with the interesting story of a large man marrying an innocent, young, small girl. The reader is curious about what the future holds for the young couple because the reader suspects, from the comments Sinclair makes about life in the stockyards, that the couple are going to have a troubled life.*

2. In Chapter 2, the story flashes back to Jurgis’ life in Lithuania. This flashback provides the reader with the necessary background information about Jurgis and Ona so that the reader will accept and understand the motivations of the characters in the action to come. Why does Jurgis decide to immigrate to America?

*Jurgis wants to marry Ona, but she refuses to leave her stepmother and six step- brothers and sisters. Jurgis believes that in America, if a man works hard, he will be able to earn enough money to support his wife and her family and perhaps become a wealthy man one day.*

3. When Jurgis and Ona’s family reach Chicago they “were pitiable in their helplessness; above all things they stood in deadly terror of any sort of person in official uniform, and so whenever they saw a policeman they would cross the street and hurry by.” (Pg. 32) Why are Jurgis and the others afraid of the policemen? What theme for this novel does this fear suggest to the reader?

*On the journey to Chicago, Jurgis and the others are cheated out of their money twice by men who wear official uniforms. People in authority use their positions to take advantage of others.*

4. Some critics believe that Sinclair's description of Chicago as seen through the eyes of the new immigrants foreshadows the difficulties Jurgis and the others will face in America. Read the following excerpt from this chapter. What future problem(s) do you think Sinclair is foreshadowing?

"They sat and stared out of the window. They were on a street which seemed to run on forever, mile after mile – thirty-four of them, if they had known it – and each side of it one uninterrupted row of wretched little two-story frame buildings. Down every side street they could see, it was the same, – never a hill and never a hollow, but always the same endless vista of ugly and dirty little wooden buildings. Here and there would be a bridge crossing a filthy creek, with hard-baked mud shores and dingy sheds and docks along it; here and there would be a railroad crossing, with a tangle of switches, and locomotives puffing, and rattling freight-cars filing by; here and there would be a great factory, a dingy building with innumerable windows in it, and immense volumes of smoke pouring from the chimneys, darkening the air above and making filthy the earth beneath. But after each of these interruptions, the desolate procession would begin again – the procession of dreary little buildings." (Pg. 32)

*Answers will vary. Example: The mood of the images in the excerpt is that of desolation and endless ugliness. This imagery suggests to the reader that the lives of the immigrants in the Chicago stockyards will be ugly, wretched, hopeless, and inescapable. Jurgis and Ona will be trapped in a world of poverty and filth.*

5. What does the term "made land" refer to? How do Ona and Jurgis feel about this "made land"? What theme does Sinclair's description of the "made land" suggest to the reader?

*The term "made land" refers to land that for many years was used as the city dump. It has a terrible odor and is covered with flies. The children dig in the "made land" and find trophies which are really pieces of garbage from the dump. Ona and Jurgis think the "made land" is a good arrangement which is characteristic of a country like America.*

*Answers will vary. Example: The capitalist economic system promotes economic efficiency at the expense of the health of the people.*

6. The term *naif* is used in literature to describe a naïve character who in the course of the story becomes wise to the ways of the world. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is an example of this classic literary type?

*Jurgis believes in the American Dream – if a man works hard then he will succeed. Despite the terrible sights and sounds of the stockyard, Jurgis still believes he will be successful. At the end of the chapter, he declares, "To-morrow I shall go there and get a job!" (Pg. 36) He is a man who believes in his abilities and also believes that America is a country where hard work will be rewarded.*

## Chapter 3

### Vocabulary

**capitalism** – an economic system in which the businesses are individually owned and operated in a competitive marketplace

**colloquy** – a conversation

**guileless** – without cunning in dealing with others

**ptomaines** – poisons formed in decaying animal or vegetable matter

**requite** – to make return or repayment for

**socialism** – a system whereby the ownership and operations of businesses is by society or the community rather than by private individuals, thereby eliminating competition

1. What happens to strengthen Jurgis' belief in the American Dream?

*Jurgis waits in line for only one half hour before he is offered a job.*

2. Read the description of the killing of the hogs in this chapter. In what ways is this description an allegory for the lives of unskilled laborers in the stockyards, and, in the author's view, for America at this time in history?

*The hog is helpless once he is caught by the wheel, just as a man is helpless to fight against the power of big business. The men who catch the hog ignore the protests and squeals of the captured hog, just as the plight of the worker goes unheard by big business. The men on the killing floor slit the throats of the hogs in a cold, businesslike way. The hogs do nothing to deserve their fate. They are innocent, just as Jurgis and the other unsuspecting immigrants are innocent of the dangers in the stockyard and do not deserve the hardships they must face.*

3. A muckraking novel is one in which the author uses the story to “educate” readers on social issues and conditions that the author believes need to be changed. Sinclair was considered a muckraker who used his novels to promote socialism and condemn capitalism. One of the tenets of capitalism is that businesses are privately owned and operate in a competitive marketplace. Find a passage in this chapter where Sinclair is openly criticizing competition in business.

*Jurgis is thrilled with his new job and overwhelmed with wonder at the thought of working for a business as wonderful as Durham's. Sinclair writes,*

*“So guileless was he, and ignorant of the nature of business, that he did not even realize that he had become an employee of Brown's, and that Brown and Durham were supposed by all the world to be deadly rivals – were even required to be deadly rivals by the law of the land, and ordered to try to ruin each other under penalty of fine and imprisonment!” (Pg. 46)*

## Chapter 4

### Vocabulary

besom – broom

placard – a poster, advertisement

1. In what ways do the troubles involving the purchase of the house help to support Sinclair's anti-capitalist beliefs?

*The advertisement for the house Jurgis purchases is very misleading and filled with lies. It proclaims that the house is new, but when the family go to see the house, Ona's "heart sank, for the house was not as it was shown in the picture." (Pg. 51) Jokubas Szedvilas warns the family about the "cruel stories of people who had been done to death in this 'buying a home' swindle." (Pg. 52) He also warns Jurgis that there is no end to the expense in owning a home and that a poor man can not understand the contract. In the end, Jurgis decides to purchase the house, anyway. Jokubas reads the contract and is concerned because he believes that the contract states that the family will be paying rent rather than making payments to own the house. He finds a lawyer who looks over the contract and tells him that the contract is in order. The lawyer and the house agent call each other by their first names, suggesting to the reader that they are partners.*

*Sinclair is pointing out that in a capitalist economy, men will work together to swindle another person out of money. The advertising cannot be trusted. Even the lawyers and other professionals, under this economic system, cannot be trusted.*

2. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating Sinclair's belief that the capitalist economy fails to take care of the elderly.

*In Packingtown, it is a waste of time for an elderly man to look for work. Sinclair writes, "the packers did not even keep the men who had grown old in their own service – to say nothing of taking on new ones. And not only was it the rule here, it was the rule everywhere in America, so far as he knew." (Pg. 49)*

3. Some critics believe that the house Jurgis buys is a symbol for the American Dream. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute this idea.

*Answers will vary. Example: Jurgis believes that if he works hard, he will be able to provide a decent home for his family. He purchases the house and agrees to pay twelve dollars a month for eight years and four months. If Jurgis can make the payments and provide this home for his family, then the American Dream must be true. However, if Jurgis is unable to make the payments, because of the corruption of the American system (hinted at by Jokubas when he discusses the house swindles), then the American Dream must be a lie.*

4. How does Jurgis behave when he comes home and is told that he may have been swindled by the agent? What might this behavior foreshadow about Jurgis in the action to come?

*Jurgis flies into a rage, screaming that he is going to kill the agent. Then he storms out of the house. Ona and the others believe that Jurgis intends to kill the man. Instead, Jurgis takes the deed to a different lawyer. The second lawyer reiterates that the deed is in order, mollifying Jurgis.*

*Despite Jurgis' positive attitude concerning his ability to work and earn a living, he has a hot temper. His family believes he is capable of violence. This incident foreshadows future violent behavior from Jurgis whenever he believes he has been wronged.*

## Chapter 5

### Vocabulary

**laissez faire** – letting the owners of industry and business fix the rules of competition without governmental regulation or control

**graft** – taking advantage of one's position to gain money, etc.

**slunk** – a calf that has been born prematurely

1. Who are the “pacemakers”? Why do the unions want to stop the practice of “speeding up”? What is Jurgis' opinion of the unions?

*Pacemakers are men who are in key positions in the meat processing line. If these pacemakers speed up the work, then the whole line must speed up. The bosses change these pacemakers frequently and pay them higher wages than they pay the other workers. The unions want to stop the speeding up of the lines because many men cannot keep up the pace. Jurgis has no sympathy for men who cannot do the work and thinks men who cannot keep up the pace should look for work elsewhere. He does not join the union because he does not see the need for it and also because if he joins, then he must give the union some of his hard-earned money.*

2. Jurgis is the naif in this story. He is described as being “dismayed” because his fellow workers hate their work. For what reasons does Jurgis, after learning about his father's new job, begin to understand that the capitalist system he admires is imperfect?

