

A.P. U.S History II – Dr. Hogge
Summer reading, 2016

Students should read the novel *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair before you come to class in September. The book is in the public domain, so if you do not wish to purchase the book you can find it on the web at Google Books <http://books.google.com/> or at Project Gutenberg <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/140> among others.

On Tuesday, September 13th, you will be required to hand in a paper (which you will also submit to turnitin.com) of 3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced, answering the following questions:

Why does Sinclair title the book *The Jungle*? What does he emphasize about the immigrant's experience and why does he use fiction to tell about these experiences. Be sure to use specific examples from the book to support your argument.

Below you will find some other questions to think about as you read and which we will discuss in class during the year.

What is Sinclair's thesis in *The Jungle*?

Who do you think was the most interesting character and why?

How much of what happens to the main characters is their fault?

How convincing do you find Sinclair's alternative of socialism as a solution to the problems laid out in the book?

Sinclair once famously said the "I aimed at the public's heart and by accident hit its stomach." What do you think he meant by this quote?

By the way, you may not want to read the sections on meat packing before eating. Good reading and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall!