



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

THE JUNGLE

BY UPTON SINCLAIR



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Item No. 301314

Written by Amber Reed

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Research and Culture

Objective: Researching immigrants to understand their cultures

Activity

Between 1865 and 1910, millions of people arrived in America seeking better lives. Many newcomers arrived from European nations that had previously produced few immigrants in the United States, thus altering the country's ethnic diversity. They flocked into cities only to find low-paying jobs and crowded, squalid living conditions. Chicago was no exception.

Chicago's industrial setting attracted a significant number of European immigrants. The city was notorious for its slums, which were rumored to be among the worst in the country. These communities, some of which still exist today, provided immigrants with security against a hostile environment. Within these ghettos, the inhabitants formed a bond through shared culture.

As a group, use the library, the Internet, or any other source to research the culture and complete the chart on the following page. The amount of information available for each category may vary. The group may also question a member of that culture to acquire information.

Select a culture from the following list:

- Austrian
- Irish
- Italian
- Russian
- German
- English
- Lithuanian
- Bohemian
- Norwegian
- Polish

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I

Journal Writing and Characterization

Objective: Writing character journals

Activity

The Jungle tells the story of the Rudkus family, beginning with Ona and Jurgis' wedding. Although the characters are fictional, their lives are based upon actual places and events.

Imagine that the characters in *The Jungle* are based on real people, and that they maintain journals throughout the novel. Choose a person from the list below that interests you the most; each character is introduced in chapter one. Create at least ten journal entries for the character as the novel progresses, written from the character's perspective. You should write about major events as they unfold, especially if they relate to the individual. At times, you may have to discern how a character feels or how he or she is influenced by an event because the novel does not clarify. Try to accurately express the character's thoughts and perspective. Each journal entry should be at least a page in length. An example has been started for you.

Choose one of the following characters:

- Jurgis Rudkus
- Ona Rudkus
- Marija Berczynskas
- Teta Elzbieta
- Tamoszius Kuszleika
- Dede Antanas

Example for Ona:

I am so tired, but I cannot sleep. The excitement from the wedding is keeping me awake. Maybe I can rest if I put down my thoughts on paper.

The wedding was a success—so much food and dancing! Marija sang and danced all night—the musicians could hardly keep up with her. Our friends had a wonderful time and gave generous gifts, but we also had many strangers enter and eat without giving anything. This country is so different from Lithuania. I just worry about whether we will be able to pay the final bill.

Jurgis wants me to stay home, but I cannot without the risk of losing my position. Jurgis says that he will work more so that I can rest, but the stockyards are too uncertain. Maybe I can find a position in teaching.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter II

Sensory Images

Objective: Recognizing sensory imagery

Activity

Sensory images contain details that relate to the five senses to describe something. Upton Sinclair introduces the stockyards by depicting sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. The vivid descriptions make it easier for readers to relate to Ona's and Jurgis' initial reactions, which are confusion and disgust.

The chart on the next page contains the senses used to describe the stockyard. Complete the chart by citing descriptive phrases that portray each sense. An example is provided.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV

Creative Design and Advertising

Objective: Designing a placard

Activity

Jurgis is excited by the prospect of buying a house after he sees a real estate advertisement. The following passage illustrates how the drawing in the ad is intended for foreigners who are seeking the ideal American lifestyle:

“The center of the placard was occupied by a house. Brilliantly painted, new, and dazzling...It was a two-story building, with a porch in front, and a very fancy scrollwork around the edges; it was complete in every tiniest detail, even the doorknob, and there was a hammock on the porch and white lace curtains in the windows. Underneath this, in one corner, was a picture of a husband and wife in loving embrace; in the opposite corner was a cradle, with fluffy curtains drawn over it, and a smiling cherub hovering upon silver-colored wings.” (Pg. 49)

Create a placard for another item that you think would be desirable to people seeking a conventional American lifestyle. The advertisement should be a single page, preferably poster board, and designed to attract foreigners during the early twentieth century. Keep in mind that a large percentage of your intended audience cannot speak or read English. Illustrations, therefore, are more influential than words or catch phrases.

