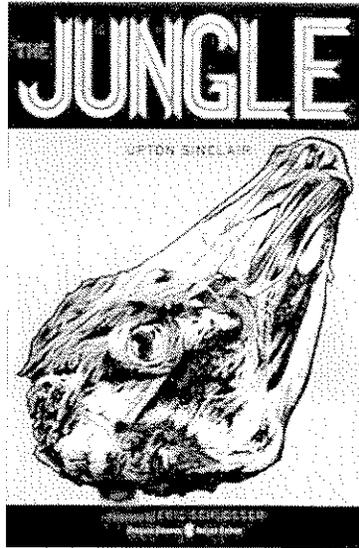


# The Jungle

by Upton Sinclair



## Student Packet

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Can society be legitimately questioned through fiction?
- Does the “American Dream” truly exist?
- In what ways can appearance differ from reality?
- Was Mark Twain correct in calling this period the “gilded age”?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Jungle*

### READING SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading/Questions Due</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Thursday 5/8	Chapter 1 – <i>IN CLASS</i>	1-22
Monday 5/12	Chapters 2-3	23-46
Wednesday 5/14	Chapters 4-5	47-72
Thursday 5/15	Chapters 6-7	73-95
Monday 5/19	Chapters 8-10	96-125
Wednesday 5/21	Chapters 11-13	126-153
Thursday 5/22	Chapters 14-16	154-185
Wednesday 5/28	Chapters 17-21	186-241
Friday 5/30	Chapters 22-23	242-264
Monday 6/2	Chapters 24-25	265-300
Wednesday 6/4	Chapters 26-27	301-335
Thursday 6/5	Chapters 28-29	336-362
Monday 6/9	Chapters 30-31	363-395

Be prepared for a quiz after any reading! 😊

\*Reading schedule is subject to change.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Jungle*

**Anticipation Guide**

**DIRECTIONS:** Agree or disagree with each statement (A/D), then write 3-5 sentences justifying your response.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Working hard is the key to success and the best way to get ahead.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. America is the land of opportunity.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Medical services should be provided for free to those who cannot afford them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Political corruption no longer exists in our society today.

5. People should begin working by sixteen years old.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Darwin was spot on. Only the strong survive.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Committing crimes is wrong and should not be done.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Total equality amongst all people is a reasonable possibility.

## The Jungle Study Guide

### Characters:

**Marija Berczynskas (ma-REE-ah ber-JIN-skas):**

**Ona Lukoszaite (OH-na luke-oh-SHY-tay):**

**Jurgis Rudkus (YER-gis rudd-KUSS):**

**Teta Elzbieta Lukoszaite (tay-TA Luke-oh-SHY-tay):**

**Tamoszius Kuzleika (tam-ohsh-YOOS kuz-lie-KA):**

**Dede Antanas (Day-da on-TAN-us rudd-KUSS):**

**Jokubus Szedvilas (YO-koo-bus jzed-VEE-lus):**

**Aniele Jukniene (ann-eel-AA yuk\_NINE-uh):**

**Jonas (YO-nus):**

**Stanislovas (stah-KNEES-lo-vas):**

**Mike Scully:**

**Phil Connor:**

**Jack Duane:**

**Setting. Chicago and the Stockyards:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

### Chapter I, pp. 1–21

1. What does the opening scene disclose about Jurgis and Ona?
2. Identify and briefly describe a *veselija*. Why do you think this celebration is important to the plot?
3. Who is Teta Elzbieta?
4. Who is Dede Antanas? What do you think his speech foreshadows?
5. What problem are Elzbieta and Antanas discussing? How do Jurgis and Ona react to the "trouble"?
6. What does Jurgis vow to do to pay the debt from the wedding celebration? What do you think this reveals about him?
7. **Prediction:** Will Jurgis be able to pay the debt?

### Chapters II–III, pp. 21–43

1. From what country do Jurgis, Ona, and their extended family immigrate to America? Who first suggests this immigration?
2. How many members of the family come to America? What is their destination? Why?
3. Who is the first person the family meets in Packingtown? Why is this important to them?
4. Give three adjectives that describe the stockyards. How would this introduction to America make you feel?
5. Explain your interpretation of the metaphor comparing groups of cattle to "a very river of death" (p. 34).
6. How does Jokubas infer hidden corruption in Durham's packing plant?
7. In one or two sentences, explain your reaction to the slaughter houses.
8. How many men are employed by Durham's packing plant? For how many people does the plant furnish food worldwide?
9. **Prediction:** What do you think the future holds for Jurgis and Ona and their extended family?

