



http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

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THE LISTENING / READING SCRIPT

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

American Beauty is a 1999 American drama film directed by Sam Mendes. It stars Kevin Spacey as office worker Lester Burnham, who hates his job and boring routine. He has a midlife crisis when he becomes obsessed with his teenage daughter's best friend, Angela (Mena Suvari). Annette Bening co-stars as Lester's materialistic wife, Carolyn, and Thora Birch plays their insecure daughter, Jane. The film has been described by academics as a satire of American middle class ideas about beauty and personal satisfaction. Critics have focused on the film's explorations of romantic and paternal love, sexuality, beauty, materialism, alienation, freedom, and freeing oneself from sin.

American Beauty was positively received by critics and audiences alike. It was the best-reviewed American film of the year and grossed over \$350 million worldwide. It won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (for Spacey), Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography. The years since have seen its critical regard wane. In 2005, *Premiere* named *American Beauty* as one of 20 "most overrated movies of all time". Mendes accepted the criticism, saying: "I thought some of it was entirely justified—it was a little overpraised at the time." The movie review site Rotten Tomatoes says: "*American Beauty* is a smart, provocative high point of late '90s mainstream Hollywood film."

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Beauty_%28film%29





TRAILER AND POSTER

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

POSTER

1. SIX WORDS: Look at the poster and write down six words (more if you like) that you think of as you look at it. Share the words with your partner(s). Why did you choose them?

You can find posters for this movie at www.wikipedia.com or www.imbd.com - just type the name of the movie in the search field.

2. STORY: Talk about what you think the story of the movie is – the start, beginning, end, etc. Change partners and share stories.

3. CREDITS: Look at the credits on the poster (the actors, director, producer...) and talk about them with your partner(s).

4. MUST-SEE: Talk with your partner(s) about whether the poster and movie title are good and make you want to see the movie.

5. STARRING YOU: Imagine you are one of the stars of the movie. Talk about your role with your movie star partner(s).

TRAILER

1. RETELL: Watch the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

You can watch a trailer at <http://www.youtube.com>

2. CHUNKS: Watch 10-to-15 second chunks of the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

3. QUIZ: Watch the trailer and write down some quiz questions for your partner(s). Watch a second time to find the answers to the questions.

4. VOCABULARY: Make a note of words in the trailer that you see or hear. Talk about them with your partner(s).

5. GOOD / BAD: Watch the trailer and write down why you think the film might be good or bad. Share your ideas with your partner(s).





MATCHING

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

SYNONYM MATCH

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. boring | a. controversial |
| 2. obsessed | b. totally |
| 3. materialistic | c. releasing |
| 4. insecure | d. reviewers |
| 5. freeing | e. earned |
| 6. critics | f. mundane |
| 7. grossed | g. unconfident |
| 8. wane | h. preoccupied |
| 9. entirely | i. fade |
| 10. provocative | j. consumerist |

PHRASE MATCH

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. He has a midlife | a. at the time |
| 2. their insecure | b. movies of all time |
| 3. a satire of American middle class | c. romantic and paternal love |
| 4. the film's explorations of | d. crisis |
| 5. freeing oneself | e. critical regard wane |
| 6. positively received by critics | f. ideas |
| 7. The years since have seen its | g. daughter |
| 8. one of 20 most overrated | h. high point |
| 9. it was a little overpraised | i. from sin |
| 10. a smart, provocative | j. and audiences alike |





LISTENING / READING GAP FILL

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

American Beauty is a 1999 American drama film directed by Sam Mendes. It stars Kevin Spacey as office worker Lester Burnham, who hates his (1) _____. He has a midlife crisis when he (2) _____ his teenage daughter's best friend, Angela (Mena Suvari). Annette Bening co-stars as Lester's materialistic wife, Carolyn, and Thora Birch plays (3) _____, Jane. The film has been described by (4) _____ of American middle class ideas about beauty and personal satisfaction. Critics have focused on the film's (5) _____ and paternal love, sexuality, beauty, materialism, alienation, freedom, and (6) _____.

