**Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle Questions**

1. What do the vast stockyards, packed with animals, symbolize?
2. How does the title of The Jungle relate to the themes of the novel? Give specific examples.
3. In what ways does Sinclair depict capitalism as destructive? Consider the characters’ personal lives and social interactions.
4. List all the adjectives on page 29 that describe the Chicago Jurgis and Ona saw. How is the quote “the color of things became dingier” symbolic of their experience thus far?
5. What are the “metaphors of human destiny” described on page 37? How is this metaphor continued on page 40?
6. What is the purpose of the government inspector? Describe him.
7. What is Jurgis’s impression of the meat packing industry? What is yours?
8. How are unions explained to Jurgis? What is his perception of the unions?
9. 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?
10. Explain Jurgis’s role in elections. Does he understand what he is taking part in? What exactly is he taking part in?
11. Describe the corruption presented in chapter 9.
12. Describe the circumstances surrounding the death of Kristoforas.
13. Chapter 13 begins the book’s comparison of Packingtown to a jungle. Describe the metaphor at the end of the chapter.
14. What jungle metaphor describes Jurgis at the end chapter 14? How does this characterization of Jurgis contribute to the feeling that he is now a victim and no longer has control of his life?
15. List the jungle metaphors in chapter 16. Do they affect your opinion of Jurgis or other characters in the novel?
16. Explain the poem at the end of the chapter. How does it apply to Jurgis and others like him?
17. How are the working men of Packingtown like wild animals?
18. As Jurgis re-enters the city, it is black rather than white with snow. What is the significance of this?
19. What are the working conditions for scabs? How do they compare to those for regular workers?
20. Describe the essence and purpose of the Socialist party. What appeal does this have for Jurgis?