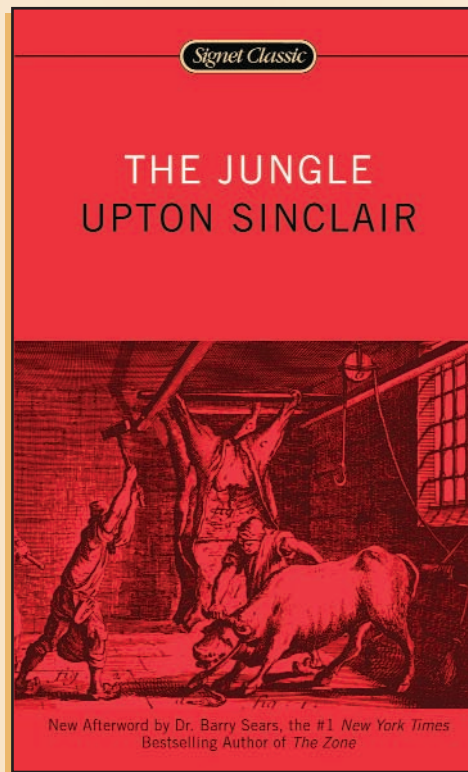




A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE SIGNET CLASSIC EDITION OF

UPTON SINCLAIR'S
THE JUNGLE

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S E R I E S E D I T O R S :

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INTRODUCTION

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair was written at the turn of the twentieth century. This period is often painted as one of advancement of the human condition. Sinclair refutes this by unveiling the horrible injustices of Chicago's meat packing industry as Jurgis Rudkus, his protagonist, discovers the truth about opportunity and prosperity in America.

This book is a good choice for eleventh and twelfth grade, junior college, or college students mature enough to understand the purpose of its content. The "hooks" for most students are the human-interest storyline and the graphic descriptions of the meat industry and the realities of immigrant life in America.

The teacher's main role while reading this book with students is to help them understand Sinclair's purpose. Coordinating the reading of *The Jungle* with a United States history study of the beginning of the 1900s will illustrate that this novel was not intended as mere entertainment but written in the cause of social reform. As students read, they should be encouraged to develop and express their own ideas about the many political, ethical, and personal issues addressed by Sinclair.

This guide includes an overview, which identifies the main characters and summarizes each chapter. The next section provides suggestions for engaging students with the ideas they will encounter in their reading. The section "While Reading the Novel" provides study questions for each chapter, a list of quotations that help lead to better understanding, and suggested vocabulary study for those students who may benefit from this aid. In the "After Reading the Novel" section there are discussion topics and a list of possible creative responses to help students express their understandings.

OVERVIEW

IDENTIFICATION OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF INTRODUCTION)

Marija Berczynskas (ma-REE-ah ber-JIN-skas): Ona's cousin, a 20-something orphan, but a strong woman.

Ona Lukoszaite (OH-na luke-oh-SHY-tay): Marija's 16-year-old cousin and Elzbieta's step-daughter.

Jurgis Rudkus (YER-gis rudd-KUSS): a strong Lithuanian immigrant who comes to America looking for the American Dream.

Teta Elzbieta Lukoszaite (tay-Ta Luke-oh-SHY-tay): Aunt Elizabeth, Ona's stepmother, and mother of six.

Tamoszius Kuzleika (tam-ohsh-YOOS kuz-lie-KA): a fiddle player who intends to marry Marija.

Dede Antanas Rudkus (Day-da on-TAN-us rudd-KUSS): Grandfather Anthony, Jurgis's father, about 60 years old.

Jokubas Szedvilas (YO-koo-bus jzed-VEE-lus): delicatessen store owner and Lucija's husband.

Aniele Jukniene (ann-eel-AA yuk-NINE-uh): a widow with 3 children; she rents rooms in her home.

Jonas (YO-nus): Elzbieta's brother.

Stanislovas (stah-KNEES-lo-vas): Teta Elzbieta's 13-year-old small son.

Mike Scully: a powerful Democrat and owner of much of "underground" Packingtown.

Phil Connor: a foreman at Brown's, where Ona works.

Jack Duane: a thief that Jurgis meets in jail.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Chapter 1 (p. 7)

Jurgis and Ona are married on a Sunday. Although everyone must arrive at work at seven Monday morning, the revelry lasts long into the night.

Chapter 2 (p. 25)

(This chapter begins a flashback that continues until Chapter Seven.) Jurgis's and Ona's families come to Chicago. They are shocked by the reality of the stockyards but have faith that Jurgis and others will be employed and thrive.

Chapter 3 (p. 35)

Jurgis easily gets a job at Brown's. Jokubas shows his friends around Packingtown and through a meat packing plant.

Chapter 4 (p. 46)

After the pitiful living conditions at Aniele Jukniene's boarding house, the family purchases a house.

Chapter 5 (p. 57)

The family enjoys making purchases and furnishing their new home. The adults all find employment and begin to see the inner workings of Packingtown, sharing stories of atrocities with one another in the evenings.

Chapter 6 (p. 67)

Jurgis and Ona are eager to be married, but they lack the money for a proper wedding and continue to wait. Grandmother Majauszkiene, a neighbor, tells the family about paying interest on the house, the history of their house, and some harsh realities of Packingtown. Because the family realizes they must pay more money than originally thought for the house, Ona and Stanislovas find jobs.

Chapter 7 (p. 76)

The flashback ends and the story continues. Jurgis's and Ona's wedding leaves them in debt. Winter in Chicago is a brutal experience. Antanas falls sick and dies.

Chapter 8 (p. 86)

Marija and Tamoszius fall in love and hope to be married in the spring. Marija loses her job because of low post-holiday demand for meat. All working members of the family join a union, hoping to combat their plight.

Chapter 9 (p. 93)

A graphic description of political, economic, and health care corruption existing in Chicago is given through Jurgis's experiences and stories related by his friends.

Chapter 10 (p. 102)

The family endures more winter hardships. Marija is fired for being difficult with the bosses at work, and her unemployment hurts the family. She later finds work as a beef trimmer, which is man's work. Ona's boss and coworkers dislike her for her unwillingness to participate in prostitution. She gives birth to a baby boy, Antanas, and returns to work less than two weeks later.