American Beauty was positively (7) _____ audiences alike. It was the best-reviewed American film of the year (8) _____ million worldwide. It won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (for Spacey), Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography. The years since have seen (9) _____. In 2005, *Premiere* named *American Beauty* as one of 20 "most overrated movies of all time". Mendes accepted the criticism, saying: "I thought some of it (10) _____ — it was a little (11) _____." The movie review site Rotten Tomatoes says: "*American Beauty* is a smart, provocative (12) _____ mainstream Hollywood film."





CORRECT THE SPELLING

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

Paragraph 1

1. sedobess with his teenage daughter's best friend
2. Annette Bening co-stars as Lester's ttrlecisiinama wife
3. their irceuens daughter
4. a raeist of American middle class ideas
5. the film's lstiorneaxop of romantic and paternal love
6. einfgger oneself from sin

Paragraph 2

7. *American Beauty* was ovyseiilpt received by critics
8. rsdsoeg over \$350 million worldwide
9. Best Original aepyreclSn
10. one of 20 most oeetadvrr movies of all time
11. it was a little vdoaesripre at the time
12. a smart, evocrtopiav high point of late '90s





PUNCTUATE & PUT CAPITALS IN THE TEXT

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

american beauty is a 1999 american drama film directed by sam mendes it stars kevin spacey as office worker lester burnham who hates his job and boring routine he has a midlife crisis when he becomes obsessed with his teenage daughter's best friend angela (mena suvari) annette bening co-stars as lester's materialistic wife carolyn and thora birch plays their insecure daughter jane the film has been described by academics as a satire of american middle class ideas about beauty and personal satisfaction critics have focused on the film's explorations of romantic and paternal love sexuality beauty materialism alienation freedom and freeing oneself from sin

american beauty was positively received by critics and audiences alike it was the best-reviewed american film of the year and grossed over \$350 million worldwide it won oscars for best picture best director best actor (for spacey) best original screenplay and best cinematography the years since have seen its critical regard wane in 2005 *premiere* named *american beauty* as one of 20 "most overrated movies of all time" mendes accepted the criticism saying "i thought some of it was entirely justified—it was a little overpraised at the time" the movie review site rotten tomatoes says "*american beauty* is a smart provocative high point of late '90s mainstream hollywood film"





INSERT THE VOWELS (a,e,i,o,u)

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

_m_r_c_n B__ty _s _ 1999 _m_r_c_n dr_m_ f_lm
 d_r_ct_d by S_m M_nd_s. _t st_rs K_v_n Sp_c_y _s
 _ff_c_ w_rk_r L_st_r B_rnh_m, wh_ h_t_s h_s j_b _nd
 b_rng r__t_n. H_ h_s _ m_dl_f_ cr_s_s wh_n h_
 b_c_m_s _bs_ss_d w_th h_s t__n_g_ d__ght_r's b_st
 fr__nd, _ng_l_ (M_n_ S_v_r_). _nn_tt_ B_n_ng c_
 st_rs _s L_st_r's m_t_r__l_st_c w_f_, C_r_ly_n, _nd
 Th_r_ B_rch pl_ys th__r ns_c_r_ d__ght_r, J_n_. Th_
 f_lm h_s b__n d_scr_b_d by _c_d_m_cs _s _s_t_r__f
 _m_r_c_n m_ddl_ cl_ss _d__s _b__t b__ty _nd
 p_rs_n_l_s_tsf_ct__n. Cr_t_cs h_v_ f_c_s_d _n th_
 f_lm's _xpl_r_t__ns _f r_m_nt_c _nd p_t_rn_l_l_v_,
 s_x__l_ty, b__ty, m_t_r__l_sm, _l__n_t__n, fr__d_m,
 _nd fr__ng _n_s_lf fr_m_s_n.