**Chapters IV–V, pp. 43–66**

1. Briefly describe Jurgis' job and his reaction to this work.
2. What types of work do Marija and Jonas find?
3. Why does Antanas have difficulty getting a job? How does he finally do so? Why does this bother Jurgis?
4. What major purchase does the family make? What is their primary reason for doing so? Explain whether or not you think this is a wise decision.
5. Briefly describe the real estate agent's "pressure" tactics.
6. What problem arises when Jokubas reads the family's contract on their house? How is this resolved?
7. What advertising slogan entices the family to buy furniture? How do they plan to pay for this purchase?
8. How does Jurgis react to requests that he join a union? Why does he do so? Explain why you do or do not think the union would be advantageous for him.
9. Why does Tamoszius tell Jurgis the packing house is "a seething cauldron of jealousies and hatreds" (p. 63)?
10. Identify two things that cause Jurgis to be disillusioned with working conditions at the packing plant.

**Chapters VI–VII, pp. 67–88**

1. Why is it important to Elzbieta for Jurgis and Ona to have a *veselija*?
2. What does Grandmother Majauszkiene reveal to the family about the following: (a) the age of their house, (b) the condition of the house, (c) how the real estate company swindles the buyers, (d) number of prior tenants, (e) interest they must pay, (f) why she thinks the house is unlucky? Which of these do you think most disturbs them? Why?
3. What does the family do to compensate for the additional costs of the house?
4. How does Ona get a job? What type of work does she do?
5. What is the problem with Stanislovas going to work? How does Elzbieta circumvent this?
6. What causes Antanas' death? How does his job contribute to his death?
7. Briefly explain working conditions in Packerstown during the winter. Why do you think the author compares people to branches of a tree?
8. **Prediction:** Will the family recover from the ravages of the winter?

**Chapters VIII–X, pp. 88–115**

1. With whom does Marija fall in love? Why can't they marry?
2. How do the big packers deal with the slump in their businesses? What does this cause Jurgis to do? Why?
3. Identify and briefly characterize Mike Scully.
4. Identify two types of political graft in Packingtown.
5. Identify three effects of the working conditions in the packing plants. Which one of these do you think is the worst? Why?
6. What is the worst job in the packing plants?
7. Name two new financial difficulties Jurgis discovers about their house. How does he react?
8. Why does Marija lose her job painting cans? What job does she get a month later?
9. How does Ona feel about her job? Why does Miss Henderson hate her? What do you think this foreshadows?
10. What do Jurgis and Ona name their baby son? How soon does Ona return to work after his birth? How does this affect her health?

**Chapters XI–XIII, pp. 115–141**

1. What is the name of the conglomerate of packing plants? How does it control the industry?
2. What does Marija do when she is afraid the bank will close and she will lose her money?
3. How is Jurgis injured? How long is he unable to work? Explain why you do or do not think the family will recover from this disaster.
4. How does Jurgis react to his confinement? What is his one "bright spot" during this time?
5. What does Jonas do? Why do you think he does this? What effect does this have on the family?
6. How does Kristoforas die? How does the family react to his death?
7. What type of work does Jurgis finally get? Briefly explain what you think this symbolizes to him.
8. What changes take place in the lives of Elzbieta and Kotrina?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters XIV–XVI, pp. 141–171

1. What do Marija and Elzbieta discover about the contamination of meat in the packing plant?
2. How does Elzbieta's job affect her?
3. Briefly explain the effects of poverty and terrible working conditions on Jurgis and Ona.
4. How does Ona explain her failure to come home at night?
5. What does Jurgis discover is the real reason for Ona's absences? How does he react? What do you think he should have done?
6. Why does Ona submit to Connor's sexual advances? How do you think this would be handled in today's workplace?
7. How does Jurgis initially react to being in jail? What thoughts most torment him? What are his fears for his family?
8. **Prediction:** How will Jurgis' arrest affect the family?

### Chapters XVII–XIX, pp. 171–203

1. Whom does Jurgis meet in jail? What do you think this foreshadows?
2. What do the inmates call Jurgis? Why?
3. What is the length of Jurgis' jail sentence in Bridewell? Briefly explain why you do or do not think he gets a fair trial.
4. Who comes to see Jurgis in jail? What does he tell him about the family? How does Jurgis react?
5. What does Jurgis discover about his family when he is released from jail? List four adjectives that describe how Jurgis might feel.
6. In what condition does Jurgis find Ona? Why doesn't she have a doctor with her?
7. Identify and briefly describe the midwife Jurgis brings to help Ona.
8. What does Jurgis do while Ona is giving birth? Why does he do so? How does a father's involvement in the birth process differ today?
9. What happens to Ona and her child? How does Jurgis react? Why do you think he does so?
10. **Prediction:** What will Jurgis do when he is sober again?

