

HALF A MILLION SECRETS

We are watching a TED talk of Frank Warren. Read the following information about him.

FRANK WARREN Secret Keeper

Frank Warren is the creator of the community art project, PostSecret.com, a Web site where people can share their secrets. He has published five books about the secrets he collected on the Web site.

Warren's project began as a small experiment in 2004. He handed out blank postcards to people on the street. Warren asked people to write something on the postcard that they'd never told anyone before and mail the postcards back to him. He didn't know what to expect.

Frank Warren's idea worth spreading is that sharing secrets can help us connect with others and know ourselves better.

Read the following statements and check the ones that you agree with

A: *I don't think it is a good idea to share secrets.*

B: *Really? Why?*

A: *Because someone could get hurt.*

1. ☐ Some secrets should never be shared.
2. ☐ It's easier to share a secret with someone you don't know very well.
3. ☐ Sharing secrets can make people feel better.

Read and listen to these sentences.
Guess the meaning of the words in
bold and complete the sentences
below with them.

- a. The competition organizer chose a winner **randomly** from thousands of entries.
- b. The suicide note was really **shocking**. We could not believe that she wanted to take her own life.
- c. He has received **countless** postcards and emails about his project. He stopped counting them after the first thousand.
- d. You can call or write **anonymously** and give your opinion. You do not have to give your name.
- e. We want to **preserve** the beautiful old homes in our community. If we do not, they will disappear.
- f. The handwriting on these two postcards is **obviously** very different. You can see this difference right away.
- g. The class project really allowed students to demonstrate their **creativity**. Some students drew pictures and others wrote poems about their neighborhood.
- h. After the fire, the **remains** of the home were just a few burned pieces of furniture.
- i. A neighbor ran into the burning house and saved the children. The community praised her **heroism**.
- j. This whole community arts project was an experiment. We did not know how it would **play out**.

1. We listened to the _____ announcement about the young singer's death.
2. The police officer received an award for _____ after she saved a boy's life.
3. Many people come to visit the artist's house, which _____ the spirit of his life and work.

4. The teacher called on students _____ to answer questions. She did not go in any order.
5. We will just have to wait and see how this plan _____. Maybe it will be successful, and maybe it will fail.
6. The teacher was pleased by the _____ of his students' artwork.
7. We _____ have to review the plans again. No one understands them at all.
8. There have been _____ attempts to solve the problem, but none of them has succeeded to far.
9. We vote for the president _____. No one will know what your vote was.
10. The _____ of the last night's dinner were still on the table when we woke up this morning.

Now watch the TED talk and complete the summary

Frank Warren created _____¹ postcards. On the postcards, he asked people to share a _____² that they had never told anyone before. He handed the postcards out to strangers in _____³. The idea spread virally. People began to _____⁴ and make their own postcards. Soon my idea didn't seem so _____⁵.

Watch it again and choose the best word or phrase to complete each statement

1. The person who wrote the postcard about the stamps is probably _____.
a. worried **b.** angry **c.** unhappy
2. The writer gave the customers decaf coffee because s/he _____.
a. was mad at them **b.** knew they wanted decaf **c.** didn't care
3. The sender of the "birthmother" postcard probably _____ his/her biological mother.
a. met **b.** does not know **c.** will find
4. The writer who sent a ripped up suicide note probably _____ in the past.
a. was successful **b.** was happier **c.** had a lot of problems
5. The person who sent the song wanted to _____.
a. celebrate a birthday **b.** share a secret **c.** remember someone