

The Naïf: A narrator whose perception is immature or limited through their point of view.

Examples of naïves include [Huckleberry Finn](#), [Holden Caulfield](#), and [Forrest Gump](#)

The term naïf is used in literature to describe a naive character who in the course of the story becomes wise of the world.

a naive or inexperienced person.

What Sinclair is doing is creating in Jurgis a classic literary type called a naïf, a simple, inexperienced person who, in the course of a story, has his blinders knocked off by a series of calamities.

The naive narrator does not objectively understand the events happening around him. The narrator's inexperience causes a distorted perspective that the author uses to communicate satire or another important point. The most unique aspect of the naive narrator is that this device does not require the author to communicate directly through the narrator. Popular examples of naive narrators in famous works include "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Canterbury Tales." Both books feature narrators who are often clueless about the greater context of their experiences.

Other examples of the naive narrator include Nelly Dean of "Wuthering Heights" and Holden Caulfield from "The Catcher In The Rye." These narrators are said to demonstrate the flaws in the worlds and systems they operate in. The narrator of "Candide," an infamous satire of war and power, is particularly well-known for using this tactic.

In media res – into the middle of things

The Jungle starts in the middle of the Rudkus' family's story

Muckraker

the action of searching out and publicizing scandalous information about famous people in an underhanded way.

The pen is sometimes mightier than the sword.

It may be a cliché, but it was all too true for journalists at the turn of the century. The print revolution enabled publications to increase their subscriptions dramatically. What appeared in print was now more powerful than ever. Writing to Congress in hopes of correcting abuses was slow and often produced zero results. Publishing a series of articles had a much more immediate impact. Collectively called **MUCKRAKERS**, a brave cadre of reporters exposed injustices so grave they made the blood of the average American run cold.

Perhaps no muckraker caused as great a stir as **UPTON SINCLAIR**. An avowed Socialist, Sinclair hoped to illustrate the horrible effects of capitalism on workers in the Chicago meatpacking industry. His bone-chilling account, *THE JUNGLE*, detailed workers sacrificing their fingers and nails by working with acid, losing limbs, catching diseases, and toiling long hours in cold, cramped conditions. He hoped the public outcry would be so fierce that reforms would soon follow.

The clamor that rang throughout America was not, however, a response to the workers' plight. Sinclair also uncovered the contents of the products being sold to the general public. Spoiled meat was covered with chemicals to hide the smell. Skin, hair, stomach, ears, and nose were ground up and packaged as head cheese. Rats climbed over warehouse meat, leaving piles of excrement behind.

Sinclair said that he aimed for America's heart and instead hit its stomach. Even President Roosevelt, who coined the derisive term "muckraker," was propelled to act. Within months, Congress passed the **PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT** and the **MEAT INSPECTION ACT** to curb these sickening abuses.

“I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach.”