*Jurgis is unhappy when his father comes home with the news that he has a job in the pickle plant, but he must pay one third of his wages to the man who gave him the job. He learns from another worker that graft of this sort is normal. He is also told that a man does not rise to a skilled position by doing good work. Only dishonest men, who are willing to deceive other men, rise.*



3. For what reasons are Marija and Jonas' jobs also a disappointment for Jurgis?

*Marija is hired to replace a woman who has been with the company for 15 years. The forelady coldly replaces the woman, without any regard for her many years of service, because she has consumption.*

*Jonas is hired to replace a worker who was crushed to death by the heavy trucks loaded with hams. The job is dangerous because of the uneven floor and because the bosses insist on speed over safety.*

4. In what ways is Jurgis disillusioned by what he witnesses on the killing floor?

*Cows who are about to calve are not fit for food. When such a cow comes down the line, a man distracts the meat inspectors until the unborn calf can be discarded. Jurgis must quickly sweep the calf and the cow's entrails into the trap before the inspector notices them. Jurgis is also asked to help dispose of "downers," cows that have injuries or that have died in transport.*

5. State a theme for this story based on the deceitful activities described in questions 1 through 4. Note: Remember that Jurgis and the others have been forced to participate in these activities or remain unemployed. Also remember that Sinclair wrote *The Jungle* to expose flaws in capitalism.

*Answers will vary. Example: The American capitalist economic system promotes immoral behavior.*

## Chapter 6

### Vocabulary

**affliction** – pain or suffering

**caste** – social status or position

**lamentation** – outward expression of grief; weeping or wailing

**typify** – to have or show the distinctive characteristics of; be typical of

1. For what reasons does Grandmother Majauszkiene believe that paying for a house is "fooling the company"?

*The company sells a house believing that the people who buy it will be unable to keep up the payments. When one payment is missed, the company takes the house back, keeps all of the money previously paid on the house, and then resells the house to another unsuspecting family. When a man manages to keep up the payments long enough to pay off the debt, then he has fooled the company.*

2. What is the “War Whoop League”?

*The “War Whoop League” is a political club comprised of thugs. If a man belongs to the it, he cannot be arrested.*

3. Grandmother Majauszkiene is described as being a socialist. How does she think the poor people, who are being exploited by the big businesses, will one day get their revenge?

*She believes the poor people will rise up one day and murder the packers.*

4. Why must young Stanislovas Coneonsver lie about his age?

*There is a law that children under the age of sixteen cannot work, so he must lie to get a job.*

5. For what reason does Ona decide she must go to work?

*Grandmother Majauszkiene tells Jurgis that the payment on the house is nineteen dollars a month instead of twelve dollars a month because of the interest, which is more than a fifty percent increase.*

6. Briefly describe Ona’s job and Stanislovas’ job. In what way does Sinclair use both of these jobs as a vehicle to continue his muckraking?

*Ona has a job sewing the covers on hams. Stanislovas places empty lard cans under the arm of the lard machine.*

*Sinclair continues his muckraking by pointing out the horrors of child labor in a factory. Stanislovas is doing a boring job for five cents an hour. Ona gets her job only after she gives the forelady ten dollars.*

## Chapter 7

### Vocabulary

**adulterated** – made to be impure

**anguish** – great suffering from worry

**aniline** – poisonous oily liquid used in dyes

**atrocious** – cruel

**sordid** – dirty; depressingly wretched

1. The flashback from Chapters 2 through 6 ends at the beginning of Chapter 7. Sinclair writes,

“It [Ona and Jurgis’ wedding] was a bitter and cruel experience, and it plunged them into an agony of despair. Such a time, of all times, for them to have it, when their hearts were made tender! Such a pitiful beginning it was for their married life; they loved each other so, and they could not have the briefest respite! It was a time when everything cried out to them that they ought to be happy; when wonder burned in their hearts, and leaped into flame at the slightest breath....

Over them, relentless and savage, there cracked the lash of want; the morning after the wedding it sought them as they slept, and drove them out before daybreak to work.” (Pg. 75)

In what sense is this passage an example of irony? Point out a metaphor and personification.

*It is ironic that a wedding, which should be a happy time, brings Jurgis and Ona so much despair. Answers may vary. Example: Personification: “Wonder burned in their hearts”; “it sought them...and drove them out...” Metaphor: “...there cracked the lash of want...”*

2. In this chapter, Sinclair describes some of the many dangers facing Jurgis and his family in Packingtown. Briefly list three of these dangers and the steps Jurgis tries to take to protect his family from harm.

*Answers will vary. Examples: Jurgis puts Ona on a streetcar so she does not need to walk in the rain. Unfortunately, Jurgis is unaware of the complicated business of transfers, which would permit Ona to ride from one part of the city to another while paying only one fare. The driver will not give a passenger a transfer unless he or she asks for it. Ona does not ask, so she is not given a transfer. She has to walk part of the way to her job in the pouring rain and then sit all day in a damp cellar wearing wet clothes.*

*There is no sewer in the house Jurgis purchases, creating an unhealthy environment for the children. The food is also contaminated or watered down, so the children are undernourished. None of the clothing available to the family is warm enough because it is made from reused fibers: “...genuine quality they could not obtain for love nor money.” (Pg. 77)*

3. What lie does Jurgis tell to his dying father?

*Jurgis tells Antanas that the company is holding his job for him.*

4. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating that Jurgis is beginning to shed his naïve outlook.

*Answers will vary. Example: "Jurgis, who was learning things fast, spent all Sunday making a bargain for these, [a hearse for his father and a hack for the women to ride in] and he made it in the presence of witnesses, so that when the man tried to charge him for all sorts of incidentals, he did not have to pay." (Pg. 79)*

5. In what way(s) do the packing houses seem to be encouraging the workers to drink?

*There is no warm place for a worker to eat but a saloon. The packers pay the men with checks, and the men have nowhere to cash these checks except in a saloon.*

6. Find an example of personification in this chapter.

*Answers will vary. Example: "They could feel the cold as it crept in through the cracks, reaching out for them with its icy, death-dealing fingers; and they would crouch and cower, and try to hide from it, all in vain." (Pg. 83)*

## Chapter 8

### Vocabulary

**fodder** – coarse food for cattle

**garret** – the space just below the roof of a house

**inconspicuous** – hard to see; attracting little attention

**myriad** – a great number

**preposterous** – laughable; outrageous

**skylark** – to play about boisterously; frolic

1. Briefly describe Tamoszius Kuszleika. What is his relationship with Marija?

*Tamoszius is a small, frail man who plays the violin. He is in love with Marija. As soon as they can save enough money, the couple plans to marry.*

2. Why does Sinclair refer to Marija as “really the capitalist of the party”? (Pg. 86) How does the slump in business impact Marija and her capitalist beliefs?

*Marija is referred to as the capitalist of the party because she believes her skill at painting cans is her security. So long as she continues to work hard and paint the cans, she will earn a good living. Due to the slump in business, Marija loses her job because the canning factory shuts down. She is unable to find another job and soon realizes that the good money she was earning while the factory was open is not really good money. The pay she received while she was working must also cover her expenses now that she is unemployed. She does not understand why the factory closed and why the unions are unable to persuade the factory owners to reopen.*

3. How does the slump in business also impact Jurgis?

*The killing beds do not operate all day long. Jurgis and the other men must report to work early, as usual, but they are only paid for the hours that the killing beds are in operation. Sometimes the work does not begin until late in the afternoon, so the men stand around all day without any pay. The packing plant also refuses to pay the men for any partial hours. For example, they may work for two-and-a-half hours but will only be paid for two hours.*

4. Why does Jurgis decide to join a labor union? In what sense is the labor union Jurgis’ “new religion”?

*Jurgis is no longer the naif he was at the beginning of the story. He has become disillusioned by the capitalist economic system because he realizes that hard work alone is not enough for him to be able to feed his family. Jurgis wants to fight for his rights, so he joins the union. He feels a passion for the union work, in much the same way the women feel a passion for their religion.*

## Chapter 9

1. List three ways in which Jurgis changes due to his involvement with the union.

- *Jurgis wants to learn English.*
- *He begins to pay attention to politics.*
- *He becomes a citizen.*

2. Find an example of Sinclair’s muckraking in this chapter.

*Answers will vary. Example: Jurgis learns from the men in the union that America differs from Russia because the officials who get the graft must first be elected to those positions. The two political parties are two “rival sets of grafters.” (Pg. 94)*

3. Who is Mike Scully and what is the source of his power?

*Mike Scully is the Democratic boss who is the ruler of the district. He is a rich man because he has a portion of all the graft in the neighborhood. Scully owns the dump, the brick factory, and the hole with stagnant water which is cut into blocks of ice and sold. His many friends comprise the "War Whoop League" which is the biggest club in Chicago.*

4. In this chapter, Sinclair points out many terrible examples of corruption in the meat packing business. Which of these incidents do you think is the most horrible?

*Answers will vary. Example: The men who fall into the vats are sometimes not fished out for days. When they are recovered, usually all that is left are bones. The rest of the deceased becomes part of "Durham's Pure Leaf Lard." (Pg. 100)*

## Chapter 10

### Vocabulary

**contingencies** – chance or accidental occurrences

**furies** – from Greek and Roman mythology, three female spirits, who punish the doers of unavenged crimes

**neuralgia** – a severe pain along the course of a nerve

1. Critics believe that Sinclair, a socialist, strives to illustrate to the reader the flaws in a capitalist economy. One of the themes of this novel is that a capitalist economic system promotes a harmful lifestyle. Cite two incidents from this chapter to support this theme.

