

THE HIT ABC FAMILY ORIGINAL SERIES RETURNS

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER

"Hot Nuts"

mondays at 8/7c

For Teens:

Here's some stuff to talk about from this week's episode:

- * Ricky and Amy have never been to court to work out a legal custody arrangement for John, but Ricky told Adrian that he does give Amy \$50 every week to help with expenses. Even though \$50 a week is a lot to someone working part-time at a butcher shop, it doesn't come close to being enough to take care of a baby. What if Amy didn't have supportive parents? What if she needed to pay rent or buy clothes and food for John? How do you think Amy and Ricky would handle the financial responsibility of being parents? Would they be able to make it work?

fact: *Taking care of a baby for just the first year of life costs about \$10,000, and becoming a mother as a teen can limit your educational options and future earning potential. Not surprisingly, more than half of all women on welfare had their first child as a teenager.*

- * Amy told Ashley that she wishes she could get married, because she hates the fact that John doesn't have two parents who are together. Do you think Amy would be happier if she and Ricky had gotten married when she became pregnant? What if she and Ben had gotten married for real?

fact: *Less than 8% of teen mothers marry the father of their baby by the baby's first birthday. Teen marriages are twice as likely to fail as marriages in which the bride is at least 25 years old. Teen moms are significantly less likely to be married by the age of 35 than those who do not have babies as teens.*

- * Amy and Ashley just spent a year living through their parents' breakup and divorce. Now it looks like they'll be witnessing their parents dating – each other. Is that awkward? How much do teens want to know about their parents' social lives? What happens when parents have more active dating lives than their kids?

tip: *Relationships can be challenging for everybody at any age. Be patient with each other!*



For Parents:

Watching a show like “The Secret Life of the American Teenager” with your teens is good way to start a conversation about sex, love, and relationships. Even though teens say that parents most influence their decisions about sex, parents of teens underestimate their own influence in this area. Here are some ideas for talking to your kids after watching the show.

- * Ruben insisted that Adrian apologize to Amy so the two of them could try to work out their differences. Leo strongly suggested to Ben that he keep whatever happened in Italy over the summer a secret from Amy. How much parental intervention is too much, and how is a parent to know? If you gave your teen advice like Ruben and Leo did, what kind of reaction would you get?



tip: *Talk to your teen about the situations you see portrayed on television and in movies. It allows you to openly discuss important situations and learn more about each other's thoughts and feelings without involving real people whose feelings might get hurt.*

- * Amy and Adrian spend most of this episode fighting and calling each other (and Amy's mom) “sluts.” Why do girls use this sort of slur against one another? Have you ever discussed name-calling with your kids? Why is the term “slut” especially hurtful to teen girls?

fact: *Teen girls often report that the “drama” and gossip among their female peers is one of the hardest things about adolescence.*