THE MUCKRAKERS!

Congratulations! You have been chosen to participate in the first annual muckraker drama production and contest!

You will be assigned a muckraker. The first part of your assignment is to research exactly what sort of muck they were raking (for example, Upton Sinclair was exposing the plight of immigrants in the meat packing industry.)

Then: You are going to write a short play detailing a day in the life of your muckrakers. You will need to:

1. Make certain your audience knows the name of the muckraker you are writing about.
   1. Time period they worked in
   2. Legislation passed if any
   3. MOST important contribution to U.S. History
2. Make certain your audience knows the problem your muckraker was attempting to solve.
3. If possible include a quote from your muckraker in the dialogue of the play.
4. There needs to be at least one song performed (with choreography) to help hammer home the important work your muckraker was doing.

So: You will need a title page with the name of your play and the cast of characters and who will be playing them.

A script with stage direction (for example: Ida Tarbell enters the room and slams the door.)

All characters must have speaking parts. The play must be two pages long. Typed. 12 font.

The song needs to be clear and on topic.

25% for following the above instructions

25% for creativity

25% for accuracy (you need to back up your research with a short bibliography of where your information came from. Receipts people. I can’t just take your word for it.)

25% for bringing a smile to my face OR for imbuing me with a warm feeling of satisfaction watching you grow as history students.

The play that brings me the MOST joy will receive a bonus and win the Muckraker Independent Play contest and they will collect all the rewards that come with that honor.

Your muckrakers are…

1. Jacob Riis
2. Ida Tarbell
3. Lincoln Steffens
4. Nellie Bly
5. Ida B. Wells