Use any available resources to make the poster; it can be hand drawn, computer generated, or any combination of the two.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VI

Creative Writing

Objective: Creating an American tale

Activity

Grandmother Majauszkiene narrates Packingtown's immigration history by listing the various groups that have arrived over the years. She explains that each group was followed by cheaper labor. Irish, Bohemians, Poles, Lithuanians, and Slovaks followed the first group of Germans. According to Grandmother Majauszkiene, the immigrants arrived in Chicago searching for high-paying jobs, unaware of the higher cost of living. The immigrants discover that the rumors and tales circulating Europe about fantastic American lifestyles are misleading, but they realize it too late.

Use the chart on the next page to create a fictional story about an immigrant's experience in America. The resulting tale will be an example of the false rumors spreading through Europe. Circle the element in each column that corresponds to the last four digits of your phone number. For example, if your phone number ends with 5409, the story will involve an illiterate German policeman who moves to Orlando, Florida, and wins a house in a contest. Put the final choices in the chart that follows.

Incorporate the components to create the story by elaborating on details of the character and plot. What is the immigrant's destination in America, and what obstacle does he or she overcome to get there? Once in America, what is the protagonist's success story or triumphant tale? Include any significant details that you feel enhance the story. Remember, the story will eventually make its way to Europe and become a source of inspiration for future immigrants, so it should be fantastic in nature.

Write in third person and remember to create a title. The final story should range between three and five pages, and it should include the rising action, climax, and falling action.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX**Critical Reading and Inference****Objective:** Locating specific information within the text**Activity**

Jurgis begins to hear horror stories about workers throughout the packing plants. He learns that each department holds particular afflictions for the employees, such as the hardships his father endured in the pickle rooms.

A vivid description of problems for various areas is relayed in the last paragraph of chapter IX. Thoroughly re-read the section, and complete the chart on the next page by supplying all the health problems and safety hazards that are described in the spaces provided. Health problems refer to any diseases or physical injuries that workers may acquire at their jobs. Safety hazards refer to dangerous work environments or potential accidents that exist because of the surroundings.

Some departments may not provide both health and safety problems. Record whatever information is provided, and infer an answer if one is not provided. For instance, use the information that is given about the worker's job to guess about the environment and any safety hazards. The chart has been started for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XI

Drama

Objective: Creating a radio production

Activity

Several dramatic scenes take place as the family encounters a string of bad fortune. The girls in the canning factory go on strike, which is short-lived and results in the formation of a new union. A drunken man is arrested, which the public mistakes for a panic at the bank, and a run on the bank ensues. A steer breaks free on the killing beds, and the steamy atmosphere adds panic. The workers run through the room, wielding knives and seeking cover, while the boss blindly shoots his rifle.

Begin by reading the assigned scene so that it becomes familiar. As a group, decide on the roles that are needed, including key characters, an announcer, and sound effects.

Write a script for the radio show. In addition to the characters' lines, be sure to indicate when sound effects should be made. Character lines do not need to imitate the book; revisions may be made as long as the plot and action remain the same. Sound effects may be performed by one student or shared by the group.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XIV

Speech Writing

Objective: Writing and delivering a persuasive speech

Activity

Upon its release, *The Jungle* produced unrest among the American public. The novel revealed unsanitary food processing procedures and corporate and political corruption that created social turbulence, especially among the middle class. A national movement, which was instigated by muckrakers, began as the public demanded immediate action from the government.

Assume the role of a muckraker who is dedicated to the reformation movement. Write a persuasive speech in which you try to convince your audience to join the faction. Begin the speech by describing the problem and presenting the solution. Clearly state the reasons why you feel that your perspective is correct. Demonstrate sound reasoning by supporting your argument with any facts that you have; you may use examples from the text in your speech. Argue popular viewpoints of the opposing side, the packers.

A well-written persuasive speech not only supports the speaker's view but also appeals to the audience's interests and desires. Try not to write more than two pages. Keep in mind that you will be presenting the speech to the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XV**Emotion**

Objective: Analyzing the text to locate quotes that express emotions

Activity

Chapter XV is an emotional chapter for Jurgis, Ona, and the family because they face some difficult ordeals. Ona fails to come home one night, which worries her family. Jurgis learns that Ona was forced to sleep with her boss, and he is arrested when he beats the man nearly to death.

The chart contains a list of emotions that appear at least once in this chapter. Some emotions turn up several times, so more than one quote is available. Locate an example of each emotion within the text, and log it into the chart. Be sure to include the page number. Two examples are provided.