**Dialectical Journal for Chapter 14 of *The Jungle***

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| **Quotation and paragraph number** | **Interpretation/commentary** |
| “There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit uncounted billions of consumption germs. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rats.” **(paragraph 3)** | Sinclair’s use of imagery prompts the reader to feel disgust and anger. The revelation of the deplorable conditions in the meatpacking industry no doubt ignited protest and calls for change. In this graphic depiction, Sinclair achieves his purpose in two ways: he highlights the plight of the workers and the danger of consuming the product that would be sold to consumers. Thus, he plays both on the reader’s concern for himself and his fellow man. |
| “He was working in the steaming pit of hell; day after day, week after week—until now, there was not an organ of his body that did its work without pain, until the sound of ocean breakers echoed in his head day and night, and the buildings swayed and danced before him as he went down the street. And from all the unending horror of this there was a respite, a deliverance—he could drink!” **(paragraph 8)** | Here, Sinclair uses both imagery and personification to illicit an emotional response from the reader. By describing Jurgis is work as “the pit of hell,” Sinclair further stirs the reader’s outrage at the deplorable working conditions in the meatpacking industry. Sinclair’s use of personification, stating that buildings “swayed and danced” allows the reader to feel Jurgis’s despair and defeat. |
| “ He would lie and scream for hours, almost in convulsions; and then, when he was worn out, he would lie whimpering and wailing in his torment. He was burning up with fever, and his eyes were running sores; in the daytime he was a thing uncanny and impish to behold, a plaster of pimples and sweat, a great purple lump of misery.” **(paragraph 12)** | Sinclair directly plays on the reader’s emotions by describing the pitiful condition of a young child, stricken with measles and unable to receive medical help. This would certainly prompt outrage from the reader, inspiring protest and demands for change, thus achieving Sinclair’s ultimate purpose. |