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The plight of immigrants in booming industrial Chicago in
Upton Sinclair' s " The Jungle"

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ABSTRACT

Portraying the struggles the Lithuanian family fight against, Upton Sinclair in "*The Jungle*" renders the hardships experienced by immigrants in a highly corrupt space that is Chicago in the early 1900s. After spending weeks at Packing town, Sinclair collected the content matter for his novel in which he depicted the slightest details of the immigrants lives before and after getting to the Stockyards. As a muckraker, Sinclair depicted the unjust labor abuses, and unfair living conditions. The title, itself, " The Jungle" symbolizes the wild nature of capitalism that Sinclair reveals its thorns and suggests socialism as a solution for the deteriorating conditions. Commenting on the food industry acts passed by the Congress, Sinclair confessed that he aimed at the public' s heart, but, by accident, he hit it at the stomach. Thus, it is intended through this presentation to show the dark suffering and exploitation that Jurgis and his Lithuanian companions faced in Chicago. Despite the downfalls in the pursuit toward their dreams, the immigrants managed to fight together as a sign from Sinclair that it is only with union that change can take place in America.

Key Words: the plight immigrants industrial Chicago exploitation