*Answers will vary. Examples: The men who work in the killing beds soon begin to smell bad. At first, each new man tries to keep clean, but he soon discovers that he can not eliminate the odor, so eventually he gives up and remains unclean.*

*The families living in Packingtown never get a chance to leave the polluted city. They only have Sundays off from work and are too tired on Sunday to make a trip out to the country.*

2. Why does Marija lose her job at the canning factory? What lesson does she learn from her mistake?

*Marija oversteps her position in the factory when she complains to the superintendent that the forelady is cheating her out of her pay. Instead of correcting the problem, the superintendent becomes angry, and soon Marija is fired from her job. Marija, too, learns that there is no justice for the workers. If she wants to keep her job, she must also not cause problems. She also learns that once one has a job in Packingtown, one must hold onto it regardless of any injustices one suffers.*

3. State a theme for this story based on the following excerpt.

“But there was no place a girl could go in Packingtown, if she was particular about things of this sort; there was no place in it where a prostitute could not get along better than a decent girl. Here was a population, low-class and mostly foreign, hanging always on the verge of starvation, and dependent for its opportunities of life upon the whim of men every bit as brutal and unscrupulous as the old-time slave drivers; under such circumstances immorality was exactly as inevitable, and as prevalent, as it was under the system of chattel slavery. Things that were quite unspeakable went on there in the packing houses all the time, and were taken for granted by everybody; only they did not show, as in the old slavery times, because there was no difference in color between master and slave.” (Pg. 107)

*Answers may vary. Example: The capitalist economic system makes anti-social behavior inevitable.*

4. Jurgis is delighted with the birth of his son, Antanas. In what way does Sinclair use the story of the baby's birth to further condemn the American economic system?

*Ona must go back to work only a week after giving birth to Antanas. Since both Jurgis and Ona must work, they do not have much time to spend with their new son. Sinclair points out that the capitalist economic system separates parents from their children.*

## Chapter 11

### Vocabulary

**superfluity** – excess, overabundance

**inexorable** – unchangeable

**privation** – the lack of ordinary necessities of life

1. Why do the packinghouses hire extra employees? How does this excess of employees impact Jurgis?

*The packing plant wants to train extra men, so that if there is a strike, the plants will have trained workers ready to break the strike. The extra workers reduce Jurgis' income because he works fewer hours.*

2. Which of the elements of naturalism are present in this novel? Cite one incident from the story to support each element you select.

*Answers may vary. All of the elements are present in this novel. There are many incidents in the story to support this answer.*

3. Sinclair often describes Jurgis with animal imagery. For example, in this chapter Jurgis is likened to “some monarch of the forest that has vanquished his foes in fair fight, and then falls into some cowardly trap in the night-time.” (Pg. 113) Find an additional example of animal imagery in this chapter. Keep notes on instances of this type of imagery as you read the remainder of the novel.

*Answers may vary. Examples: “These were dreadful times, for Jurgis would get as cross as any bear...” (Pg. 115) “It was true, it was true, - that here in this huge city, with its stores of heaped-up wealth, human creatures might be hunted down and destroyed by the wild-beast powers of nature, just as truly as ever they were in the days of the cave men!” (Pgs. 114-115)*

4. What is Jurgis’ only consolation in his dreary life?

*Jurgis loves his son Antanas.*

## Chapter 12

### Vocabulary

**penury** – lack of money; extreme poverty

1. Cite evidence for the fact that Ona does not confide in her husband. Why do you think she fails to do so?

*Ona does not tell Jurgis that she is spending their savings. She does not tell him because he is already in a foul temper due to his staying in bed all day thinking about the family’s troubles.*

2. One of the themes of this novel is that immortality is inevitable in a capitalistic society. Find an incident from this chapter that supports this theme.

*Answers will vary. Example: The children who must leave school to go to work soon learn how to cheat the conductors of the trolley cars out of the fare.*

3. Jonas disappears one day in early spring. Where do you think he is?

*Answers will vary. Example: Jonas could be dead, a victim of the lard vats, or he could have left Packingtown for the green country that is only a day’s walk away from the stockyards.*



## Chapter 13

### Vocabulary

**albumen** – a protein substance found in animal tissue (now spelled albumin)

**charnel** – a building or place where corpses or bones are deposited

**magnanimity** – being generous in overlooking injury or insult

**obdurate** – hardhearted; not easily moved to pity or sympathy

**perversity** – stubbornly deviating from what is considered to be right

**piecework** – work for which one is paid a fixed rate

**prestidigitator** – magician

**ptarmigan** – a brownish bird

**voluble** – talking a lot

1. In this chapter, Sinclair continues his exposé of the flaws in capitalism by relentlessly describing the problems working class people like Jurgis must face. Which of the incidents in this chapter do you think is the most horrible? Based on that incident, what do you think Sinclair is saying about capitalism?

*Answers will vary. Example: Some students may select young Kristoforas' death from tainted food as the most horrible of the incidents in the chapter. Despite the wealth and the prosperity of the country, the children of the poor, working class people lack nutritious food and basic medical care.*

2. Why does Jurgis decide the boys must return to school? What theme for *The Jungle* does this incident support?

*The boys are learning to swear and gamble. They are also learning the location of the houses of prostitution. The capitalist economic system promotes anti-social behavior.*

## Chapter 14

### Vocabulary

**stupefy** – to make dull or lethargic

**torpor** – dullness, apathy

1. This novel was first published in 1905 in serial form in the socialist paper *Appeal to Reason*. Sinclair was given the assignment to write an exposé of the meat packing business. The readers of the exposé were outraged by what they read. Which incident from this chapter do you think these readers found to be the most disturbing?

*Answers will vary. Example: The sausage is contaminated with poisoned rats and rat droppings.*

2. In what sense is it ironic that Elzbieta finds a job in the sausage plant?

*Elzbieta's son died from eating tainted sausage, and she must work in a sausage plant to earn money to support herself and her other children.*

3. Why does Jurgis begin to drink? What happens to him to make him fight the urge?

*The men working in the stockyards have no warm place to eat. Jurgis begins by buying a drink, so he can eat in the warm saloon. Eventually, he buys a drink even when he does not need to eat. One day he spends all of his pay on drinks and goes home feeling better than he has in a long time. In the morning, he sees the faces of his hungry family and decides he must fight the urge to drink.*

4. In what ways is Ona falling to pieces?

*She develops a cough, has headaches, has fits of weeping, and becomes a nervous woman. The women explain Ona's behavior as part of being pregnant, but Jurgis does not fully accept that explanation. He points out that she never acted that way during her first pregnancy.*

## Chapter 15

### Vocabulary

**aspect** – appearance of a thing

**rife** – frequently or commonly occurring

**tempest** – a violent storm

1. The animal imagery in the following excerpt is particularly strong. Based on this imagery, what do you think is the significance of the title of this story?

“The beginning of these perplexing things was in the summer; and each time Ona would promise him with terror in her voice that it would not happen again – but in vain. Each crisis would leave Jurgis more and more frightened, more disposed to distrust Elzbieta's consolations, and to believe that there was some terrible thing about all this that he was not allowed to know. Once or twice in these outbreaks he caught Ona's eye, and it seemed to him like the eye of a hunted animal; there were broken phrases of anguish and despair now and then, amid her frantic weeping. It was only because he was so numb and beaten himself that Jurgis did not worry more about this. But he never thought of it, except when he was dragged to it – he lived like a dumb beast of burden, knowing only the moment in which he was.” (Pg. 137)

*Jurgis and his family are like animals living in a jungle. They must do whatever is necessary to survive, even if such an action is considered immoral. Jurgis is likened to a beast of burden, an animal rather than a human being. The title suggests that life in a capitalist economy, for a working-class man, is like the life of an animal fighting to survive in the jungle.*

2. Why does Ona submit to Connor's advances? For what reason do you think she does not turn to Jurgis for help?

*Connor threatens to use his influence to get all of Ona's family fired from their jobs if she does not submit to his sexual advances. Ona does not go to Jurgis because she knows he has a terrible temper. She worries that he will kill Connor, and then the whole family will starve.*

## Chapter 16

### Vocabulary

**base** – having or showing little or no honor, courage, or decency; mean

**duffer** – slang for something worthless

**effaced** – wiped out, erased

**fetid** – having a bad, decaying smell

**lair** – a bed or resting place of a wild animal

1. What are “duffers and dope”?

*Duffers refers to the bread the guards give the prisoners. Dope refers to the coffee which is drugged to keep the inmates quiet.*

2. Cite evidence from this chapter supporting the idea that the justice system is as corrupt as the meat packing business.

*Sinclair describes Judge Callahan as a man “caring only for party power, and giving the rest of his time to superintending his dives and brothels.” (Pg. 152)*

3. Describe the irony in the judge's decision to punish Jurgis by putting him in jail.

*Ona commits adultery to save her family from starvation, and Jurgis becomes enraged when he learns of Ona's behavior and fights Connor. Because of this fight, Jurgis is put in jail where he is safe from hunger and cold, while Ona and the others face starvation. It is ironic that Jurgis, who broke the law, is better off than his family.*

4. What does the poem at the end of the chapter say about the value to society of placing a man in jail?

*Jail is a place where the good that is in man “wastes and withers.” (Pg. 155) A man does not learn to be a good man in jail. Instead, the good that is in him disappears.*

## Chapter 17

### Vocabulary

**freebooter** – a plunderer; a pirate

**genial** – cheerful, friendly, and kindly

**imprecation** – curse

**interpose** – to intervene or mediate

1. Briefly describe Jack Duane.

*Jack Duane is Jurgis' new cellmate. He is a young man with a light brown mustache and blue eyes. He is educated and has good manners. Duane is also a career criminal who shamelessly makes his living stealing.*

2. State a theme for this story based on the following excerpt. What future action might this passage foreshadow? Jurgis is talking to Duane.

“Didn’t he ever wonder about his family, Jurgis asked. Sometimes, the other answered, but not often – he didn’t allow it. Thinking about it would make it no better. This wasn’t a world in which a man had any business with a family; sooner or later Jurgis would find that out also, and give up the fight and shift for himself.” (Pg. 159)

*Answers will vary: Example: In a capitalist society, marriage and children severely limit a mans economic prospects. It is possible the passage is foreshadowing that Jurgis will one day leave his family.*

3. List three hardships Jurgis’ family must endure after he goes to jail.

- *Marija cuts her hand and cannot work.*
- *The family is about to be evicted from the house they have all worked so hard to keep.*
- *All of the children are working selling papers instead of attending school.*

## Chapter 18

1. Why is Jurgis in jail longer than 30 days?

*He must stay longer to pay the court costs.*

2. What does Jurgis find when he returns to his home?

*The house has been repainted and another family is living there.*

3. Some critics believe that the house symbolizes the American Dream. What is Sinclair saying about the American Dream when Jurgis loses the house?