Chapter 11 (p. 111)

Sinclair describes more political and economic corruption. There is a run on the bank, and Marija waits in line for two days to withdraw her money, which she sews into her clothes for safekeeping. Jurgis is injured at work. He receives no compensation for his injury and is bedridden indefinitely.

Chapter 12 (p. 120)

Jonas disappears and is not heard from again, cutting the family income by one third. Vilimas, 11, and Nikalojus, 10, are sent to work selling papers. The doctor tells Jurgis he can return to work, but an emaciated Jurgis is unsuccessful in finding employment.

Chapter 13 (p. 127)

Kristoforas, Elzbieta's youngest child, dies at three years of age. Jurgis finally finds employment in a fertilizer plant, with the most inhumane conditions of any job in Packingtown. Vilimas and Nikalojus are sent back to school while Elzbieta gets a job making sausages. Daughter Kotrina stays home to care for the children and the household.

Chapter 14 (p. 135)

More atrocities of the meat packing industry are described. Jurgis begins his battle with alcohol and curses his responsibilities to his family. Ona, becoming emotionally unstable, is expecting their second child.

Chapter 15 (p. 141)

Ona's emotional distress increases. One snowy night she does not come home. Her excuse is that the weather forced her to spend the night at a friend's house (Jadvyga Marcinkus). The next time she doesn't come home, Jurgis looks for her in the morning, finds out she never spent the night with Jadvyga, and discovers her on a streetcar. Ona and Elzbieta lie to Jurgis about Ona's whereabouts. He confronts Ona, and she admits to being forced into prostitution by Connor, a boss who has threatened all the family's jobs if she does not comply. Jurgis attacks Connor, almost killing him. He is pulled off him and arrested.

Chapter 16 (p. 154)

Jurgis is imprisoned and has no money for bail. He worries about the fate of the family and curses the forces that have brought his family to their present situation.

Chapter 17 (p. 162)

Jurgis is sentenced to a month in jail. Stanislovas comes to see Jurgis with news that all the adults are unemployed. Even Kotrina is selling papers, and everyone is starving. Jurgis gives him fourteen cents, the last of his money.

Chapter 18 (p. 171)

Jurgis is released from jail. When he arrives home he finds his house has been repossessed and sold to another family. Grandmother Majauszkiene tells him that his family is at Aniele's. When Jurgis arrives, Ona is in labor two months prematurely. The women give Jurgis money to find a doctor.

Chapter 19 (p. 181)

Jurgis finds a midwife and promises to pay her the balance if she helps Ona deliver. The women send Jurgis away for the night. He finds refuge at a saloon, where he is given food, drink, and shelter. Before dawn, he returns to Aniele's. The baby is dead, and Ona dies a short time later. When Kotrina arrives from selling papers, he takes all her money and heads to a saloon.

Chapter 20 (p. 190)

Jurgis looks for a job but realizes that he has been blacklisted. A union friend finds him a job with good working conditions. As he begins to feel hopeful once again, he comes to work one day to find that the department has been closed until further notice.

Chapter 21 (p. 200)

After seeing Juozapas looking for food in the dump, a settlement worker visits Elzbieta and listens to their problems since arriving in America. She sends them food and finds Jurgis a job at the steelworks. Again he feels hopeful until he arrives home one day to the news that Antanas has drowned in a puddle in the street.

Chapter 22 (p. 209)

Jurgis leaves the city, becoming a tramp in the country. He regains his health and enjoys wandering and working only when he desires. He attempts to repress his memories of Ona and Antanas but occasionally experiences weak moments.

Chapter 23 (p. 219)

Jurgis returns to the city in the fall and finds a job digging tunnels. Here he learns more about political and economic corruption in the city. He is injured and spends an enjoyable Christmas in the hospital. When he is released from the hospital, he is still not able to work, has run through his money, and is forced to beg.

Chapter 24 (p. 229)

Jurgis continues to live on the streets. He encounters a drunk Freddie Jones, son of a wealthy meat packer, who takes him to his family's home for the evening. Jurgis glimpses a lifestyle more extravagant than he could have imagined.

Chapter 25 (p. 241)

Jurgis attacks a bartender for cheating him and is once again thrown in jail, where he is reunited with his former cellmate Jack Duane. When he gets out of jail, he finds Duane and joins him in a life of thievery. Duane introduces him to key players in city politics, and Jurgis makes a living off dishonest practices. The unethical workings of city politics are explained at length as Jurgis takes part in much of the corruption and is helped to secure a job at Durham's.

Chapter 26 (p. 260)

Jurgis keeps his job at Durham's and waits for more opportunities for money from Scully. Negotiations for a new agreement between the packers and the unions fail, causing the Beef Strike in Chicago as well as other cities. Jurgis continues to work as a scab, with the encouragement of Scully. The press plays a significant role in the strike. Jurgis becomes a boss but experiences frustration with the apathy of the scabs. He runs into Connor one night and again tries to kill him. Jurgis is jailed and makes bail, leaving him with almost no money. He needs to leave the area when he learns that Connor is one of Scully's key players.

Chapter 27 (p. 276)

Jurgis is once again homeless and broke. He runs into an old acquaintance who tells him where to find Marija. He finds Marija living and working in a brothel. Soon after Jurgis's arrival there is a police raid that lands him in jail. Marija informs him that she is supporting Elzbieta and her children; that Stanislovas was eaten alive by rats; and that Tamoszius lost a finger, could no longer play the violin, and left town.

Chapter 28 (p. 290)

The judge releases Jurgis. He talks with Marija and learns how she and others have come to work in the brothel. Marija tells Jurgis to go see Elzbieta for help, but Jurgis instead buys a meal with the money Marija gave him and finds shelter at a hall where a speech is being given. Jurgis is moved by the speech, which seems to describe his life.

Chapter 29 (p. 304)

Jurgis learns that the speech is about socialism. He is introduced to Comrade Ostrinski who takes him home and discusses the evils of capitalism and the vision of socialism.