**Chapters XX–XXI, pp. 203–224**

1. Who convinces Jurgis to go back to work? How does she do so?
2. Briefly summarize the memories that haunt Jurgis after Ona's death. Explain why you do or do not think this is a typical reaction to the death of a loved one.
3. Why is Jurgis unable to get a job in Packingtown?
4. Where does Jurgis eventually get a job? How do working conditions differ from the packing plants?
5. Why does Jurgis lose his job? What is his reaction?
6. Briefly explain the fortuitous circumstances that lead to Jurgis' finding another job. Describe a time in your life when "fate" changed your circumstances.
7. How old is Antanas? Describe his personality. How does he die?
8. **Prediction:** How will Antanas' death affect Jurgis?

**Chapters XXII–XXIII, pp. 224–246**

1. What does Jurgis do after seeing Antanas' lifeless body?
2. What is the first thing Jurgis does after getting off the train? What do you think this symbolizes to him?
3. How does Jurgis initially survive as a tramp? What type of work does Jurgis do while "on the road"? On what does he spend his money?
4. Briefly explain what finally causes Jurgis to weep over Antanas' death. Why do you think this event triggers an emotional reaction?
5. Why does Jurgis return to Chicago? Why type of work does he get? Explain the irony of this job.
6. Briefly explain the cause and effect of Jurgis' injury.
7. Why does Jurgis have difficulty as a beggar?

**Chapters XXIV–XXV, pp. 246–281**

1. To what does Jurgis compare his life? Explain why you do or do not think this is an appropriate comparison.
2. Give four adjectives that describe Freddie Jones. How does Jurgis meet him?
3. Where does Freddie take Jurgis? Why do you think he does so?
4. How much money does Freddie give Jurgis? What happens to this money?
5. Why is Jurgis arrested? What is his jail sentence? Why do you think the judge does not believe his story?

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6. Whom does Jurgis meet in jail? What is the result of this meeting? What do you think this indicates about changes in Jurgis' values?
7. Identify two types of corruption Jurgis discovers while working with Duane.
8. How does Jurgis become involved with Mike Scully? What does Scully hire him to do?
9. What job does Jurgis get in the stockyards? What is his "behind-the-scenes" job?
10. What is the result of Jurgis' work for Scully? How much money does he receive? How does Jurgis "celebrate"?

### Chapters XXVI–XXVII, pp. 281–314

1. Define scab and briefly explain why Jurgis becomes one. What other options does he have?
2. In what area of the packing plant does Jurgis become a boss? What is his salary?
3. Briefly describe the scabs who work under Jurgis. What corrupt practice does his job lead him to do? What do you think this indicates about him?
4. How is the strike settled? Why is it reinstated?
5. Why is Jurgis arrested? Who does he think can get him released? Why does this man warn Jurgis he is in big trouble?
6. How is Jurgis' arrest resolved? What are the consequences for Jurgis?
7. Give two examples of the degradation to which Jurgis stoops.
8. What does Jurgis learn about Marija and the other family members? How does this news affect him? What do you think this reveals about him?
9. **Prediction:** Will Jurgis be reunited with Elzbieta and her children?

### Chapters XXVIII–XXIX, pp. 314–338

1. How does Jurgis escape a penalty for being arrested at the brothel?
2. What does Marija reveal to Jurgis about her life as a prostitute? Why does she refuse to give him money?
3. What is Jurgis' initial reason for attending a political meeting? How is he treated?
4. Briefly summarize the speaker's basic message and explain its effect on Jurgis. Why do you think he reacts this way?
5. Who instructs Jurgis in the tenets of Socialism? What does Jurgis have in common with this man? Why do you think this is important to both of them?
6. Identify the two economic classes as portrayed by Socialism. Explain to what extent you think these classes exist today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Jurgis resolve to do after hearing the Socialist doctrine?
8. To what does Jurgis compare himself after hearing about Socialism? To what does he compare capitalism?

**Chapters XXX–XXXI, pp. 339–370**

1. Why does Elzbieta agree to go with Jurgis to a Socialist meeting? What do you think this reveals about her?
2. Who owns the hotel where Jurgis finds work? Why is this important?
3. What is the *Appeal to Reason*?
4. How does Marija respond to Jurgis' plea to leave prostitution? What help do you think she might find in today's world?
5. In what role is Jurgis especially useful to the Socialist movement?
6. On what two goals of Socialism do Nicholas Schliemann and Lucas agree?
7. By what percentage does the Socialist vote increase?
8. State the final sentence of the book and explain what you think this symbolizes.

# BIG IDEAS

## Metaphor Analysis:

- Prostitution
- Slaughter of animals
- Smell of fertilizer
- Title of the novel

## Symbolism:

- The house
- The slaughterhouse
- Jurgis' motto

## Theme Analysis:

*What is the novel saying about the following **topics**?*

- Capitalism
- Socialism
- Poverty/suffering
- Corruption
- Power
- Gender
- Communication
- Exploitation of immigrant workers
- Society and class
- Money