*Answers will vary. Example: The American Dream, which promises that if a person works hard he or she will be successful, is false. Finally, Jurgis understands that in the capitalist system, “the whole machinery of society was at their oppressors’ command!” (Pg. 172)*

4. Ona goes into premature labor and is suffering, but Jurgis and her family do not have enough money to hire a midwife. Marija is unable to work and may lose her hand because of a cut. State a theme for this novel based on these incidents.

*A capitalist society promotes economic efficiency at the expense of the health of its people.*

## Chapter 19

1. Some critics believe that Madame Haupt is a round character. Briefly describe Madame Haupt and state whether or not you agree with the critics.

*Madame Haupt is a large, filthy woman who drinks from a black bottle. She demands money from Jurgis before she will agree to come to Ona’s aid. As she is leaving, she vainly takes the time to adjust her hat and unfeelingly complains to Jurgis about the discomfort she must endure in the rain.*

*Answers will vary. Example: Some students will point out that despite Madame Haupt’s shortcomings, she does agree to go with Jurgis to try to help Ona, which establishes her as a rounded character. She is certainly described as the kind of woman who would most likely refuse to help Jurgis, because he does not have her fee, yet she agrees to go with him.*

2. One of the most moving passages in this novel is Sinclair’s description of Jurgis’ grief over Ona’s death. Study the following paragraph and find an example of a simile and a metaphor.

“The word rang through him like the sound of a bell, echoing in the far depths of him, making forgotten chords to vibrate, old shadowy fears to stir – fears of the dark, fears of the void, fears of annihilation. She was dead! She was dead! He would never see her again, never hear her again! An icy horror of loneliness seized him; he saw himself standing apart and watching all the world fade away from him – a world of shadows, of fickle dreams. He was like a little child, in his fright and grief; he called and called, and got no answer, and his cries of despair echoed through the house, making the women down-stairs draw nearer to each other in fear. He was inconsolable, beside himself – the priest came and laid his hand upon his shoulder and whispered to him, but he heard not a sound. He was gone away himself, stumbling through the shadows, and groping after the soul that had fled.” (Pgs. 183-184)

*Answers will vary. Examples: Simile – “The word rang through him like the sound of a bell...” Metaphor – “He was gone away himself, stumbling through the shadows, and groping after the soul that had fled.”*

## Chapter 20

1. Why does Jurgis, who is grieving for Ona, decide to look for work again?

*Elzbieta convinces Jurgis that he must try to find work to provide food and shelter for his son.*

2. What does it mean to a man like Jurgis when he is “blacklisted”?

*Jurgis is unable to find work because the employers have him on a secret list in every office in the city. Anyone whose name appears on this list will not be hired. Jurgis is blacklisted because he struck Connor, a man with a great deal of power. If Jurgis cannot find work, he and his family face starvation.*

3. How is the harvester works, where Jurgis finally finds a job, different from the other businesses in Packingtown? In what ways is it the same?

*The harvester works differs from other businesses in Packingtown because it takes good care of its employees. The workshops are big, and there is a restaurant where the men can buy affordable food. There is also a reading room and a decent place where the women can rest. The harvester works is like the other businesses, though, because it lays off its employees without any notice or regard for the hardships the layoff will cause its workers.*

## Chapter 21

### Vocabulary

**pittance** – small amount or portion

**incandescent** – shining brilliantly; very bright

**ingot** – a mass of metal cast into a bar

1. In what ways does the “settlement worker” help Jurgis and his family?

*She gives the family a basket of food and helps Jurgis find a job at the steelworks.*

2. What does the following excerpt, describing the steelworks, suggest to the reader about the working conditions in the business?

*“Jurgis stood where the balcony of the theater would have been, and opposite, by the stage, he saw three giant caldrons, big enough for all the devils of hell to brew their broth in, full of something white and blinding, bubbling and splashing, roaring as if volcanoes were blowing through it – one had to shout to be heard in the place. Liquid fire would leap from these caldrons and scatter like bombs below – and men were working there, seeming careless, so that Jurgis caught his breath with fright.” (Pgs. 196-197)*

*The steelworks is compared to hell in this passage, suggesting to the reader that the working conditions at the steelworks will be like working in hell.*

3. How does Jurgis hurt his hand? What injustice of capitalism does this incident illustrate? In what way does Jurgis' injury benefit him?

*Jurgis hurts his hand when he assists a fellow worker who is burned by molten steel. Jurgis is laid up for eight working days without pay. Sinclair is saying that the capitalist economy punishes a man for doing a good deed. While he is recovering, Jurgis enjoys spending time with his young son, who is just beginning to learn to talk.*

4. What theme(s) does Sinclair present in the following excerpt?

“...he told himself that he had learned his lesson now, and would meet with no more accidents – so that at last there was prospect of an end to their long agony. They could save money again, and when another winter came they would have a comfortable place; and the children would be off the streets and in school again, and they might set to work to nurse back into life their habits of decency and kindness. So once more Jurgis began to make plans and dream dreams.” (Pg. 200)

*Answers may vary. Example: The capitalist economic system destroys family life. In a capitalist economic system, anti-social and immoral behavior is inevitable.*

## Chapter 22

### Vocabulary

**derisive** – insulting, scornful, contemptuous

**forage** – to search for food or provisions

**rent** – a hole or gap made by tearing

**scourge** – to punish severely

**transient** – staying for only a short time

1. This chapter marks a turning point in Jurgis' life. Find a passage, in the first few pages of this chapter, stating how Jurgis plans to live his life now that both Ona and Antanas are dead.

*“And meantime his father had thought the last thought about him that he meant to; he was going to think of himself, he was going to fight for himself, against the world that had baffled him and tortured him!” (Pg. 202)*

2. Some critics believe that Jurgis' bath in the stream is symbolic. What do you think this cleansing might symbolize?

*Answers will vary. Example: Jurgis is washing away his life as a family man to begin a new life alone. Another possible answer may be that Jurgis is washing away the optimistic man who dreams about his future. Other students may view this bath as a rebirth. Jurgis, wiser now, is going to start his life over.*

3. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is beginning to think for himself?

*Jurgis is talking to the farmer, who has offered Jurgis work now, but not in the winter. “When you get through working your horses this fall, will you turn them out in the snow?” (Pg. 205)*

4. Jurgis lives the life of a tramp until early fall. How does he feel about himself and his new life?

*At the end of the chapter, Jurgis goes into the woods and cries because he will never see Ona or his son again. Jurgis is disgusted by his behavior with the prostitutes and with his drinking.*

## Chapter 23

### Vocabulary

mendicant – beggar

1. What is the hidden purpose of the subway system which Jurgis helps to construct?

*The subway connects all of the big factories and stores, thus thwarting the power of the teamsters union (a union of men who haul goods for a living).*

2. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating Jurgis’ opinion of the evangelists who preach to the poor. Which theme(s) does Jurgis’ opinion of the evangelists illustrate?

*Answers will vary. Example: “They were trying to save their souls – and who but a fool could fail to see that all that was the matter with their souls was that they had not been able to get a decent existence for their bodies.” (Pg. 217) The capitalist economic system promotes immoral behavior and destroys family life.*

3. Why is Jurgis, who has just come out of the hospital, an unsuccessful beggar?

*There are many beggars on the streets who are much more experienced at begging than Jurgis. Some of them are professional beggars, who have homes and families to support. There are also beggars who deliberately mutilate themselves to appear more pitiful. Jurgis, with only his arm in a sling, cannot compete with these other beggars.*



## Chapter 24

### Vocabulary

**benignant** – kindly in a patronizing way

**insouciance** – gay heedlessness, lighthearted unconcern

**portiere** – a heavy curtain across an entrance or a doorway

**subjugation** – the act of conquering or subduing

1. At this point in the story, how does Jurgis view the world? What, in Jurgis' view, is his place in this world?

*He views the world as a place “in which nothing counted but brutal might, an order devised by those who possessed it for the subjugation of all those who did not.” (Pg. 219) Jurgis believes that he is doomed to be exterminated.*

2. Why might some readers find this chapter easier and more interesting to read than many of the other chapters in the story?

*Sinclair writes this chapter primarily in dialogue. He dramatizes the scene, letting the reader live the scene with the characters rather than telling the reader what happens, as he does in so much of the novel.*

3. Many critics believe this scene is written to delight Sinclair's socialist friends. At the time it was written, readers would have easily recognized that the butler is named after Alexander Hamilton, who was Secretary of the Treasury, and that the dog is named after Admiral Dewey, who fought in the Spanish American War. Sinclair and the other socialists would have considered these two men to be perpetrators of the capitalist system, and ridiculing them in this scene would have been very amusing.

Besides providing his readers with an amusing scene, what does Sinclair reveal about the changes in Jurgis' character during this chapter?

