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700 Social Studies

A Different Kind of Jungle

As you walk around this filthy dump, you watch in horror, as workers rip the life out of these poor animals, and throw their moist flesh into these dirty carts. Their screams pierce your ears and your heart skips beats. Elephants emerge into your stomach, as it does summersaults, over, and over, and over again. The foul smelling flesh is suffocating you, and this dim place filled with crowded workers just makes you worry about these vulnerable people. You write as much as you can absorb about this environment. These factories aren’t humane. The gruesome life of workers in the factories was finally exposed to the public after Upton Sinclair’s visit. He was a muckraker, or a person who investigated businesses, and wrote about them in books, newspapers, and/or magazines. If you were a worker in a factory, forced to do this job, desperately needing pay to support your family, but had no rights, how would you feel? You needed to be treated equally and fairly. This environment you’re surrounded in for more than 20 hours just makes you feel nauseous. What world do we live in? Workers needed protection. Their health, their privacy, their life, they were all at risk with a job like this. With Sinclair’s help, many acts were passed that related to worker safety, and factory conditions such as the Pure Food act, Meat Inspection act, and the Food and Drug act. Vulnerable factory workers as well as the public lived a better and safer life once these acts were passed. Upton Sinclair should be in the Revolutionary Hall of Fame because his simple words changed everyone’s lives, and future ones to come.

He was a young boy, who only wanted to get involved with the unjust life of these new immigrants, insecure of what their new life might hold. As a fresh, new graduate from Columbia University, he spent 7 years as a factory worker in disguise to obtain adequate, first-hand research for his book, which turned out to be the best-selling book at the time. (Pbs.org) The Jungle was Sinclair’s most famous book that he had written. It talked about the factory conditions and the factory workers in a meat factory in Chicago. It exposed the disgusting secrets this meat factory was hiding. For example, the meat in the factory had chemicals in them, which covered the expired smell of the pork. Also, there were often rodents in them, and unsanitary bacteria in the pork that we didn’t know of. Since workers didn’t have an area to wash their hands, and do their proper business, the smell often got into the meat they were preparing. Upton Sinclair should be in our Revolutionary Hall of Fame for his truthful words, effort and determination for bettering our lives, and proving to the public that factory workers had to be treated better, and the conditions had to get improved. Sinclair threw the boundaries, and risked everything to show that life was not fair for factory workers. The books he has written included many secrets showing how unsanitary people were being, which spread into our meats. It shocked the public. Being a factory worker was a dangerous job. Sinclair had injured himself several times, while trying to chop the hogs in the factory. “…this slaughtering-machine ran on, visitors or no visitors. It was like some horrible crime committed in a dungeon, all unseen and unheeded, buried out of sight and of memory.” (Excerpts from *the Jungle)* This horrifying quote shows how brutal factories were. Forced into these agonizing jobs for little pay, workers had no choice but to get things done. It was truly a gruesome sight, watching all hogs line up to their deaths, and then chopping their heads off first in such a merciless manner. It was a bloody hell, like watching a horror movie come to life. The toxic smell, the poisonous chemicals, the dangerous surroundings- workers dared to work here. Sinclair did his role to prove to all that what factories were, was a prison, filled with barrels of exposed flesh, and streams of blood every corner you turn.

In conclusion, Upton Sinclair was one of the most historically significant revolutionary. Sinclair cleared the confusion between propaganda and the reality. His famous books explained the cruel life of these poor workers, making readers faint as soon as they looked at a sentence. The horrible conditions in the meat factory and for the workers caused at least 2 acts, relating to these issues to be passed. The Hall of Fame is calling Sinclair’s name. There’s no better fit for the Revolutionary Hall of Fame other than Upton Sinclair himself.