Chapter 30 (p. 312)

Jurgis begins working at a hotel owned by Tommy Hinds, an important man in the Socialist movement. Jurgis becomes a socialist and energetically works to enlist others. The function of the Socialist movement is outlined in this chapter.

Chapter 31 (p. 324)

Jurgis tries to convince Marija to leave the brothel, but she refuses. Jurgis is asked to attend an evening meeting with an important person in the Socialist movement. The premises of Socialism are discussed at this meeting, with it ending with a declaration of hopes that socialism will soon be the law of the land.

BEFORE READING THE NOVEL

Before reading, students should explore some of the issues they will encounter in the book. The following topics can be addressed in writing or orally, in groups or individually. Many of the issues, a hundred years old, are still very much a part of today's society. Examining these issues will give teenagers a better sense of who they are and what they believe. If time allows, students will also enjoy re-evaluating their responses to these questions after they have read the book.

1. The United States has long been considered the "land of opportunity." What are the expectations of many immigrants? Does the reality meet their expectations? What are the similarities and differences between what America offered to immigrants a hundred years ago and what it offers today?
2. Describe your ideal work situation. If you were an employer, how much work would you expect from your employees? What values would you want your employees to have? As an employee, how hard would you be willing to work? What is meant by a living wage? How reasonable is this expectation?
3. Explain how speaking English as your second language can be a communication barrier. How would someone who speaks limited or no English cope with daily life in America? What difficulties would they face daily?
4. To what extent do you agree with this statement? "The United States has a history of corporations taking advantage of individuals." If yes, what are some current examples of this? How does this phenomenon affect individuals, families, and businesses? On the other hand, many would say that United States corporations have made our high quality of life possible. How has corporate America improved the quality of life in this country?
5. What is Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest"? Extend this theory to basic human nature and explain how it applies to different aspects of society.

6. What food do you eat in an average day? Where does this food come from? Describe the journey your food makes from source to table.
7. What was the purpose of unions in America? How has this purpose evolved? What unions have been in the news recently?
8. Does political corruption exist in our country today? Provide specific examples. Why do you think our society is/is not politically corrupt?
9. What traits distinguish people of one social class from another in United States society today? Money? Job? Home? Education? Family? Ethnicity? Religion? Can you tell people of different classes apart? What advantages do some classes have over others? Why do most societies have class distinctions?
10. How would you explain America's banking system to someone who has never had any experience with banking? What advantages and disadvantages exist in keeping your money in the bank?
11. What is workers' compensation? Do you think it should exist in all workplaces? When should and should not an individual receive workers' compensation?
12. Many people cannot afford medical attention or choose not to see a doctor for other reasons. What effect could lack of medical attention have on a person? Should medical services be provided free to those who cannot afford them? What are the advantages/disadvantages of socialized medicine?
13. At what age should a person begin working? What type of work is appropriate for a young person? What should their hours and working conditions be?
14. Could you ever live "a life of crime"? If so, what could cause you to do so? If not, what qualities/values do you possess that would keep you from ever participating in illegal activities?
15. What is the role of the media in our society? Do you think they ever exaggerate events, give them undue coverage, or report events incorrectly? If so, how does this affect our view of what is happening in the world? What do you believe the role of the media should be? Do you believe the media can be totally objective? Explain.
16. What is capitalism? Do you believe it is a fair, effective system? What are the advantages and pitfalls of such a system?
17. What is socialism? What countries have this system? Do you believe it is a fair, effective system? What are the advantages and pitfalls of such a system?
18. What is the role of religion in the lives of people today? In your life? Is religion ever used as a political tool? Explain.
19. Could we ever have a society or world in which war did not occur? What would be the social and economic ramifications of never participating in another war?
20. Could total equality among people ever exist? Explain.

WHILE READING THE NOVEL

STUDY QUESTIONS

Students can use the following questions as a guide for understanding the novel and as thought-provoking topics for discussion. They can also be used for writing exercises in journals and essays.

CHAPTER 1

1. What happens in chapter one? Describe the atmosphere and mood in this chapter.
 2. What glimpses of poverty and desperation do we get in this chapter?
 3. Who do you think will be the protagonists in this book?
 4. What do you think of Jurgis's maxim, "I will work harder"? Do you think this is a good solution?
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CHAPTER 2

1. Based on events in Chapter 2, what kind of person does Jurgis seem to be?
2. Why did Jurgis's and Ona's family decide to go to America?
3. How do they first encounter dishonesty?
4. What difficult experiences did they have in Lithuania, and how did they expect them to improve in America? What are their expectations for their new life in America?
5. List all the adjectives on page 29 that describe the Chicago they saw. How is the quote "the color of things became dingier" symbolic of their experience thus far?
6. Describe the neighborhoods of Packingtown.
7. Describe the significance of the words "blood red" and "fire" in the final description of Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 3

1. What are Jurgis's expectations for his new job?
2. What are the "metaphors of human destiny" described on page 37? How is this metaphor continued on page 40?
3. What is the hog-squeal of the universe?
4. What is the purpose of the government inspector? Describe him.
5. What is Jurgis's impression of the meat packing industry? What is yours?

CHAPTER 4

1. What are Jurgis's plans for everyone in their new, relocated family?
2. Describe the real estate agent. What is the family's perception of him? What is your perception of him?
3. What is Jokubas Szedvilas's advice for the family in the purchase of real estate?
4. Why does the family prefer to buy rather than rent?
5. By the end of the chapter, the family is in much anguish over their purchase. What are Jurgis's worries? And what are those of Ona and Elzbieta?

