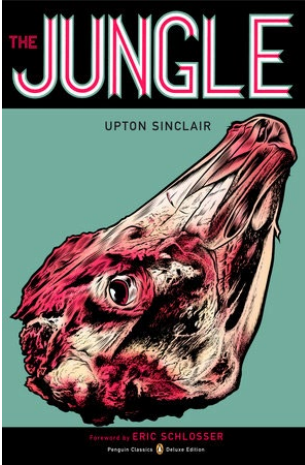


BOOK RESUME: THE JUNGLE



Title: The Jungle
Author: Upton Sinclair
Imprint: Penguin Classics
Publisher: Penguin Publishing Group
On sale date: March 28, 2006
ISBN: 9780143039587
Format: Paperback

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Upton Sinclair’s dramatic and deeply moving story exposed the brutal conditions in the Chicago stockyards at the turn of the nineteenth century and brought into sharp moral focus the appalling odds against which immigrants and other working people struggled for their share of the American dream. Denounced by the conservative press as an un-American libel on the meatpacking industry, the book was championed by more progressive thinkers, including then president Theodore Roosevelt, and was a major catalyst to the passing of the Pure Food and Meat Inspection act, which has tremendous impact to this day.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Practically alone among the American writers of his generation, [Sinclair] put to the American public the fundamental questions raised by capitalism in such a way that they could not escape them.” —Edmund Wilson (writer)

“It pierces the thickest skull and most leathery heart.” —Winston Churchill

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- BBC, [The 100 stories that shaped the world](#) (2018)
- Library of Congress, [Books that Shaped America, 1900-1950 National Book Festival Exhibit](#) (2012)
- [Radcliffe Publishing Course Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century](#) (1998)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- American Experience, PBS, [How “The Jungle” Changed American Food](#) (2020)
- EDSITEment!, NEH, [“The Jungle, Muckrakers, and Teddy Roosevelt”](#) (Curriculum for grades 6–8)
- History.com, [“How Upton Sinclair’s ‘The Jungle’ Led to US Food Safety Reforms”](#) (2023): “Since its 1906 publication, *The Jungle* has never been out of print. It remains one of the seminal books in American history, a novel that changed the country—just not in

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

the way Sinclair planned. 'I aimed at the public's heart,' he wrote, 'and by accident I hit it in the stomach.'"

- [The International Encyclopedia of Revolution and Protest](#), I. Ness (Ed.) (2009): "After reading it, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered an investigation, commenting that while he disapproved of the way the book preached socialism he agreed that 'radical action must be taken to do away with the efforts of arrogant and selfish greed on the part of the capitalist.'"
- Maryland State Archive, [Famous Marylanders- Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and Its Effects](#) (includes national history standards, primary and secondary resources, and additional media and instructional resources)
- National Archives, Pieces of History blog, "[Bring your big stick to 'The Jungle'](#)" (2010)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#) (2022): "Banning Upton Sinclair's 'The Jungle' for being 'pro-socialism' is an affront to intellectual freedom."
- [Georgetown University Library, Banned Book Week 2013](#): "Ironically, at various times the novel has been banned both for its socialist views (Yugoslavia, 1929; Nazi Germany, 1933; South Korea, 1985) and for its opposition to Communist ideology (East Germany, 1956)."

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