

UNIT 1.2: HALF A MILLION SECRETS

WATCH

E ▶ **1.1 WATCH FOR DETAILS** Watch segment 1 of Warren's edited TED Talk. Complete the summary below.

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.

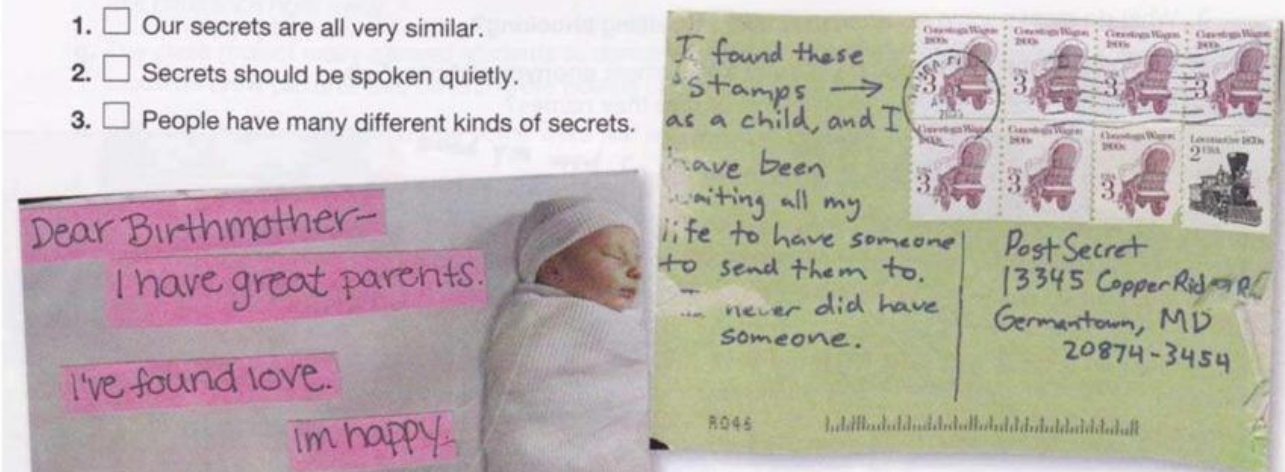
F ▶ **1.2 WATCH FOR MAIN IDEAS** Watch segment 2 of Warren's edited TED Talk. Check [✓] the statement that best expresses the main idea.

- ☐ The success of PostSecret.com was a surprise.
- ☐ Secrets can be powerful.
- ☐ Warren started the project because he liked secrets.

G **THINK CRITICALLY Infer.** Read the excerpt from the talk. What is Warren trying to say? Check [✓] the best interpretation.

"Secrets can take many forms. They can be silly or soulful or shocking. They can connect us with our deepest humanity or with people we'll never meet again. ... Secrets can remind us of the countless human dramas of frailty and heroism, playing out silently in the lives of people all around us even now."

- ☐ Our secrets are all very similar.
- ☐ Secrets should be spoken quietly.
- ☐ People have many different kinds of secrets.



H **1.2** **RECOGNIZE EXAMPLES** Watch segment 2 again. Listen and watch for examples that support Warren's main idea. Complete the outline below.

Idea: Secrets can take many forms. They can be silly, soulful, or shocking.

- "I found these stamps as a child, and I have been waiting all my life to have someone to send them to. I never _____." ¹
- "I give decaf to people who are _____ to me." ²
- "Dear Birthmother, I have great parents. I've found _____. I'm _____." ³
⁴
- "Inside this envelope is the ripped up remains of a suicide note I didn't use. I feel like the _____ on Earth (now)." ⁵
- "When people I love leave voicemails on my phone, I always save them in case they die tomorrow and I have no other way of hearing _____ ever again." ⁶

I **THINK CRITICALLY Infer.** Choose the best word or phrase to complete each statement. Then compare your answers with a partner's.

- The person who wrote the postcard about the stamps is probably _____.
a. worried b. angry c. unhappy
- The writer gave the customers decaf coffee because s/he _____.
a. was mad at them b. knew they wanted decaf c. didn't care
- The sender of the "birthmother" postcard probably _____ his/her biological mother.
a. met b. does not know c. will find
- 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
- The person who sent the song wanted to _____.
a. celebrate a birthday b. share a secret c. remember someone

WORDS IN THE TALK

birthmother (n): biological mother of a child who was adopted by other people

decaf (n): coffee that does not wake you up

frailty (n): weakness

humanity (n): understanding and kindness toward other people

soulful (adj): full of feeling