*Answers will vary. Example: Jurgis wants to steal the drunk man's money. He easily pockets the one hundred dollars and is watching for an opportunity to take the whole wad of money from the young man. Jurgis, who, in the past, was an honest man, is now a willing criminal.*

## Chapter 25

### Vocabulary

**assignation** – an appointment for a meeting

**oligarchy** – a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons

**plurality** – the number of votes in an election that the leading candidate obtains over the next highest candidate

**plutocrat** – a member of a wealthy ruling class

**swag** – slang for stolen money or property

**vicissitude** – a sudden or unexpected change or shift

1. Why does the judge believe the bartender instead of Jurgis? State a theme based on this incident.

*The bartender pays graft to the police. He is also a henchman for the Democratic leader in the district who helped to get the judge reelected.*

*Answers will vary. Example: There is no justice in America for the unskilled worker. Another possibility is that Sinclair feels that the capitalist economic system encourages graft so that businesses, political leaders, and the justice system all work together to subjugate the unskilled workers.*

2. In what way is Jurgis rare among criminals so that he is a valuable friend for a man like Jack Duane?

*Jurgis is a man who can be trusted to stand by anyone who is kind to him.*

3. How does Duane justify nearly killing the insurance agent?

*“It’s a case of us or the other fellow, and I say the other fellow, every time.” (Pg. 238)*

4. “A month ago Jurgis had all but perished of starvation upon the streets; and now suddenly, as by the gift of a magic key, he had entered into a world where money and all the good things of life came freely.” (Pg. 239) What is the “magic key” Jurgis has that helps him to earn money?

*Jurgis becomes part of the corrupt brotherhood of politicians, police, and business owners. He quietly picks up “pay” envelopes for a political worker named “Buck” Halloran.*

5. How does Jurgis define socialists in this chapter?

*“Socialists were the enemies of American institutions – could not be bought, and would not combine or make any sort of a ‘dicker.’” (Pg. 244)*

6. In what sense is the following excerpt from the end of this chapter an example of sarcasm?

...on a day of Democratic landslides they elected “Scotty” Doyle, the ex-ten-pin setter, by nearly a thousand plurality – and beginning at five o’clock in the afternoon, and ending at three the next morning, Jurgis treated himself to a most unholy and horrible ‘jag’. Nearly every one else in Packingtown did the same, however, for there was universal exultation over this triumph of popular government, this crushing defeat of an arrogant plutocrat by the power of the common people. (Pg. 247)

*Sarcasm is defined as a caustic remark, generally ironic. In this chapter, it is ironic that Mike Scully, a Democratic leader, wants the Republican candidate, Scotty Doyle to be elected. Scully enlists Jurgis’ help in gathering votes for the Republican candidate. Additionally, no one was defeated by “common people.” The election was bought by the wealthy.*

## Chapter 26

### Vocabulary

**scab** – slang for a worker who refuses to strike or who takes the place of a striking worker; a term of contempt

1. For what reasons does Jurgis become a scab?

*Jurgis goes to Scully and asks him for a job during the strike. Scully does not have a position for Jurgis because Jurgis is a Republican. Scully convinces Jurgis to work as a strike breaker, because the strike will be over soon and the packers need men. After the strike is over, the packers will stand by a man who does right by them during a strike, so Jurgis will keep his job.*

2. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is becoming as corrupt as the bosses who cheated him out of his hard-earned money earlier in the story?

*Answers will vary. Example: Jurgis accepts a ten-dollar bribe from a man who is cheating the packing plant by registering for two jobs. Soon, Jurgis is receiving many more payments from other men who are cheating the packers.*

3. Critics criticize Sinclair because of his stereotypical comments about black workers in this story. How do you think Sinclair might answer these critics?

*Answers will vary. Example: This story was written in the early 1900’s by Sinclair who was born in 1878, a few years after the Civil War. Sinclair’s comments are stereotypical and prejudicial mostly because such views were commonly accepted and practiced in that era. These comments comprise only a small part of the story and reflect outdated views.*

4. What do you see as the main reason the striking unions are unsuccessful in forcing the packers to meet their demands?

*Answers will vary. Example: The packers are able to bring men in from outside the unions to do the work. The main reason the unions fail is that the workers they represent are unskilled and easily replaced.*

5. Why, at the end of the chapter, does Jurgis once again find himself broke and out of work?

*Jurgis attacks Connor, the man who forced Ona into prostitution. Connor is one of Scully's men, so Jurgis' contacts are unable to get him released from jail. The best Bush Harper can do for Jurgis is to take Jurgis' money and arrange for him to receive bail.*

## Chapter 27

### Vocabulary

**deshabille** – the state of being dressed only partially or in night clothes

1. As the book comes to an end, Sinclair concludes by telling the reader about Marija, Stanislovas, Elzbieta, and Tamoszius. Briefly describe what has happened to each of these characters since Jurgis left the family.

*Marija is a prostitute. Stanislovas is dead. Elzbieta and the children are living on Marija's earnings as a prostitute. Tamoszius loses a finger to blood poisoning, and Marija has not seen him in over a year.*

2. Reread the first few pages of Chapter 1, describing Marija. Knowing her ultimate fate in Chapter 27, what do you think Marija might symbolize or represent in this book? What do you think Sinclair is saying about capitalism when he writes about her fate?

*Answers will vary. Example: Marija is a strong woman, who tries to maintain the family's traditions. She works to ensure that Ona and Jurgis have a proper, decent wedding. Marija represents the strength of women to promote and perpetuate family values and traditions. Her fate illustrates for the reader Sinclair's belief that the capitalist economic system makes immoral behavior inevitable and destroys family life.*

## Chapter 28

### Vocabulary

**absinthe** – a green, bitter, toxic liqueur

1. Why is Marija trapped in the life of a prostitute?

*She can never leave the life because thousands of men have come through the doors of the brothel. One of them will eventually recognize her, so that she will never be able to live a decent life again. She is also addicted to morphine. In addition, the owners of the house also charge Marija for her room and food, so that she can never save any money.*

2. At the end of the political speech in this chapter, Jurgis is on his feet cheering. Why do you think he reacts this way?

*Jurgis can see his life in the man's words. He is a working man who has lost his dreams and who has experienced the hardships of oppression. He rises to his feet because the speaker tells Jurgis and the other workers that there is some action they can take to help themselves. They can rise up and resist.*

3. Which literary techniques do you think is the most effective in moving the audience to action?

*Answers will vary. There are many examples of repetition and metaphor in these speeches. The students should recognize that Sinclair's use of repetition helps to move the audience.*

## Chapter 29

**juggernaut** – an institution, practice or notion to which people blindly devote themselves, or are ruthlessly sacrificed; something unstoppable

**profanation** – desecration; defilement

**proletariat** – the working class

**thralldom** – the condition of being in slavery

1. In this chapter, Ostrinski teaches Jurgis and the reader, about socialism. How does Ostrinski define the competitive wage system?

*Working men and women are dependent on a job to survive, so they bid against each other to get it. Consequently, no man is paid more than the sum the lowest man consents to work for. The working man sells his labor too cheaply.*

2. Why does Ostrinski believe the proletariat are doomed to slavery?

*There are many working class men, but very few bosses. The bosses can combine to dominate the proletariat. The proletariat are many, but they are also ignorant and helpless. They will remain at the mercy of the bosses unless they organize.*

3. How does Ostrinski define the one socialist principle?

*Ostrinski tells Jurgis that there is only one socialist principle – “no compromise,” which means that whenever a socialist is elected to office, he always remembers his greater purpose – “the organizing of the working class for the revolution.” (Pg. 292)*

4. This chapter and the ones that follow are examples of what technique?

*They are examples of propaganda literature.*

## Chapter 30

### Vocabulary

**corollary** – anything that follows as a logical result

**fusillade** – a rapid and continuous discharge, usually of a firearm

**impervious** – incapable of being harmed

**predaceous** – preying on other animals

**Trojan** – a strong, hardworking, determined person

1. How does Elzbieta feel about Jurgis' new-found socialism?

*Elzbieta is unable to embrace socialism. She is too busy trying to survive from day to day.*

2. How does Jurgis try to correct some of the mistakes of his past, before he embraced Socialism?

*Jurgis goes to the stockyards to try to organize the workers. He does this because he wants to make up for helping Scully in the previous year's election.*

3. What evidence is there in this chapter that the socialist movement in Packingtown is beginning to make a difference?

*The socialist workers disrupt a speech by a senator hired by Scully to speak to the men.*

## Chapter 31

### Vocabulary

**anarchist** – one who believes in the complete absence of government

**axiom** – a statement universally accepted as true

**dyspeptic** – morose; grouchy

**elucidate** – to make clear, explain

**enunciate** – to state definitely; express in a systematic way

**stultify** – to make seem foolish, stupid

**unctuous** – oily or greasy

1. Most critics believe that this chapter is a vehicle for Sinclair to continue his socialist propaganda. Jurgis' life struggle, which the reader has been following for 300 pages, is put aside to discuss the philosophy of socialism. After debating the issue, the men in the room agree on two propositions which define socialism. State these two propositions.

*“First, that a Socialist believes in the common ownership and democratic management of the means of producing the necessities of life; and, second, that a Socialist believes that the means by which this is to be brought about is the class-conscious political organization of the wage-earners.” (Pg. 312)*

2. The following excerpt is Schliemann's vision of a socialist society.

“...society would break up into independent, self-governing communities of mutually congenial persons; examples of which at present were clubs, churches, and political parties. After the revolution, all the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual activities of men would be cared for by such ‘free associations’; romantic novelists would be supported by those who liked to read romantic novels, and impressionist painters would be supported by those who liked to look at impressionist pictures – and the same with preachers and scientists, editors and actors and musicians. If any one wanted to work or paint or pray, and could find no one to maintain him, he could support himself by working part of the time. That was the case at present, the only difference being that the competitive wage-system compelled a man to work all the time to live, while, after the abolition of privilege and exploitation, any one would be able to support himself by an hour's work a day.” (Pgs. 312-313)

In recent history, the USSR has abandoned Communism for a Capitalist economy because Communism did not work. What flaws do you see in this Socialist/Communist vision of the world?

