MC900434405[1]The American Dream...

1. What does the term “American Dream” mean?
2. What might the American Dream be for immigrants who arrived in the country between 1870 and 1920?
3. What is your American Dream?

MCj03516330000[1]In his book, *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair tells the story of a Lithuanian family who immigrates to America. On the way to their new home in Chicago Illinois, the family dreams of a fresh start in a land of plenty – plenty of jobs, plenty of money and plenty of dreams.

The main character of the novel is **Jurgis Rudkis**, a determined young man who is the leader of his family. Each character in the novel has his or her own dreams of what America will be like. However, as they soon realize, America during the Gilded Age (1870’s – 1910’s) was more of a nightmare than a dream.

As a muckraker, Upton Sinclair wanted to expose the realities of American life during the Gilded Age. His novel details the ways in which immigrants were taken advantage of, the horrors of the meat-packing industry, and America’s corrupt government.