

**Kurzbeschreibung zur Information der Schülerinnen und Schüler in der Jahrgangsstufe 10**

Lehrkraft: Fr. Meierhofer

Leitfach: Englisch

Rahmenthema: Suburbia in fiction and popular culture

A suburb is just a place to live: lots of pretty similar houses on the outskirts of a city. But *suburbia* has become a concept in popular culture. Life in the suburbs – dream or nightmare? Since the rise of suburban living towards the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this question has been the subject of novels, short stories, movies, songs and numerous TV series. Students will explore the history of the suburbs and their influence on popular culture, e.g. the short stories of John Cheever, novels by John Green, Joyce Carol Oates, or Richard Yates, movies like *Revolutionary Road* or *American Beauty*, modern TV series such as *Weeds*, *Suburgatory*, *American Dad*, *Desperate Housewives* or classic shows like *Leave it to Beaver*, *Bewitched* and songs by the Pet Shop Boys, David Bowie or Arcade Fire.

mögliche Themen für die Seminararbeiten:

1. Richard Yates' *Revolutionary Road*: a comparison of the novel and the film
2. Women in the suburbs – From Betty Friedan to *Desperate Housewives*
3. Men in the suburbs - Estrangement in *American Beauty* and Cheever's *The Swimmer*
4. From dream to nightmare: the development of the suburban theme in U.S. television series
5. Suburbia in songs
6. Bittersweet suburbia in U.S. teen movies (of the 80s/90s/...)
7. Growing up in suburbia: *The Wonder Years*
8. Suburbia in an animated TV series: *American Dad*