*Answers will vary. Example: Some students may point out that without competition, there is no motivation for people to produce more than they need to survive. There is also little or no motivation to invent new and better ways of doing things.*

3. List three “negative wastes of competition” Schliemann presents in this chapter.

*Answers will vary. Example: There are many wastes listed in this chapter, including: industrial warfare, vices such as drink, idle and unproductive people, the frivolous rich, the machinery of repression, etc.*

4. List three “positive economies of co-operation.”

*Answers will vary. Example: Economies of co-operative cooking, washing dishes, doing without meat, new and cleaner factories, help for preventable diseases, etc.*

5. At the end of this chapter, Jurgis is absorbed by Socialism. The last lines in the book are, “Chicago will be ours! Chicago will be ours!” Do you find the end of this story satisfying? State the reasons for your opinion.

*Answers will vary. Example: Some students will find the ending chapters of this story unbelievable and boring. Apparently, Jurgis can only survive on this earth if he is a socialist. Otherwise, he keeps getting beaten down by the system. As a socialist, he has a job, but he does not have a family or love in his life. He is part of the socialist organization, but somewhere along the way, Jurgis, the hardworking dreamer, has disappeared. The ending of the story may have been more satisfying if Sinclair had continued Jurgis’ personal story. All the reader knows is that he has a drab job as a porter and that he fights for the Socialist party.*



# *The Jungle*

## Study Guide Student Copy

### Chapter 1

#### Vocabulary

**acziavimas** – a Lithuanian wedding custom in which the men take turns dancing with the bride and leaving money in a hat at the conclusion of each dance

**altitudinous** – relating to heights

**badinage** – playful, teasing talk

**cortege** – a train of attendants, a procession

**incommode** – to bother, inconvenience

**incongruous** – lacking harmony or agreement, incompatible

**lugubrious** – sad or mournful

**perforce** – through necessity

**precipitately** – hastily or rashly

**promiscuous** – consisting of different elements mixed together

**seraphically** – in a heavenly way

**veselija** – Lithuanian wedding

1. Many interesting and important characters are introduced in this chapter. Briefly describe the following characters. Whenever possible, include in your description each character's occupation, relationship to other characters, age, and personal character traits which seem to separate one character from another.

For example, Marija Berczynskas is described as being exuberant and interested in maintaining the proprieties of a traditional Lithuanian wedding ceremony. As the bride's cousin, she takes charge of the wedding reception.

Ona Lukoszaite

Jurgis Rudkus

Teta Elzbieta

Tamoszius Kuszleika

Dede Antanas

Jokubas and Lucija Szedvilas

2. Which one of the characters introduced in Chapter 1 do you think is the protagonist of the story? Support your choice with an excerpt from the chapter establishing his or her importance in the story.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the setting for this story? Include in your answer the city, approximate time period, and, if possible, neighborhood where the action takes place.

4. *The Jungle* was originally published in a socialist newspaper, *Appeal to Reason*, in serial form in 1905. Sinclair's assignment was to expose the injustices the workers at the Chicago stockyards must endure to survive. Use the following excerpt to answer the next three questions.

Mikolas and Alena Jadvyga are in love and have wanted to marry for five years, but they are unable to save enough money.

"This is the fifth year, now, that Jadvyga has been engaged to Mikolas, and her heart is sick. They would have been married in the beginning, only Mikolas has a father who is drunk all day, and he is the only other man in a large family. Even so they might have managed it (for Mikolas is a skilled man) but for cruel accidents which have almost taken the heart out of them. He is a beef-boner, and that is a dangerous trade, especially when you are on piece-work and trying to earn a bride. Your hands are slippery, and your knife is slippery, and you are toiling like mad, when somebody happens to speak to you, or you strike a bone. Then your hand slips up on the blade, and there is a fearful gash. And that would not be so bad, only for the deadly contagion. The cut may heal, but you never can tell. Twice now; within the last three years, Mikolas has been lying at home with blood poisoning – once for three months and once for nearly seven. The last time, too, he lost his job, and that meant six weeks more of standing at the doors of the packing-houses, at six o'clock on bitter winter mornings, with a foot of snow on the ground and more in the air. There are learned people who can tell you out of the statistics that beef-boners make forty cents an hour, but, perhaps, these people have never looked into a beef-boner's hands." (Pgs. 20-21)

- A. What social injustice(s) is described in the above excerpt?
- B. Find an additional example of social injustice in this chapter.
- C. Most of this novel is written in the third-person point of view. At what point in this passage does the narrator seem to be speaking directly to the reader rather than relating the thoughts and feelings of the characters in a detached, godlike manner typical of third-person narration? Why do you think Sinclair chooses to address the reader directly?

## Chapter 2

### Vocabulary

felicitous – appropriate

1. The literary term “in media res” means to begin in the middle of the action. In Chapter 1, Sinclair begins the story by describing Jurgis and Ona’s wedding. Why do you think he begins the novel in this way?
2. In Chapter 2, the story flashes back to Jurgis’ life in Lithuania. This flashback provides the reader with the necessary background information about Jurgis and Ona so that the reader will accept and understand the motivations of the characters in the action to come. Why does Jurgis decide to immigrate to America?
3. When Jurgis and Ona’s family reach Chicago they “were pitiable in their helplessness; above all things they stood in deadly terror of any sort of person in official uniform, and so whenever they saw a policeman they would cross the street and hurry by.” (Pg. 32) Why are Jurgis and the others afraid of the policemen? What theme for this novel does this fear suggest to the reader?

4. Some critics believe that Sinclair's description of Chicago as seen through the eyes of the new immigrants foreshadows the difficulties Jurgis and the others will face in America. Read the following excerpt from this chapter. What future problem(s) do you think Sinclair is foreshadowing?

"They sat and stared out of the window. They were on a street which seemed to run on forever, mile after mile – thirty-four of them, if they had known it – and each side of it one uninterrupted row of wretched little two-story frame buildings. Down every side street they could see, it was the same, – never a hill and never a hollow, but always the same endless vista of ugly and dirty little wooden buildings. Here and there would be a bridge crossing a filthy creek, with hard-baked mud shores and dingy sheds and docks along it; here and there would be a railroad crossing, with a tangle of switches, and locomotives puffing, and rattling freight-cars filing by; here and there would be a great factory, a dingy building with innumerable windows in it, and immense volumes of smoke pouring from the chimneys, darkening the air above and making filthy the earth beneath. But after each of these interruptions, the desolate procession would begin again – the procession of dreary little buildings." (Pg. 32)

5. What does the term "made land" refer to? How do Ona and Jurgis feel about this "made land"? What theme does Sinclair's description of the "made land" suggest to the reader?
6. The term *naïf* is used in literature to describe a naïve character who in the course of the story becomes wise to the ways of the world. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is an example of this classic literary type?



## Chapter 4

### Vocabulary

**besom** – broom

**placard** – a poster, advertisement

1. In what ways do the troubles involving the purchase of the house help to support Sinclair's anti-capitalist beliefs?
2. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating Sinclair's belief that the capitalist economy fails to take care of the elderly.
3. Some critics believe that the house Jurgis buys is a symbol for the American Dream. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute this idea.
4. How does Jurgis behave when he comes home and is told that he may have been swindled by the agent? What might this behavior foreshadow about Jurgis in the action to come?

## Chapter 5

### Vocabulary

**laissez faire** – letting the owners of industry and business fix the rules of competition without governmental regulation or control

**graft** – taking advantage of one's position to gain money, etc.

**slunk** – a calf that has been born prematurely

1. Who are the “pacemakers”? Why do the unions want to stop the practice of “speeding up”? What is Jurgis’ opinion of the unions?
2. Jurgis is the naif in this story. He is described as being “dismayed” because his fellow workers hate their work. For what reasons does Jurgis, after learning about his father’s new job, begin to understand that the capitalist system he admires is imperfect?
3. For what reasons are Marija and Jonas’ jobs also a disappointment for Jurgis?
4. In what ways is Jurgis disillusioned by what he witnesses on the killing floor?
5. State a theme for this story based on the deceitful activities described in questions 1 through 4. Note: Remember that Jurgis and the others have been forced to participate in these activities or remain unemployed. Also remember that Sinclair wrote *The Jungle* to expose flaws in capitalism.



## Chapter 6

### Vocabulary

**affliction** – pain or suffering

**caste** – social status or position

**lamentation** – outward expression of grief; weeping or wailing

**typify** – to have or show the distinctive characteristics of; be typical of

1. For what reasons does Grandmother Majauszkiene believe that paying for a house is “fooling the company”?
2. What is the “War Whoop League”?
3. Grandmother Majauszkiene is described as being a socialist. How does she think the poor people, who are being exploited by the big businesses, will one day get their revenge?
4. Why must young Stanislovas Coneonsver lie about his age?
5. For what reason does Ona decide she must go to work?
6. Briefly describe Ona’s job and Stanislovas’ job. In what way does Sinclair use both of these jobs as a vehicle to continue his muckraking?

## Chapter 7

### Vocabulary

**adulterated** – made to be impure

**anguish** – great suffering from worry

**aniline** – poisonous oily liquid used in dyes

**atrocious** – cruel

**sordid** – dirty; depressingly wretched

1. The flashback from Chapters 2 through 6 ends at the beginning of Chapter 7. Sinclair writes,

“It [Ona and Jurgis’ wedding] was a bitter and cruel experience, and it plunged them into an agony of despair. Such a time, of all times, for them to have it, when their hearts were made tender! Such a pitiful beginning it was for their married life; they loved each other so, and they could not have the briefest respite! It was a time when everything cried out to them that they ought to be happy; when wonder burned in their hearts, and leaped into flame at the slightest breath....