CHAPTER 5

1. Describe the reality of this statement: "the zeal of the people, to see that his health and happiness were provided for." (57)
 2. What is the purpose of advertising today? How does it compare to the advertisements described on pages 57 and 58?
 3. The family is learning about credit in America. Explain the system and how it compares to the process of making large purchases in our country today.
 4. How does Jurgis feel about his job? How does it compare to how the other men feel about their work?
 5. How are unions explained to Jurgis? What is his perception of the unions?
 6. Why is Antanas having difficulty getting a job?
 7. Describe graft.
 8. How does Tamoszius explain the pecking order of the industry to Jurgis?
 9. How well is a good work ethic rewarded at the packing plants? How are the strong, hard-working employees treated?
 10. What transformation is taking place in the family as they work and witness events around them? How is their "faith in America" slowly being shattered?
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CHAPTER 6

1. Why is it so important to Elzbieta to have a religious symbol in their home?
2. What does Grandmother Majauszkiene tell her neighbors about their house, the history of Packingtown, and work conditions at Packingtown?
3. Stanislovas filled lard cans “till the end of his days.” Predict what you think will happen to him.

CHAPTER 7

1. Describe the difficulties the family is encountering.
2. What are some of their health issues?
3. What happens to Antanas and why?
4. Explain the comparisons between nature and Packingtown that appear on pages 81 and 82.
5. Describe the winter in Packingtown and how it affects the people, at work and otherwise.
6. What did Stanislovas witness and what effect did it have on him?
7. How were the men “forced” to drink, and how does this further their demise?
8. Describe the imagery of cold as it appears at the end of this chapter.
9. Explain the dichotomy of marriage and death in this chapter. How are these events juxtaposed?

CHAPTER 8

1. Who has taken an interest in one another? Why is this important to the family?
2. How does Marija handle her money? Is this a positive or negative characteristic? 3. How does her money management affect her?
4. How did Jurgis “understand at last all their bitterness”?
5. Describe “broken time.”
6. Why was Jurgis more willing to join a union when he was approached a second time?
7. How does the union disappoint the family?
8. What effect does the union meeting have on Jurgis?

CHAPTER 9

1. What differences does the union make in Jurgis?
 2. According to Jurgis how is America the same as Russia?
 3. Explain Jurgis's role in elections. Does he understand what he is taking part in? What exactly is he taking part in?
 4. Explain the political system in Chicago at that time.
 5. Who is Mike Scully?
 6. Describe the corruption presented in this chapter.
 7. Describe the health issues outlined in this chapter. Do you think this was unique to Durham's? Explain.
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CHAPTER 10

1. What financial difficulties is the family now facing?
2. Describe the perils brought by the summertime and heat.
3. What social class does Jurgis belong to? What criteria determine the class system?
4. What are the disadvantages of union membership?
5. Describe Marija's disillusionment.
6. What does it mean, "Ona was to be confined before long"?
7. Why did Ona's boss and co-workers dislike her?
8. How are the packinghouses like chattel slavery?
9. What effect did childbirth have on Ona?

CHAPTER 11

1. What is the function of the Beef Trust?
2. What fears does Marija have about the bank? How reasonable are these fears?
3. Why did Marija wait in line at the bank? How long did she wait? What did she do with her money?
4. What caused the "run"?
5. How does Jurgis justify his role in the elections? Do you agree with him?
6. The soul of Jurgis "rose up in him like a sleeping lion." What is the essence of his soul?
7. What is the "trap" referred to on page 116 that Jurgis falls into? What are the implications of this situation for the family?
8. Describe Jurgis's confinement. What is the irony of this, in contrast to Ona's return to work after childbirth?

CHAPTER 12

1. What are the results of Stanislovas getting caught in the snow with Ona?
2. What has happened to Jonas? What is the effect on the family?
3. Describe the work experience of Vilimas and Nikalojus. What values do they learn at their work? From whom do they learn the "ins and outs" of their trade?
4. What is Jurgis's experience returning to work?
5. Summarize the description of the demise of the working man.

CHAPTER 13

1. Describe the circumstances surrounding the death of Kristoforas.
 2. What are the working conditions in the fertilizer plant?
 3. Why did the family decide that the boys should return to school?
 4. Why did Elzbieta go to work, and what was her job?
 5. This chapter begins the book's comparison of Packingtown to a jungle. Describe the metaphor at the end of the chapter.
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CHAPTER 14

1. What food issues are described in this chapter?
2. Why was Elzbieta's insensibility considered a gift?
3. "They had played the game and they had lost." (138) Explain this statement.
4. How and why had Jurgis discovered drink? Describe his constant battle with it. What does he blame his difficulties on?
5. Describe Ona at the end of the chapter.
6. What jungle metaphor describes Jurgis at the end of this chapter? How does this characterization of Jurgis contribute to the feeling that he is now a victim and no longer has control of his life?

CHAPTER 15

1. What is Ona's present state of mind? What does Jurgis think about her?
2. How does Ona cause alarm in the house one night?
3. What does Jurgis discover about Ona, and how does he come to discover it?
4. What is his reaction when Ona finally tells him the truth?
5. What do you believe were Ona's options, faced with her situation?

CHAPTER 16

1. How are the police characterized?
2. What are Jurgis's worries about the family's present situation, and what does he consider to be the worst aspect of his position?
3. Whom does Jurgis blame for Ona's situation? What kind of person does Jurgis view Ona as? Is he correct in his assessment of her?
4. What does Jurgis believe will happen to Connor?
5. Describe Pat Callahan.
6. What is Jurgis's court experience?
7. What is Jurgis feeling as he hears the church bells?
9. List the jungle metaphors in this chapter. Do they affect your opinion of Jurgis or other characters in the novel?
10. Explain the poem at the end of the chapter. How does it apply to Jurgis and others like him?

CHAPTER 17

1. Who is Jack Duane, and why does Jurgis find him interesting?
2. Why were the men in jail with Jurgis not disgraced by their imprisonment?
3. How are the working men of Packingtown like wild animals?
4. What does Jurgis find out about the family's state of affairs?

CHAPTER 18

1. As Jurgis re-enters the city, it is black rather than white with snow. What is the significance of this?
 2. What things does Jurgis discover as he reaches his house?
 3. What is the situation at Aniele's?
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CHAPTER 19

1. What happens at Aniele's, and what effect does it have on Jurgis?

CHAPTER 20

1. What is Elzbieta's attitude toward life?
2. What does Elzbieta ask of Jurgis?
3. What is Jurgis's difficulty in finding a job?
4. Where and how does he find employment?
5. Just as Jurgis begins to feel hope, what is the next blow dealt to him?

