

STORY ENGINE SETTINGS: "American Beauty"

CHARACTER DYNAMICS:

MC RESOLVE: Change
 MC GROWTH: Start
 MC APPROACH: Do-er
 MC PROBLEM-SOLVING STYLE:
 Linear
 IC RESOLVE: Steadfast

PLOT DYNAMICS:

DRIVER: Decision
 LIMIT: Optionlock
 OUTCOME: Failure
 JUDGMENT: Good

MAIN CHARACTER

(Lester Burnham)
 DOMAIN: Situation
 CONCERN: The Past
 ISSUE: Prediction vs.
Interdiction
 PROBLEM: Perception
 SOLUTION: Actuality
 SYMPTOM: Inertia
 RESPONSE: Change
 UNIQUE ABILITY: Interdiction
 CRITICAL FLAW: Evidence
 BENCHMARK: The Future
 SIGNPOST 1: The Present
 SIGNPOST 2: How Things are
 Changing
 SIGNPOST 3: The Past
 SIGNPOST 4: The Future

RELATIONSHIP

(Friendship)
 DOMAIN: Activity
 CONCERN: Understanding
 ISSUE: Senses vs.
Interpretation
 PROBLEM: Perception
 SOLUTION: Actuality
 SYMPTOM: Aware
 RESPONSE: Self Aware
 CATALYST: Interpretation
 INHIBITOR: Situation
 BENCHMARK: Obtaining
 SIGNPOST 1: Understanding
 SIGNPOST 2: Doing
 SIGNPOST 3: Obtaining
 SIGNPOST 4: Gathering
 Information

OVERALL STORY

(Surviving American Suburbia)
 DOMAIN: Manipulation
 CONCERN: Developing a Plan
 ISSUE: Situation vs.

INFLUENCE CHARACTER

(Ricky Fitts)
 DOMAIN: Fixed Attitude
 CONCERN: Memories
 ISSUE: Evidence vs. *Suspicion*

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Circumstances

PROBLEM: Perception
SOLUTION: Actuality
SYMPTOM: Order
RESPONSE: Chaos
CATALYST: Circumstances
INHIBITOR: Senses
BENCHMARK: Changing One's Nature
SIGNPOST 1: Changing One's Nature
SIGNPOST 2: Conceiving an Idea
SIGNPOST 3: Developing a Plan
SIGNPOST 4: Playing a Role

Story Engine Settings

PROBLEM: Change
SOLUTION: Inertia
SYMPTOM: Order
RESPONSE: Chaos
UNIQUE ABILITY: Suspicion
CRITICAL FLAW: Prediction
BENCHMARK: Innermost Desires
SIGNPOST 1: Memories
SIGNPOST 2: Contemplation
SIGNPOST 3: Impulsive Responses
SIGNPOST 4: Innermost Desires

ADDITIONAL STORY POINTS

GOAL: Developing a Plan
CONSEQUENCE: Understanding
COST: Memories
DIVIDEND: The Past

REQUIREMENT: Changing One's Nature
PREREQUISITE: Obtaining
PRECONDITION: Innermost Desires
FOREWARNINGS: The Future

VOCABULARY:

Activity: an activity or endeavor

Actuality: objective reality; the way things are

Aware: being conscious of things outside oneself

Change: an alteration of a state or process

Change: Lester Burnham changes his essential nature while attempting to solve the problem

Changing One's Nature: transforming one's nature

Chaos: random change or a lack of order

Circumstances: an emotional assessment of one's environment

Conceiving an Idea: coming up with an idea

Contemplation: present considerations

Decision: in the plot, decisions force actions

Developing a Plan: visualizing how an existing idea might be implemented

Do-er: Lester Burnham looks for a physical solution to his problem

Doing: engaging in a physical activity

Evidence: information supporting a belief

Failure: the original goal is not achieved

Fixed Attitude: a fixed attitude or outlook

Gathering Information: gathering information or experience

Good: Lester Burnham ultimately succeeds in resolving his personal problems

How Things are Changing: the way things are going

Impulsive Responses: innate responses

Inertia: a continuation of a state or process

Innermost Desires: basic drives and desires

Interdiction: an effort to change a predetermined course

Interpretation: determination of possible meaning

Linear: Lester Burnham uses inherently linear (linear) problem solving techniques

Manipulation: a manner of thinking or demeanor

Memories: recollections

Obtaining: achieving or possessing something

Optionlock: the story climax occurs because all options have been exhausted

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Vocabulary List

Order: a patterned arrangement

Perception: the way things seem to be

Playing a Role: temporarily adopting a lifestyle

Prediction: a predetermination of a future state of affairs

Self Aware: being conscious of one's own existence

Senses: sensory observations

Situation: a situation or environment

Situation: a logistic assessment of one's environment

Start: regarding Lester Burnham, the audience is waiting for something to begin

Steadfast: Lester Burnham ultimately retains his essential nature

Suspicion: questioning or forming a belief based on new evidence

The Future: what will happen or what will be

The Past: what has already happened

The Present: the current situation and circumstances

Understanding: appreciating the meaning of something