Over them, relentless and savage, there cracked the lash of want; the morning after the wedding it sought them as they slept, and drove them out before daybreak to work.” (Pg. 75)

In what sense is this passage an example of irony? Point out a metaphor and personification.

2. In this chapter, Sinclair describes some of the many dangers facing Jurgis and his family in Packingtown. Briefly list three of these dangers and the steps Jurgis tries to take to protect his family from harm.

3. What lie does Jurgis tell to his dying father?
4. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating that Jurgis is beginning to shed his naïve outlook.
5. In what way(s) do the packing houses seem to be encouraging the workers to drink?
6. Find an example of personification in this chapter.

## Chapter 8

### Vocabulary

fodder – coarse food for cattle

garret – the space just below the roof of a house

inconspicuous – hard to see; attracting little attention

myriad – a great number

preposterous – laughable; outrageous

skylark – to play about boisterously; frolic

1. Briefly describe Tamoszius Kuszleika. What is his relationship with Marija?
2. Why does Sinclair refer to Marija as “really the capitalist of the party”? (Pg. 86) How does the slump in business impact Marija and her capitalist beliefs?
3. How does the slump in business also impact Jurgis?
4. Why does Jurgis decide to join a labor union? In what sense is the labor union Jurgis’ “new religion”?

## Chapter 9

1. List three ways in which Jurgis changes due to his involvement with the union.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Find an example of Sinclair's muckraking in this chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who is Mike Scully and what is the source of his power?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In this chapter, Sinclair points out many terrible examples of corruption in the meat packing business. Which of these incidents do you think is the most horrible?

## Chapter 10

### Vocabulary

**contingencies** – chance or accidental occurrences

**furies** – from Greek and Roman mythology, three female spirits, who punish the doers of unavenged crimes

**neuralgia** – a severe pain along the course of a nerve

1. Critics believe that Sinclair, a socialist, strives to illustrate to the reader the flaws in a capitalist economy. One of the themes of this novel is that a capitalist economic system promotes a harmful lifestyle. Cite two incidents from this chapter to support this theme.

2. Why does Marija lose her job at the canning factory? What lesson does she learn from her mistake?

3. State a theme for this story based on the following excerpt.

“But there was no place a girl could go in Packingtown, if she was particular about things of this sort; there was no place in it where a prostitute could not get along better than a decent girl. Here was a population, low-class and mostly foreign, hanging always on the verge of starvation, and dependent for its opportunities of life upon the whim of men every bit as brutal and unscrupulous as the old-time slave drivers; under such circumstances immorality was exactly as inevitable, and as prevalent, as it was under the system of chattel slavery. Things that were quite unspeakable went on there in the packing houses all the time, and were taken for granted by everybody; only they did not show, as in the old slavery times, because there was no difference in color between master and slave.” (Pg. 107)

4. Jurgis is delighted with the birth of his son, Antanas. In what way does Sinclair use the story of the baby's birth to further condemn the American economic system?

## Chapter 11

### Vocabulary

**superfluity** – excess, overabundance

**inexorable** – unchangeable

**privation** – the lack of ordinary necessities of life

1. Why do the packinghouses hire extra employees? How does this excess of employees impact Jurgis?
2. Which of the elements of naturalism are present in this novel? Cite one incident from the story to support each element you select.
3. Sinclair often describes Jurgis with animal imagery. For example, in this chapter Jurgis is likened to “some monarch of the forest that has vanquished his foes in fair fight, and then falls into some cowardly trap in the night-time.” (Pg. 113) Find an additional example of animal imagery in this chapter. Keep notes on instances of this type of imagery as you read the remainder of the novel.
4. What is Jurgis’ only consolation in his dreary life?

## Chapter 12

### Vocabulary

penury – lack of money; extreme poverty

1. Cite evidence for the fact that Ona does not confide in her husband. Why do you think she fails to do so?
2. One of the themes of this novel is that immortality is inevitable in a capitalistic society. Find an incident from this chapter that supports this theme.
3. Jonas disappears one day in early spring. Where do you think he is?



## Chapter 13

### Vocabulary

**albumen** – a protein substance found in animal tissue (now spelled albumin)

**charnel** – a building or place where corpses or bones are deposited

**magnanimity** – being generous in overlooking injury or insult

**obdurate** – hardhearted; not easily moved to pity or sympathy

**perversity** – stubbornly deviating from what is considered to be right

**piecework** – work for which one is paid a fixed rate

**prestidigitator** – magician

**ptarmigan** – a brownish bird

**voluble** – talking a lot

1. In this chapter, Sinclair continues his exposé of the flaws in capitalism by relentlessly describing the problems working class people like Jurgis must face. Which of the incidents in this chapter do you think is the most horrible? Based on that incident, what do you think Sinclair is saying about capitalism?
2. Why does Jurgis decide the boys must return to school? What theme for *The Jungle* does this incident support?

## Chapter 14

### Vocabulary

stupefy – to make dull or lethargic

torpor – dullness, apathy

1. This novel was first published in 1905 in serial form in the socialist paper *Appeal to Reason*. Sinclair was given the assignment to write an exposé of the meat packing business. The readers of the exposé were outraged by what they read. Which incident from this chapter do you think these readers found to be the most disturbing?
2. In what sense is it ironic that Elzbieta finds a job in the sausage plant?
3. Why does Jurgis begin to drink? What happens to him to make him fight the urge?
4. In what ways is Ona falling to pieces?

## Chapter 15

### Vocabulary

**aspect** – appearance of a thing

**rife** – frequently or commonly occurring

**tempest** – a violent storm

1. The animal imagery in the following excerpt is particularly strong. Based on this imagery, what do you think is the significance of the title of this story?

“The beginning of these perplexing things was in the summer; and each time Ona would promise him with terror in her voice that it would not happen again – but in vain. Each crisis would leave Jurgis more and more frightened, more disposed to distrust Elzbieta’s consolations, and to believe that there was some terrible thing about all this that he was not allowed to know. Once or twice in these outbreaks he caught Ona’s eye, and it seemed to him like the eye of a hunted animal; there were broken phrases of anguish and despair now and then, amid her frantic weeping. It was only because he was so numb and beaten himself that Jurgis did not worry more about this. But he never thought of it, except when he was dragged to it – he lived like a dumb beast of burden, knowing only the moment in which he was.” (Pg. 137)

2. Why does Ona submit to Connor’s advances? For what reason do you think she does not turn to Jurgis for help?

## Chapter 16

### Vocabulary

**base** – having or showing little or no honor, courage, or decency; mean

**duffer** – slang for something worthless

**effaced** – wiped out, erased

**fetid** – having a bad, decaying smell

**lair** – a bed or resting place of a wild animal

1. What are “duffers and dope”?
2. Cite evidence from this chapter supporting the idea that the justice system is as corrupt as the meat packing business.
3. Describe the irony in the judge’s decision to punish Jurgis by putting him in jail.
4. What does the poem at the end of the chapter say about the value to society of placing a man in jail?

## Chapter 17

### Vocabulary

**freebooter** – a plunderer; a pirate

**genial** – cheerful, friendly, and kindly

**imprecation** – curse

**interpose** – to intervene or mediate

1. Briefly describe Jack Duane.
2. State a theme for this story based on the following excerpt. What future action might this passage foreshadow? Jurgis is talking to Duane.

“Didn’t he ever wonder about his family, Jurgis asked. Sometimes, the other answered, but not often – he didn’t allow it. Thinking about it would make it no better. This wasn’t a world in which a man had any business with a family; sooner or later Jurgis would find that out also, and give up the fight and shift for himself.” (Pg. 159)

3. List three hardships Jurgis’ family must endure after he goes to jail.

## Chapter 18

1. Why is Jurgis in jail longer than 30 days?
2. What does Jurgis find when he returns to his home?
3. Some critics believe that the house symbolizes the American Dream. What is Sinclair saying about the American Dream when Jurgis loses the house?
4. Ona goes into premature labor and is suffering, but Jurgis and her family do not have enough money to hire a midwife. Marija is unable to work and may lose her hand because of a cut. State a theme for this novel based on these incidents.

## Chapter 19

1. Some critics believe that Madame Haupt is a round character. Briefly describe Madame Haupt and state whether or not you agree with the critics.
2. One of the most moving passages in this novel is Sinclair's description of Jurgis' grief over Ona's death. Study the following paragraph and find an example of a simile and a metaphor.

"The word rang through him like the sound of a bell, echoing in the far depths of him, making forgotten chords to vibrate, old shadowy fears to stir – fears of the dark, fears of the void, fears of annihilation. She was dead! She was dead! He would never see her again, never hear her again! An icy horror of loneliness seized him; he saw himself standing apart and watching all the world fade away from him – a world of shadows, of fickle dreams. He was like a little child, in his fright and grief; he called and called, and got no answer, and his cries of despair echoed through the house, making the women down-stairs draw nearer to each other in fear. He was inconsolable, beside himself – the priest came and laid his hand upon his shoulder and whispered to him, but he heard not a sound. He was gone away himself, stumbling through the shadows, and groping after the soul that had fled." (Pgs. 183-184)

## Chapter 20

1. Why does Jurgis, who is grieving for Ona, decide to look for work again?
2. What does it mean to a man like Jurgis when he is "blacklisted"?
3. How is the harvester works, where Jurgis finally finds a job, different from the other businesses in Packingtown? In what ways is it the same?

## Chapter 21

### Vocabulary

**pittance** – small amount or portion

**incandescent** – shining brilliantly; very bright

**ingot** – a mass of metal cast into a bar

1. In what ways does the “settlement worker” help Jurgis and his family?
2. What does the following excerpt, describing the steelworks, suggest to the reader about the working conditions in the business?