CHAPTER 21

1. Who is the lady who comes to see Elzbieta? Why does she come, and what does she do for the family?
2. What is Jurgis's role as father?
3. Jurgis once again feels hope and is once again dealt a blow. What has happened?

CHAPTER 22

1. What is Jurgis's reaction to the news about Antanas? What does he think, and what does he do?
2. How is the image of cows on page 211 a stark contrast to the past three years of Jurgis's life?
3. Describe the significance of Jurgis's bath in the stream.
4. What was Jurgis's demeanor when turned away by the farmer? What did he do? How has he developed this attitude?
5. Describe the importance of the food Jurgis eats at the farmhouse.
6. What "first" does Jurgis experience when the farmer offers to employ him?
7. Describe the life of migrant workers, both men and women.
8. What does Jurgis do with the large sum of money he earns? Why?
9. What experience does he have when he seeks shelter from the rain?
10. Jurgis considers himself vile. Do you see him this way? Explain.

CHAPTER 23

1. Where does Jurgis go for the winter?
 2. What is his new job, and what "stroke of bad luck" befalls him this time?
 3. What is a "sitter," and what is his function?
 4. What does Jurgis feel towards the evangelist and his message?
 5. How does Jurgis compare to the other beggars on the streets?
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CHAPTER 24

1. What is civilization, according to Jurgis? Is his world civilized? Explain.
2. Describe the adventure of Jurgis's life.
3. What are some of the things that he sees and experiences for the first time on his adventure?
4. What do you believe is the purpose of this chapter?

CHAPTER 25

1. What is Jurgis's good fortune, and what difficulty does it present to him?
2. Describe the events in the saloon.
3. What is the end result of these events?
4. Describe the lifestyle to which Jack Duane introduced Jurgis.
5. What does Buck Halloran do for Jurgis?
6. What meaning of the word "pull" does Jurgis discover?
7. Although Jurgis has learned many things, he is still naive in some ways. What are some examples of this?
8. What other examples of corruption are given in this chapter?

CHAPTER 26

1. What do we learn of Elzbieta and her family?
2. What is the Beef Strike, and how did it happen?
3. How does the press become involved in the events of the strike?
4. Who is the "new American hero," and why is he considered such?
5. What exciting news does Jurgis receive?
6. What kind of racism exists in Chicago at this time?
7. What are the working conditions for scabs? How do they compare to those for regular workers?
8. Why does a second strike quickly ensue?
9. Summarize the descriptions of the city and its inhabitants.
10. Jurgis has now become what he had despised. How did this happen?

CHAPTER 27

1. What are Jurgis's new standards of living, and how are they a handicap to him?
 2. In light of his situation, why didn't Jurgis leave the city,?
 3. What experience almost broke Jurgis's heart?
 4. Jurgis's encounter with Connor is referred to as an unfortunate accident; he reflects on his luck when thrown out in the rain; he tells an old friend that he's had hard luck. 5. Is this how you would characterize recent events?
 6. What happens when Jurgis goes looking for Marija?
 7. What are Marija's living arrangements?
 8. What news does she have about Tamoszius, Stanislovas, and the rest of the family? Marija feels that Ona could have made enough money for all of them and should have been allowed to do so. Does Jurgis agree? How can you tell? Do you agree?
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CHAPTER 28

1. What explanation does Marija give for how women get caught up in prostitution?
2. Do Marija and the others blame Jurgis for leaving them? Does he think that he is to blame?
3. What are Jurgis's apprehensions about going to see Elzbieta?
4. What are the main points of the speech that Jurgis attends? What parts of the speech arouse Jurgis's interest?

CHAPTER 29

1. Describe the essence and purpose of the Socialist party. What appeal does this have for Jurgis?

CHAPTER 30

1. What is Elzbieta's attitude toward Socialism? Do you think her attitude or Jurgis's is more representative of many of their class? Explain.
2. What is Jurgis's experience with his new job?
3. According to one orator, what is the process of economic evolution? How can this apply to the novel as a whole?
4. How has Jurgis changed since his days of working in the meat packing industry?

CHAPTER 31

1. When Jurgis goes to Marija, does her response to him surprise you? Explain.
2. How does Jurgis keep his life interesting?
3. What is Schliemann's opinion of marriage? Do you agree?
4. What is the battle between the red and the black?
5. What are the references to religion in this chapter? To what extent do you agree or disagree?
6. What is Schliemann's vision of society's future? Do you think it is practical?
7. What evils should not exist in a Socialist society? Why are they considered to be evil?
8. What are some of the inventions and discoveries that Schliemann envisions? How realistic are they?
9. Describe the ending of the book. How satisfying and/or appropriate do you believe the ending to be?

SIGNIFICANT QUOTATIONS

The following quotations from the novel are significant because, upon close examination, they reveal something about character or theme. They can be used as discussion or writing prompts. Students can explain context, significance, irony, and relationship to events in the novel. The chapter and page number is provided following each quotation.

