

# Notes on Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle"

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# Chapter 1

The setting of this chapter is in early 1900s Chicago, home to the largest Lithuanian enclave in the US

## Key people

- Marija Berczynskas - Based on the Polish spelling conventions of her name and surname, she is of Lithuanian descent hailing from the former territories of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth in the early 1900s
  - She speaks both Polish and Lithuanian, the coachman only understanding Polish
- The coachman - A Polish speaking coach operator in the city
- Ona Lukoszaite (Lukošaite) - A young 16 year old girl who is Marija's cousin, married to Jurgis
- Jurig Rudkus - a large burly yet bashful man of Lithuanian descent
  - his mannerisms don't seem to match his appearance
- Kotrina - another family member
- Teta Elzbieta - Ona's stepmother
- Majauszkiene - Ona's grandmother
- Tamoszius Kuszleika - A self taught violinist/fiddler of Polish-Lithuanian descent who works in the "killing beds", a slang term for slaughterhouse

## Key terms

- Eik eik - "go go" in Lithuanian
- Uzduyk duris - "close the door" in Lithuanian
- Vynas - wine
- Sznapsas (šnapsas) - Lithuanian for schnapps, a german alcoholic flavoured beverage flavoured with fruit syrups
- Z. Graicunas (graičiūnas) Pasilinksminimams daržas - Z. Graceful for fun (could be referring to some kind of urban leisure sphere)
- Daržas - garden?
- Viand - an archaic English word for "food item"