“Jurgis stood where the balcony of the theater would have been, and opposite, by the stage, he saw three giant caldrons, big enough for all the devils of hell to brew their broth in, full of something white and blinding, bubbling and splashing, roaring as if volcanoes were blowing through it – one had to shout to be heard in the place. Liquid fire would leap from these caldrons and scatter like bombs below – and men were working there, seeming careless, so that Jurgis caught his breath with fright.” (Pgs. 196-197)

3. How does Jurgis hurt his hand? What injustice of capitalism does this incident illustrate? In what way does Jurgis’ injury benefit him?
4. What theme(s) does Sinclair present in the following excerpt?

“...he told himself that he had learned his lesson now, and would meet with no more accidents – so that at last there was prospect of an end to their long agony. They could save money again, and when another winter came they would have a comfortable place; and the children would be off the streets and in school again, and they might set to work to nurse back into life their habits of decency and kindness. So once more Jurgis began to make plans and dream dreams.” (Pg. 200)



## Chapter 22

### Vocabulary

**derisive** – insulting, scornful, contemptuous

**forage** – to search for food or provisions

**rent** – a hole or gap made by tearing

**scourge** – to punish severely

**transient** – staying for only a short time

1. This chapter marks a turning point in Jurgis' life. Find a passage, in the first few pages of this chapter, stating how Jurgis plans to live his life now that both Ona and Antanas are dead.
2. Some critics believe that Jurgis' bath in the stream is symbolic. What do you think this cleansing might symbolize?
3. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is beginning to think for himself?
4. Jurgis lives the life of a tramp until early fall. How does he feel about himself and his new life?

## Chapter 23

### Vocabulary

mendicant – beggar

1. What is the hidden purpose of the subway system which Jurgis helps to construct?
2. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating Jurgis' opinion of the evangelists who preach to the poor. Which theme(s) does Jurgis' opinion of the evangelists illustrate?
3. Why is Jurgis, who has just come out of the hospital, an unsuccessful beggar?

## Chapter 24

### Vocabulary

**benignant** – kindly in a patronizing way

**insouciance** – gay heedlessness, lighthearted unconcern

**portiere** – a heavy curtain across an entrance or a doorway

**subjugation** – the act of conquering or subduing

1. At this point in the story, how does Jurgis view the world? What, in Jurgis' view, is his place in this world?
2. Why might some readers find this chapter easier and more interesting to read than many of the other chapters in the story?
3. Many critics believe this scene is written to delight Sinclair's socialist friends. At the time it was written, readers would have easily recognized that the butler is named after Alexander Hamilton, who was Secretary of the Treasury, and that the dog is named after Admiral Dewey, who fought in the Spanish American War. Sinclair and the other socialists would have considered these two men to be perpetrators of the capitalist system, and ridiculing them in this scene would have been very amusing.

Besides providing his readers with an amusing scene, what does Sinclair reveal about the changes in Jurgis' character during this chapter?

## Chapter 25

### Vocabulary

**assignation** – an appointment for a meeting

**oligarchy** – a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons

**plurality** – the number of votes in an election that the leading candidate obtains over the next highest candidate

**plutocrat** – a member of a wealthy ruling class

**swag** – slang for stolen money or property

**vicissitude** – a sudden or unexpected change or shift

1. Why does the judge believe the bartender instead of Jurgis? State a theme based on this incident.
2. In what way is Jurgis rare among criminals so that he is a valuable friend for a man like Jack Duane?
3. How does Duane justify nearly killing the insurance agent?

4. “A month ago Jurgis had all but perished of starvation upon the streets; and now suddenly, as by the gift of a magic key, he had entered into a world where money and all the good things of life came freely.” (Pg. 239) What is the “magic key” Jurgis has that helps him to earn money?
5. How does Jurgis define socialists in this chapter?
6. In what sense is the following excerpt from the end of this chapter an example of sarcasm?

...on a day of Democratic landslides they elected “Scotty” Doyle, the ex-ten-pin setter, by nearly a thousand plurality – and beginning at five o’clock in the afternoon, and ending at three the next morning, Jurgis treated himself to a most unholy and horrible ‘jag’. Nearly every one else in Packingtown did the same, however, for there was universal exultation over this triumph of popular government, this crushing defeat of an arrogant plutocrat by the power of the common people. (Pg. 247)

## Chapter 26

### Vocabulary

**scab** – slang for a worker who refuses to strike or who takes the place of a striking worker; a term of contempt

1. For what reasons does Jurgis become a scab?
2. What evidence is there in this chapter that Jurgis is becoming as corrupt as the bosses who cheated him out of his hard-earned money earlier in the story?
3. Critics criticize Sinclair because of his stereotypical comments about black workers in this story. How do you think Sinclair might answer these critics?
4. What do you see as the main reason the striking unions are unsuccessful in forcing the packers to meet their demands?
5. Why, at the end of the chapter, does Jurgis once again find himself broke and out of work?

## Chapter 27

### Vocabulary

**deshabille** – the state of being dressed only partially or in night clothes

1. As the book comes to an end, Sinclair concludes by telling the reader about Marija, Stanislovas, Elzbieta, and Tamoszius. Briefly describe what has happened to each of these characters since Jurgis left the family.
2. Reread the first few pages of Chapter 1, describing Marija. Knowing her ultimate fate in Chapter 27, what do you think Marija might symbolize or represent in this book? What do you think Sinclair is saying about capitalism when he writes about her fate?

## Chapter 28

### Vocabulary

**absinthe** – a green, bitter, toxic liqueur

1. Why is Marija trapped in the life of a prostitute?
2. At the end of the political speech in this chapter, Jurgis is on his feet cheering. Why do you think he reacts this way?
3. Which literary techniques do you think is the most effective in moving the audience to action?

## Chapter 29

**juggernaut** – an institution, practice or notion to which people blindly devote themselves, or are ruthlessly sacrificed; something unstoppable

**profanation** – desecration; defilement

**proletariat** – the working class

**thralldom** – the condition of being in slavery

1. In this chapter, Ostrinski teaches Jurgis and the reader, about socialism. How does Ostrinski define the competitive wage system?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why does Ostrinski believe the proletariat are doomed to slavery?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does Ostrinski define the one socialist principle?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. This chapter and the ones that follow are examples of what technique?



## Chapter 30

## Vocabulary

**corollary** – anything that follows as a logical result

**fusillade** – a rapid and continuous discharge, usually of a firearm

**impervious** – incapable of being harmed

predaceous – preying on other animals

**Trojan** – a strong, hardworking, determined person

1. How does Elzbieta feel about Jurgis' new-found socialism?
2. How does Jurgis try to correct some of the mistakes of his past, before he embraced Socialism?
3. What evidence is there in this chapter that the socialist movement in Packingtown is beginning to make a difference?

## Chapter 31

### Vocabulary

**anarchist** – one who believes in the complete absence of government

**axiom** – a statement universally accepted as true

**dyspeptic** – morose; grouchy

**elucidate** – to make clear, explain

**enunciate** – to state definitely; express in a systematic way

**stultify** – to make seem foolish, stupid

**unctuous** – oily or greasy

1. Most critics believe that this chapter is a vehicle for Sinclair to continue his socialist propaganda. Jurgis' life struggle, which the reader has been following for 300 pages, is put aside to discuss the philosophy of socialism. After debating the issue, the men in the room agree on two propositions which define socialism. State these two propositions.

2. The following excerpt is Schliemann's vision of a socialist society.

“...society would break up into independent, self-governing communities of mutually congenial persons; examples of which at present were clubs, churches, and political parties. After the revolution, all the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual activities of men would be cared for by such ‘free associations’; romantic novelists would be supported by those who liked to read romantic novels, and impressionist painters would be supported by those who liked to look at impressionist pictures – and the same with preachers and scientists, editors and actors and musicians. If any one wanted to work or paint or pray, and could find no one to maintain him, he could support himself by working part of the time. That was the case at present, the only difference being that the competitive wage-system compelled a man to work all the time to live, while, after the abolition of privilege and exploitation, any one would be able to support himself by an hour's work a day.” (Pgs. 312-313)

In recent history, the USSR has abandoned Communism for a Capitalist economy because Communism did not work. What flaws do you see in this Socialist/Communist vision of the world?

3. List three “negative wastes of competition” Schliemann presents in this chapter.
4. List three “positive economies of co-operation.”
5. At the end of this chapter, Jurgis is absorbed by Socialism. The last lines in the book are, “Chicago will be ours! Chicago will be ours!” Do you find the end of this story satisfying? State the reasons for your opinion.

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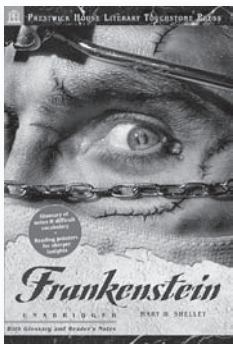
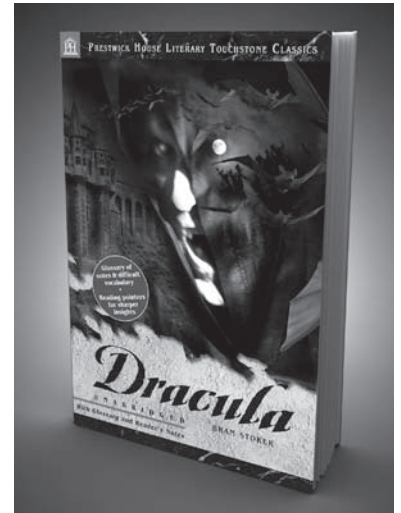
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