_m_r_c_n B__ty w_s p_s_t_v_ly r_c__v_d by cr_t_cs
 _nd __d__nc_s _l_k_. _t w_s th_ b_st-r_v__w_d
 _m_r_c_n f_lm _f th_ y__r _nd gr_ss_d _v_r \$350
 m_ll__n w_rldw_d_. _t w_n _sc_rs f_r B_st P_ct_r_,
 B_st D_r_ct_r, B_st _ct_r (f_r Sp_c_y), B_st _r_g_n_l
 Scr__npl_y _nd B_st C_n_m_t_gr_phy. Th_ y__rs s_nc_
 h_v_ s__n _ts cr_t_c_l_r_g_r_d w_n_. _n 2005,
Pr_m__r_n_m_d _m_r_c_n B__ty _s_n _f 20 "m_st
 _v_rr_t_d m_v__s _f ll_t_m_". M_nd_s _cc_pt_d th_
 cr_t_c_sm, s_y_ng: "_ th__ght s_m__f_t w_s _nt_r_ly
 j_st_f__d—_t w_s _l_ttl_ _v_rpr__s_d _t th_ t_m_."
 Th_ m_v__r_v__w_s_t_ R_tt_n T_m_t__s_s_ys:
 "_m_r_c_n B__ty _s _sm_rt, pr_v_c_t_v_ h_gh p__nt
 _f_l_t_ '90s m__nstr__m H_llyw__d f_lm."





MARK THE SPACES

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

American Beauty is a 1999 American drama film directed by Sam Mendes. It stars Kevin Spacey as office worker Lester Burnham, who hates his job and boring routine. He has a midlife crisis when he becomes obsessed with his teenage daughter's best friend, Angela (Mena Suvari). Annette Bening co-

stars as Lester's materialistic wife, Carolyn, and Thora Birch plays their insecure daughter, Jane. The film has been described by academics as a satire of American middle class ideas about beauty and personal satisfaction. Critics have focused on the film's exploration of romantic and paternal love, sexuality, beauty, materialism, alienation, freedom, and freeing oneself from sin. *American Beauty* was positively received by critics and audiences alike. It was the best-

reviewed American film of the year and grossed over \$350 million worldwide. It won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (for Spacey), Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography. The years since have seen its critical regard wane. In 2005, *Premiere* named *American Beauty* as one of 20 "most overrated movies of all time". Mendes accepted the criticism, saying: "I thought some of it was entirely justified—

it was a little overpraised at the time." The movie review site Rotten Tomatoes says: "*American Beauty* is a smart, provocative high point of late '90s mainstream Hollywood film."





DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____





AMERICAN BEAUTY SURVEY

From: http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/american_beauty.html

Write five GOOD questions about American Beauty in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET INFO: Search the Internet and find more information about "American Beauty". Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about "American Beauty". What are (did) critics and moviegoers saying (say) about it? How good were the actors' performances? What was good and bad about the movie? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. "AMERICAN BEAUTY" POSTER: Make a poster about "American Beauty". Make sure you put tag lines, audience and critics' reviews, why people should see it, etc. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

5. MY PREQUEL / SEQUEL: Make your own prequel or sequel for "American Beauty". Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

6. CHARACTER STORY: Choose one of the characters from the movie. Imagine you are that character. Write your story about what you did in the movie. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

7. ONLINE SHARING: Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, Twitter stream, or any other social media tool to get opinions on "American Beauty". Share your findings with the class.





ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. boring | a. mundane |
| 2. obsessed | b. preoccupied |
| 3. materialistic | c. consumerist |
| 4. insecure | d. unconfident |
| 5. freeing | e. releasing |
| 6. critics | f. reviewers |
| 7. grossed | g. earned |
| 8. wane | h. fade |
| 9. entirely | i. totally |
| 10. provocative | j. controversial |

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Please check for yourself by looking at the movie review on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)

CREATIVE COMMONS

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