Lesson 4D

READING | secrets from strangers

READING

1 **Read the text below. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.**

Share a secret with us

Have you been _____ a secret for a long time and need to tell someone? Write and tell us what it is! It'll make you feel better!

a saying **b** keeping **c** storing

2A **Read the article. Choose the topics (a–f) that the writer mentions.**

a what Frank Warren asked people to do
b why Frank Warren decided to do an art project about secrets
c the success of Frank Warren's project
d the type of secrets that people share
e the most common secret that people share
f why people share their secrets

B **Match the gaps in the sentences (1–6) with the types of missing information (a–f).**

1 Frank Warren started his art project the US in _____.
2 He asked _____ to share their secrets with him.
3 Frank Warren gave out postcards on the streets of _____, in the US.
4 Frank receives about _____ each week.
5 Every week Frank Warren choses some postcards to upload on his _____.
6 Not all of the postcards are sad, some of them are _____.

a a year
b a number
c a place
d an online site
e people
f an adjective

C **Complete each sentence in Ex 2B with one word or number from the article.**

D **Read the article again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?**

1 The people who send postcards to Frank don't have to say who they are.
2 Frank asked people to tell him things they had never told anyone else.
3 When he started the project Frank hoped he would receive 3,000 responses.
4 Frank was sent a million postcards in a year.
5 Frank only has time to read around twenty postcards a week.
6 Frank thinks that people tell others their secrets because it makes them feel less anxious.

Tell me a secret

Have you got a secret that you've never told anyone? How would you feel if someone asked you to write your deepest secret on a postcard and send it to them without sharing your identity? It's an offer a surprising number of people can't resist.

In 2004, Frank Warren began asking strangers to tell him their secrets as part of an art project. He printed 3,000 postcards with some simple instructions on one side – the secret could be anything as long as it was true and had never been shared with anyone before. He also asked people to write clearly, be creative with their postcards and be brief – not use too many words. He gave them out to people on the street around Washington in the US and hoped he would get at least 365 replies.

The idea was far more popular than Warren had expected and what started as a personal project has become an international community. He gets around 100 postcards a week from all over the world with a stranger's secret written on it, and in the first ten years of his project, he had received over a million postcards. He reads every card he gets, and each Sunday he chooses about twenty which he posts on his blog, which has become one of the most popular advertisement-free blogs in the world. This success has also resulted in six books, and several, exhibitions and live events around the world.

Reading the postcards on Warren's blog is surprisingly interesting. People share their secret fears, hopes and dreams for the future, as well as their embarrassing habits. The postcards cover a range of emotions from happiness to total sadness. As you might expect, there are a lot of sad postcards, but there are also some which are funny and make you laugh.

But why has Warren's idea been so popular? He believes that people share their secrets because it helps them feel less alone. The postcards he receives from all over the world show that people everywhere have similar secrets and sharing them can bring people together rather than divide them.

So, if you're hiding a secret or feel bad about doing something in the past, why not send Frank Warren a postcard and see if it makes you feel better?

LIVEWORKSHEETS