

Contents

EINFÜHRUNG	4
INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM	
The plot	6
Questions on the film	7
Scene index	8
PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES	
Typically American	12
Introducing the characters	13
WHILE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES	
Working with the opening sequences of <i>American Beauty</i>	14
America's suburbs today	16
Look closer ... at the Burnhams	19
Fatal encounter – Lester meets Angela	21
The new neighbours	23
Family in the United States	24
Lester's Liberation	27
Adventure, romance, love?	30
The King of Real Estate	31
Dinner at the Burnhams'	32
Filming within the film	33
They all have dreams in life	35
<i>American Beauty</i> and the <i>American Dream</i>	36
The Who: <i>The Seeker</i>	40
Finding out about secrets	42
Who is talking to whom?	43
Eloping with Ricky	44
Angela's revelation	45
Who killed Lester Burnham?	45
POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES	
<i>American Beauty</i> – a 'dramedy'?	47
<i>American Beauty</i> – The title of the film	48
How American is <i>American Beauty</i> ?	50
Narrative perspective in <i>American Beauty</i>	51
Reviewing <i>American Beauty</i>	52
EXAM TOPICS	
Topics for upcoming exams	55
Bibliography	56