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The Jungle
BY UPTON SINCLAIR



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All references come from the Touchstone Edition of *The Jungle*, copyright 2005.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Research****Objective:** Researching the author**Activity**

Upton Sinclair is a famed muckraker (a writer who exposes official corruption or misconduct) whose work directly influenced American history. During the early twentieth-century, Sinclair used his writing to promote government and corporate reform by attempting to expose corruption. Despite his popularity, Sinclair's advocacy for Socialism was usually ignored.

Use the library, the Internet, or both to research facts about Upton Sinclair's life. Use the information to write a short biography. The biography should address the following questions:

- What are some interesting details about Sinclair's personal life?
- How did Sinclair's popularity begin?
- What are some examples of Sinclair's major works?
- How would you summarize Sinclair's political view?
- How did Sinclair's work affect American history?
- Did Sinclair achieve any important accomplishments or win any awards?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – V**Acronym****Objective:** Creating acronyms**Activity**

An acronym is a word or series of letters formed from the initial letters of a series of words. For instance, radar is derived from radio detecting and ranging, and FBI stands for Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The chart contains a series of topics from chapters I through V. Create an acronym that is somehow related, either directly or indirectly, to the subject. You may create serious or humorous acronyms. Examples are provided.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX**Drawing****Objective:** Drawing a political cartoon**Activity**

Jurgis is asked to become a citizen, a process that he does not understand. He does understand, however, that he will receive the day off with pay, a luxury he was denied when he got married. A group of men, including Jurgis, are transported downtown and sworn in as citizens.

Several months later, the same men are given two dollars and told how to vote; some men even vote more than once for additional money. Jurgis discovers that the American government is a democracy, in which “there were two rival sets of grafters, known as political parties, and the one got the office which bought the most votes.” (Pgs. 94 – 95) Otherwise, Jurgis sees no difference between the parties.

Imagine that you are a cartoonist for a Chicago newspaper during the early twentieth century. Draw a political cartoon expressing a viewpoint on one of the issues mentioned above. You may also wish to choose another political topic from the chapter. The perspective portrayed in the cartoon does not have to be popular; your job as a member of the media is to express the truth.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XI – XIII**Simile****Objective:** Recognizing and interpreting a simile**Activity**

The use of simile in *The Jungle* enhances the quality of writing. Explore chapters XI through XIII to locate ten instances of simile. Log each simile in the first column of the chart. You do not need to record the entire sentence; just the simile will suffice. In the second column, create an alternate simile that relays the same message as the original. An example is given.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XXIX**Critical Thinking****Objective:** Evaluating your principles and ideals**Activity**

Jurgis becomes an eager advocate of socialism as he learns more about its principles. He believes that the party understands poverty-stricken workers such as himself; and that his life would improve if the government were socialist. For this reason, Jurgis looks forward to the approaching presidential election, in hopes that the socialist candidate will win.

Think about issues that are frequently in the media or brought up during political elections, such as the economy, national defense, or health-care. How would you stand on certain issues if you were running for President? Do you agree with the ways things are now, or do you feel that some things need to change? If so, what?

The following page contains a series of incomplete phrases about various issues that a presidential candidate may need to address. Some of the topics are more profound and controversial than others. Take time to think about the topics, and complete the phrases to help answer the question of how you would influence the nation.