

Register Number:

Date:

**ST. JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE – 27**

**I BA JOURNALISM**

**END SEMESTER EXAM: DECEMBER 2022**

**JOURNALISM AND WRITING: JNE 121**

**Time- 2 HOURS Max Marks- 50**

**Instructions:**

1. **This paper has FOUR SECTIONS and TWO printed pages.**
2. **This paper is for the I Semester Journalism/Psychology students.**
3. **You are allowed to use a dictionary.**

**I. The following is an excerpt from a review on Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair is a vivid and moving account of the meat processing and slaughtering industry in the early 1900’s. The Jungle is a well-informed critique on the social, political, and economic issues of the food industry and the rapidly developing capitalist society of the early 20th century. Sinclair uses a poor immigrant family searching for a better life to brilliantly highlight the social and economic inequalities of work in the food system caused by capitalism. Over a century later, The Jungle remains relevant as a reminder to consumers and policymakers about the complicated food system and the potential for mistreatment of workers and animals. The agglomeration of food production established over a century ago created the foundations of the current food system and as a result meat production is still in the hands of only a few large companies. Through the lens of a geographer, the concepts of space, place, scale, and connection are relevant to understand the enormity of the industry and the harmful effects on society.

According to Yi Fu Tuan, place is “humanized space, an abstract world made real through human inhabitation, through the investment of emotion and the attribution of meaning” (Jackson 199). Throughout The Jungle, the nature of space and place can be examined in the meatpacking district. In theory, the stockyard is a space where livestock is slaughtered, but Upton Sinclair turns the stockyards of Chicago into a humanized place for the reader.

Sinclair uses the emotional and dramatic experiences of Jurgis and his family in order to attribute meaning to the reader. The horrible and farfetched experiences of the stockyard are humanized and given meaning through the main character’s vivid accounts. Throughout the account, the working conditions are shared in great detail from the smells, feelings, temperatures, sights, and emotions experienced. By creating a space that the reader can come close to experiencing, Sinclair establishes a foundation in which he can better connect the reader to the social and economic issues of the meat industry.

Through the experiences of Jurgis’s Lithuanian immigrant family, Upton Sinclair indicates the strong connection that foreigners had with the rising industrial systems in America. While in Lithuania, Jurgis and his family hear about the “American Dream” that promises them political freedom and an opportunity to increase the quality of their life. Specifically they hear from a number of friends that in America one did not have to serve in the army or pay “rascally officials” and he could marry happily and make a decent wage (16). The family became obsessed by the “American Dream” and was connected by beliefs of financial and political freedom. However, the family was thousands of miles away from America and the reality that as immigrants they would be taken advantage of, robbed, and discriminated against. Their aspirations for abundant living diminished when they found that wages were below subsistence, they were tricked into renting an old decrepit house, and that work was limited to horrible occupations.

Finally, the last chapter of The Jungle serves as an outlet that Sinclair uses to unleash his final ideas to the reader, whereas throughout the rest of the book, he seamlessly relays his own accounts of the meat industry through the life of Jurgis. It is clear that in the last few chapters, Jurgis quickly converts to socialism solely for the purpose of spreading Sinclair’s socialist ideology to the reader. Throughout the book, the intentions of Sinclair to inform people of social issues in the meat industry flowed until the awkward presentation of the solution of socialism.

**I.A. Answer the following questions in about 5-8 lines each. (4x5=20)**

1. The term ‘character’ is usually found in fiction. How is it being used in the review above?

2. Do you agree with the writer’s definition of ‘place’ in a piece of writing? How does place change one’s reading experience?

3. Have you come across a similar narrative where people migrate driven by the vision of a better life?

4. Do you think the character of Jurgis is meant to represent the writer?

**II. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100-150 words. (1x10)**

5. If you were to apply the above definition of ‘place’ to one of the pieces you read in your readings hour, which piece uses ‘place’ most efficiently? Why?

6. The writer above says that people and places need to be humanised in order for a story to be told. Amongst all the pieces read in class, which representation of Bangalore is most accurate?

**III. Write short notes on the following. (2x5=10)**

7. The end of twitter

8. Iran protests

**IV. Use the following prompt to locate a specific memory. Write about it in a paragraph and explain how the prompt led you to it. Give a title to your paragraph. (5+5)**

Cracking your knuckles