

Worksheet 2

The Vanishing Author

Agatha's Anagrams

Agatha, meanwhile, seeing that her attempt to keep the whole affair under control had misfired, laid low, not knowing what to do. Her alias, Teresa (not Nancy), was an anagram of 'teaser' – a clue to what she was up to.

People have been mystified and entertained by anagrams for hundreds of years. An anagram is a type of word play where a word or short phrase is formed by rearranging the letters of another word or short phrase, such as in the example from *The Vanishing Author* above. In fact, it is interesting to note that the word 'anagrams' is actually an anagram for 'ars magna' – a Latin phrase meaning 'great art'.

Task 1: Rearrange the letters from each word from *The Vanishing Author* to form another word.

Easy: saw _____, but _____, car _____, pit _____, low _____, ten _____

Medium: life _____, name _____, time _____, golf _____, said _____, made _____, sure _____, lost _____

Hard: first _____, later _____, great _____, lives _____, north _____

Challenging: height _____, silent _____

Super challenging: nearest _____

Did you know?

- ◇ In Harry Potter, Voldemort's real name is *Tom Marvolo Riddle*. This name is an anagram of 'I am Lord Voldemort'.
- ◇ The creator of *The Simpsons*, Matt Groening, has suggested he chose the name 'Bart' for the cheeky son in the Simpson family because it is an anagram of 'brat'.
- ◇ The famous Dr Who television series has a spin off series called 'Torchwood' – an anagram of 'Doctor Who'.

Extension Activities:

- Research the history of anagrams. Where and when did they originate? How have they been used throughout history?
- Present an oral report about the interesting facts of anagram. Include:
 - What can you discover about the former and current capital cities of Japan and Indonesia?
 - What is an *anagrammist* and how would they most likely respond when asked to name the four points of a compass?
 - What is *Clabbers*?
 - How are palindromes and anagrams connected?