1. He had only been there four months, and he was young, and a giant besides. There was too much health in him. He could not even imagine how it would feel to be beaten. (2, 25)
 2. "Yes," he would say, "but what sort of men? Broken down tramps and good-for-nothings, fellows who have spent all their money drinking, and want to get more for it. Do you want me to believe that with these arms"—and he would clench his fists and hold them up in the air, so that you might see the rolling muscles—"that with these arms people will ever let me starve?" (2, 26)
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3. Jurgis had never expected to get married—he had laughed at it as a foolish trap for a man to walk into” (2, 26)
 4. In that country, rich or poor, a man was free, it was said; he did not have to go into the army, he did not have to pay out his money to rascally officials—he might do as he pleased, and count himself as good as any other man. So America was a place of which lovers and young people dreamed. (2, 27)
 5. To the two who stood watching while the darkness swallowed it up, it seemed a dream of wonder, with its tale of human energy, of things being done, of employment for thousands upon thousands of men, of opportunity and freedom, of life and love and joy. (2,34)
 6. “*Dieve*—but I’m glad I’m not a hog!” (3, 40)
 7. He had the feeling that this whole huge establishment had taken him under its protection, and had become responsible for his welfare. (3, 45-6)
 8. Home, Sweet Home. (4, 49)
 9. This was the first time in his life that he had ever really worked, it seemed to Jurgis; it was the first time that he had ever had anything to do which took all he had in him. (5, 60)
 10. It was a war of each against all, and the devil take the hindmost. (7, 78)
 11. The great corporation which employed you lied to you, and lied to the whole country—from top to bottom it was nothing but one gigantic lie. (7, 78)
 12. “Deeper their heart grows and nobler their bearing,/Whose youth in the fire of anguish hath died.” (7, 80)
 13. They would go out to another day of toil, a little weaker, a little nearer to the time when it would be their turn to be shaken from the tree. (7, 86)
 14. Thinking that belonging to a union meant an end of all their troubles. (8, 92)
 15. They could only go on and make the fight and win—for defeat was a thing that could not even be thought of. (10, 104)
 16. Marija would sit with her hands clasped and her cheeks wet and all her body atremble, hearing in the wailing melodies the voices of the unborn generations which cried out in her for life. (10, 108)
 17. The coming of this boy . . . made him irrevocably a family man; it killed the last lingering impulse that he might have had to go out in the evenings and sit and talk with the men in the saloons. (10, 109)
 18. Both of these last were bright boys, and there was no reason why their family should starve when tens of thousands of children no older were earning their own livings. (12, 123)
 19. This was a critical time in Jurgis’s life. (12, 125)
 20. The peculiar bitterness of all this was that Jurgis saw so plainly the meaning of it. (12, 126)
 21. The vast majority, however, were simply the worn-out parts of the great merciless packing machine. (12, 126)
 22. Some time ago, Elzbieta was told, a Chicago billionaire had paid a fortune to bring a great European surgeon over to cure his little daughter of the same disease from which Kristoforas had suffered. (13, 128)
 23. She could only do this by working just as she did, with all her soul upon her work, and with never an instant for a glance at the well-dressed ladies and gentlemen who came to stare at her, as at some wild beast in a menagerie. (13, 134-5)
 24. A new and grim meaning into that old Packingtown jest—that they use everything of the pig except the squeal. (14, 135)
 25. The souls of none of them were dead, but only sleeping. (14, 137)
 26. Within the soul of him there rose up a fiend, red-eyed and cruel, and tore out the strings of his heart. (16, 155)
 27. He was of no consequence—he was flung aside, like a bit of trash, the carcass of some animal. (16, 160)
 28. These midnight hours were fateful ones to Jurgis; in them was the beginning of his rebellion, of his outlawry and his unbelief. (16, 161)
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29. Jubilant captains of industry would boast of it in their banquet halls, telling how our workers are nearly twice as efficient as those of any other country. (20, 198)
 30. She was standing upon the brink of the pit of hell and throwing in snowballs to lower the temperature. (21, 202)
 31. This was no world for women and children, and the sooner they got out of it the better for them. (22, 210)
 32. If there were more of them on hand than chanced to be needed, the weaker ones died off of cold and hunger, again according to the stern system of nature. (22, 216)
 33. The wild beast rose up within him and screamed, as it has screamed in the jungle from the dawn of time. (22, 217)
 34. Where was there a church in which an ill-smelling workingman, with vermin crawling upon his neck, could sit without seeing people edge away and look annoyed? (23, 222)
 35. What did he know about sin and suffering . . . they were part of the order established that was crushing men down and beating them! (23, 226)
 36. There were others in that same station house with split heads and a fever; there were hundreds of them in the great city, and tens of thousands of them in the great land, and there was no one to hear any of them. (25, 244)
 37. Jurgis . . . did not understand that a man like himself—who could be trusted to stand by anyone who was kind to him—was as rare among criminals as among any other class of men. (25, 246)
 38. All of these agencies of corruption were banded together, and leagued in blood brotherhood with the politician and the police. (25, 250)
 39. They had been attracted more by the prospect of disorder than by the big wages. (26, 265)
 40. Now they were free—free to gratify every passion, free to wreck themselves. (26, 270)
 41. There is one kind of prison where the man is behind bars, and everything that he desires is outside; and there is another kind where the things are behind the bars, and the man is outside. (27, 278)
 42. “We were too ignorant—that was the trouble. We didn’t stand any chance. If I’d known what I know now we’d have won out.” (27, 287)
 43. “What,” asks the prophet, “is the murder of them that kill the body, to the murder of them that kill the soul?” (28, 303)
 44. And so all over the world two classes were forming, with an unbridged chasm between them—the capitalist class, with its enormous fortunes, and the proletariat, bound into slavery by unseen chains. (29, 308)
 45. Life was a struggle for existence, and the strong overcame the weak, and in turn were overcome by the strongest. Those who lost in the struggle were generally exterminated; but now and then they had been known to save themselves by combination—which was a new and higher kind of strength. It was so that the gregarious animals had overcome the predaceous. (30, 321)
 46. He would never marry, for no sane man would allow himself to fall in love until after the revolution. (31, 327)
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VOCABULARY STUDY

Following is a list of words students may need to define, as context clues may not be sufficient for the average reader. Each word is followed by a chapter and page number.

