

# THE NEIGHBORS' WINDOW

The neighbors' lives seem really interesting and fun, but are they?

**Before watching:** Read through the **glossary** to familiarize yourself with the expressions.

I'm whooped.	<i>Jag är slut.</i>
to spank	<i>att smiska</i>
drapes	<i>gardiner</i>
disgraceful	<i>skandalöst, skamligt, vanhedrande</i>
to drool	<i>att dregla</i>
to christen	<i>att inviga, döpa</i>
to hold it	<i>(här): att hålla sig</i>
a label	<i>skivbolag</i>
break a leg	<i>lycka till</i>
laters	<i>hörs sen</i>
to haggle	<i>att köpslå, pruta</i>
recoupment	<i>kompensation, ersättning</i>
to juggle	<i>att jonglera</i>
to nurse	<i>att amma</i>
to gawk	<i>att stå och glo</i>
to over react	<i>att överreagera</i>
binoculars	<i>kikare</i>
to gnaw	<i>att tugga på, gnaga</i>
geezer	<i>gubbe</i>
hangover	<i>bakfull, bakis</i>
tub	<i>badkar</i>
adorable	<i>förtjusande</i>
hilarious	<i>jätterolig</i>
day off	<i>ledig dag</i>

**While watching:** Pause the movie at **10:00** and discuss together as a group.

Discuss together.

1. Who is this movie about?
2. What happens that starts to affect their lives?
3. What do you think will happen next?



**After watching:** Read through the questions below and answer them.

What can you say about what happens in the movie?

**A.** Answer these questions for yourself:

1. Describe the family in the movie. What do Alli (the mom) and Jacob (the dad) do for a living? Where do they work? Describe their children.
2. Describe their living situation. Where do they live? Describe their home.
3. How would you say Alli's and Jacob relationship changes by them seeing their neighbors?

**B.** Answer these questions in pairs:

1. Who were the neighbor couple? What happened to them?
2. What did Alli talk with the neighbor woman about?
3. What happened after Alli had talked to the neighbor?

**C.** Answer these questions together as a group.

1. How do you think Alli's and Jacob lives were affected by what happened to the neighbors?
2. How did Alli and Jacob inspire their neighbors?
3. What do you think is the message of the movie? What can we learn from it? How do you think the movie makers want us to feel after having watched it?

### What to do next...

Choose one or more out of the following exercises to work with.

- Who do you admire or get strength from in secret? Write a letter that you address to that person and tell them what they do that helps you in your life. (You don't have to actually give it to them, so write freely).
- Work in pairs and talk about something that has affected your life a lot. It can be someone you met in life or something you experienced or something else, but it has to be from real life. Take turns to talk and remember to listen actively and ask the other person questions in order for them to describe it more clearly and more accurately.

- Practice affirmation. Divide into smaller groups and use post-its to write each other affirmations. Each person in the group write one thing about everyone else in the group. Start your note with “You inspire me to...”. Hand your post-its to each other.

### Deeper discussions

The Neighbors' window takes place in an apartment in New York.

- What do you know about the living situation in New York? Do people usually rent or own their apartments? Which areas are more expensive? Which areas are cheaper? Why is that? Try to see if you can find a historical background as a reason for more popular or unpopular areas. Try to find a map of New York to get a better overview. How are the different areas situated in relationship to each other?
- Alli seems to be a stay-at-home mom. Divide into pairs or groups of three and research one of the following topics. Then present the results to the rest of the group.
  - Child care in the U.S. - How does child care work in the U.S.? Do kids go to kindergarten/day care/childminder? Are day care centers free or do they take fees?
  - Schools in the U.S. – Are they free or do they take fees? At what age do you start school? Are there different types of schools and if so, what differs between them?
  - Maternity/paternity leave in the U.S. – How does it work? For how long can you stay at home from work with a child after it is born? Do you get any subsidies for doing so?
  - Other options – such as relatives, nannies etc. How does that work in the U.S.? How many use these alternatives for their kids instead of the ones mentioned above?
  - Equality in child care in the U.S. How common is it that dads stay at home with their children in the U.S. in comparison to moms? Why do you think that is? What does it look like in Sweden? What do you think is the reason behind the statistics looking the way it does? Consider cultural aspects, historical aspects, social and economic aspects.
- Work in smaller groups and design a plan for a block of apartment buildings. Your houses are multiple apartment buildings in a large city. How can you best design the block so that the people living in these buildings get enough privacy and don't see into each others' apartments? Also think about design, green areas, streets, playgrounds etc. Draw your design either by hand or virtually.

### Arbetsbladet är skrivet av Nina Olivier

**Upphovsrätten till innehållet** i det här arbetsbladet tillkommer UR, om inte något annat särskilt anges. Arbetsbladet får endast kopieras, distribueras digitalt och visas i undervisningssammanhang.