

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Summary

Jurgis Rudkus and Ona Lukoszaite, a young couple and who have recently immigrated to Chicago. Jurgis quickly finds work but jobs in Packingtown involve back-breaking labor and are conducted in unsafe conditions with little regard for individual workers. The family signs an agreement to buy a house, but it turns out to be a swindle. The family faces many setbacks in their struggle to achieve the American Dream.

Questions

1. In your opinion, which details in this excerpt most convincingly highlighted problems in the meatpacking industry in the early 1900s? Give specific examples.

2. Based on your reading of this excerpt, why do you think Sinclair titled his novel *The Jungle*?

3. What do you think the Author's view of capitalism is? How might socialism improve the lives of the immigrant workers and families?

4. What does the author expose about the immigrant experience and the "American Dream?"

5. What reforms might the Progressives of the time want to enact to solve some of the problems exposed by Upton Sinclair?