cortege 1, 7	specter 7, 86	specter 14, 138	absinthe 28, 292
veselija 1, 9	primeval 7, 86	pittance 15, 142	obloquy 28, 297
viands 1, 9	fodder 8, 90	melee 16, 154	juggernaut 28, 298
maudlin 1, 23	alchemist 9, 99	effaced 16, 155	squalor 28, 300
incommoding 1, 24	respite 10, 102	penitential 17, 166	imperious 28, 302
pungent 2, 29	harried 10, 103	catechism 21, 203	prostrate 28, 302
rancid 2, 30	contingencies 10, 103	ineffable 21, 205	fetter 28, 303
wizened 2, 32	redress 10, 106	ingot 21, 205	proletariat 29, 308
fetid 2, 33	obstinate 10, 107	tractable 22, 211	morasses 29, 311
felicitous 2, 34	impropriety 10, 107	mendicants 23, 228	impervious 30, 313
colloquy 3, 35	superfluity 11, 111	insouciance 24, 239	recalcitrant 30, 318
parley 3, 37	inexorably 11, 115	pugilist 25, 245	unregenerate 30, 319
ptomaines 3, 41	abyss 11, 118	odious 25, 245	exhorting 30, 323
isinglass 3, 45	penury 12, 124	oligarchy 25, 249	incendiary 30, 323
pepsin 3, 45	rebuffs 12, 125	notorious 25, 250	fusillade 30, 324
albumen 3, 45	sprier 12, 126	debauchery 25, 251	elucidate 31, 327
besom 4, 46	rebuke 13, 128	vicissitudes 25, 254	stygian 31, 328
placard 4, 48	magnanimity 13, 128	plutocrat 25, 260	debauched 31, 328
deference 4, 51	obdurate 13, 128	prodigiously 26, 261	menials 31, 332
volubility 4, 52	ptarmigan 13, 133	saturnalia 26, 271	tomes 31, 334
ludicrously 5, 58	prestidigitator 13, 134	contagion 26, 271	pettifogging 31, 334
laissez faire 5, 62	menagerie 13, 135	labyrinthine 26, 271	chicanery 31, 334
caste 6, 68	torpor 14, 137	impunity 27, 276	knave 31, 338
saltpetre 7, 80	sordid 14, 138	verities 27, 281	
hordes 7, 82	primeval 14, 138	balustrade 27, 285	

AFTER READING THE NOVEL

DISCUSSION TOPICS

The following can be used as essay, journal, group discussion, or oral presentation topics. A single asterisk (*) denotes the possibility for a fairly extensive piece of writing; a double asterisk (**) indicates responses that can be enhanced through research.

1. Look up the meaning of the word *ghetto*. Describe the ghetto portrayed in this book and the role of ethnocentrism and racism in Jurgis's and other immigrants' lives.**
2. Many of today's students consider school a chore or something forced upon them. How was school a privilege rather than a right at the turn of the century? How did this limitation of educational opportunity perpetuate the separation of classes?*
3. Using "all of the hog except the squeal" (38) seems very efficient. How does this become one of the main issues of food contamination?
4. In Chapter 4 what advice would you give to Jurgis's family in dealing with the real estate agent?
5. Describe the home of Jurgis and his family. Compare their situation to living arrangements people have today.
6. Describe how Jurgis and his family are "preyed upon" in their varied experiences in Chicago.*
7. What is the work ethic of the immigrants of Packingtown? How does it compare to that of the other characters? What kind of work ethic exists in America today? What differences are there among various people?

8. Describe the ways in which the immigrants of Chicago are “forced” into poverty. Is there any way for them to rise out of this situation? Are they purposely forced by others or is this simply their fate? What other explanations may there be for their situation? Who seems to have more control over the immigrants’ lives: themselves or those who run Packingtown?
 9. If you had been Jurgis, or any other of his family who came to Chicago, what would you have done differently? What would you have done the same?
 10. Describe the progress of Jurgis’s disillusionment in America and in Packingtown. What are the causes and effects of his experiences?*
 11. Provide examples of graphic descriptions in the novel? What are their purposes? How necessary are they? Explain.
 12. In chapter ten, Marija gets fired from her job for obstinacy. What would you have done in her situation? Do you think her behavior is right or wrong? Is this a realistic situation in today’s world? How has the workplace changed in this regard?
 13. Jurgis states that he is like “the victim of ravenous vultures that had torn into his vitals and devoured him.” (177) What is the story of *Prometheus Bound*? How is Jurgis’s story like it?***
 14. In Sinclair’s novel a majority of working men engage in dishonest practices but do not feel any remorse. What is the rationale for their behavior? At the beginning of the novel, Jurgis is an extremely honest person. What causes him to become less so as the novel progresses?
 15. At what point does Jurgis reach “rock bottom”? Were you correct, or did you find him reaching new “lows” as the novel progressed?
 16. How are Jurgis’s two baths symbolic events?
 17. Explain the significance of the title. List and explain which of the novel’s numerous metaphors are most effective for you.*
 18. When the family’s situation deteriorates so badly, why do they not return to Lithuania?
 19. The last paragraph on page 177 and first on page 178 summarize the family’s misfortune since arriving in America. At what point do you think they begin to feel desperate or give up hope for a better life? What do you think is their biggest disappointment in America?
 20. Most of the descriptions of the city are dark. When Jurgis enters the steelworks, he sees blinding lights and rainbow colors. What is the significance of this change?
 21. There are many references to slavery in the novel. What are some examples of the working class people living in a kind of slavery? Do any of them ever gain their freedom?
 22. Describe Jurgis’s struggle with his memories. What are his coping techniques? Are they healthy techniques?
 23. How does Jurgis spend some of his Christmases? What meaning does this have for him and for the reader?
 24. What is the time frame of the novel? Describe what it is like in the United States at that time.**
 25. In Chapter 23 Sinclair describes Jurgis’s experience as a beggar. What attitudes do people have toward him? How do these compare with attitudes toward the homeless today? Were there social services available to Jurgis? Would he have been aware of them? What services are available to homeless people today? You know Jurgis’s story of how he became homeless. What are causes of homelessness today? Why did Jurgis seek refuge in alcohol? Is this a phenomenon that continues today?
 26. Sinclair refers to the “order” of society several times. What does he mean by this? Where is Jurgis’s place in this order, and what is the place of those he encounters throughout the novel?
 27. How is Jurgis’s honesty a disservice to him? Is he the kind of person you would imagine becoming a criminal? Why or why not? Do you consider Jurgis’s conscience an asset or a liability? Explain.
 28. What is your opinion of Jurgis’s and the family’s handling of money? What advice would you have for them? What would you do differently in their place?
 29. Is the riot that occurred in Chapter 26 similar to anything in our recent history? Explain.**
 30. How much of Jurgis’s life is governed by fate, and how much is based on his decisions? Evaluate his decisions throughout the book.
 31. How was Stanislovas’s life the opposite of what a child’s should be?
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32. Catalog the people Jurgis encounters throughout the book. How are they a representative cross-section of Chicago? How are they representative of the "order of the jungle"?
33. The "benefits" of Socialism are so painfully obvious to Jurgis that it is difficult for him to understand anyone who is not as immediately excited about it as he is. Why did some working class people shun this political ideology?
34. Many Socialists believed that religion was a tool for oppression. What role may religion have in politics? Did capitalists use it for their own causes? How do religious teachings fit into the world of Socialism?***
35. What parallels exist between *The Jungle* and George Orwell's *Animal Farm*? What was Orwell's message? How does it compare to Sinclair's? Compare their methods of presentation and the events that prompted their responses.*

CREATIVE RESPONSES

1. Conduct an interview with a main character. Ask his or her opinions about specific events, situations, and fellow characters.
 2. Present a eulogy, epitaph, or obituary for one or more characters.
 3. Create a timeline for a character. If possible, extend it beyond the events in the novel.
 4. Create a collage that represents Packingtown or any of the characters' lives.
 5. Write several journal/diary entries for one of the characters. Include their thoughts and feelings during key events in the novel.
 6. Write a book review for *The Jungle*. Explain who would enjoy this novel and why. Critique any part of it, and point out key scenes readers might find especially interesting.
 7. Create a playbill or advertising poster for the movie adaptation of the novel. List the main characters and the actors who portray them.
 8. Hold a trial deciding the guilt or innocence of a character in the book. Have characters appear as witnesses for each side. Present specific evidence to support claims of guilt or innocence. Allow classmates to be the jury.
 9. Re-enact a scene from the book on videotape.
 10. Create a board game using situations and characters from the book.
 11. Present clips of songs (song collage) whose lyrics represent elements of the book. Be sure to explain how the lyrics fit the plot, characters, or theme.
 12. Create a scale drawing of the family house or any other place described in the book.
 13. Convert a scene from the book to a radio drama and present it live or recorded. Include an announcer and sound effects. Create additional dialogue between characters if necessary.
 14. Choose an excerpt and present a dramatic reading to the class.
 15. Present an on-location news report about an event in the book. Interview characters as eyewitnesses.
 16. Write a newspaper editorial based on selected events from the book.
 17. Present a videotaped television commercial for a mini-series based on the book.
 18. Have a panel of characters debate an issue from their personal viewpoints.
 19. Debate the morality of any issue addressed in the novel.
 20. Play charades or pictionary with key items from the book.
 21. Prepare and present a real or imagined soliloquy for any character. Include thoughts and feelings appropriate to that character.
 22. Stage a session that a character has with his/her therapist.
 23. Set up a talk show in which either an individual character is interviewed or a panel of characters is featured. Upton Sinclair could also be interviewed.
 24. Make a gift list for the main characters. The gifts may be tangible or abstract. Explain the reasons for your choices.
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25. Put *The Jungle* on trial for potential censorship.
26. Create and present an alternative ending to the book.

WEBLIOGRAPHY

The Signet Classic edition of *The Jungle* contains Selected Bibliographies of works by Upton Sinclair and criticism of this novel. Following are websites that are useful for both teachers and students who wish to learn more about Upton Sinclair.

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/sinclair.htm> This site provides a biographic overview of Sinclair's life and contains a selected bibliography of his works.

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Sinclair/> Part of the Berkeley Digital Library, this site has links to Sinclair's letters from Jack London, study aids, and an online copy of *The Jungle*.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Jupton.htm> Besides a brief biography including many links, there is a list of interesting quotations about and by Upton Sinclair.

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/sinclair.html> This site highlights Sinclair's political life.

<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist1/sinclair.html> This site contains the text of an article Sinclair wrote during his campaign for the governorship of California.

<http://www.georgetown.edu/bassr/heath/syllabuild/iguide/sinclair.html> This site offers suggestions for teachers of *The Jungle*.

<http://www.monthlyreview.org/0502rwmscott.htm> This site contains the text of "Upton Sinclair and the Contradictions of Capitalist Journalism," by Robert W. McChesney and Ben Scott, as it appeared in *Monthly Review*.

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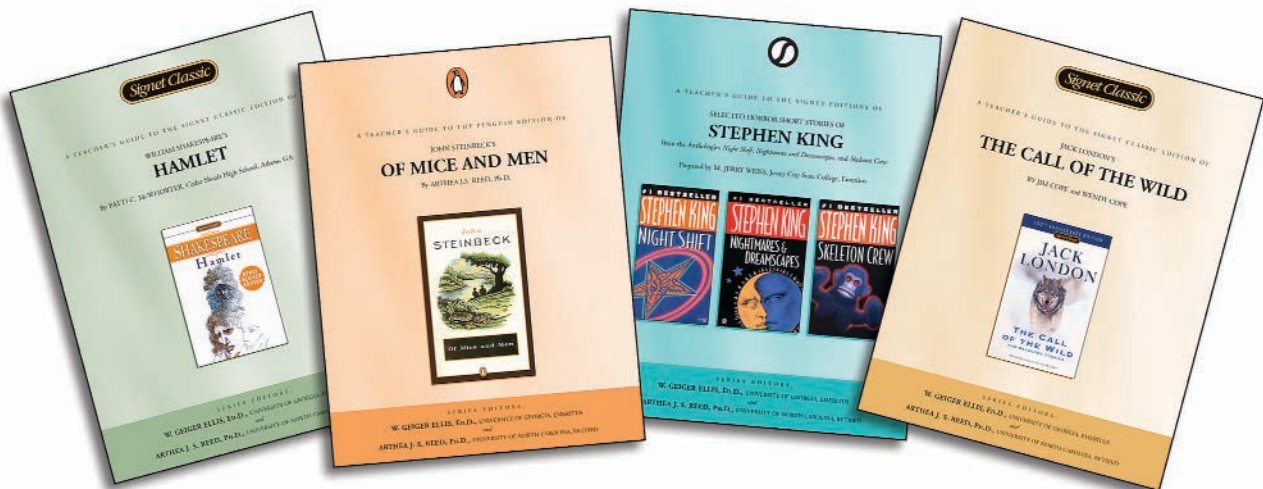
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