

**TSSM**<sup>TM</sup>  
Creating VCE Success

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES  
PAIRED COMPARISONS  
**Stasiland / Nineteen Eighty-Four**

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TEXT 1

**Stasiland**

## BACKGROUND NOTES

Anna Funder was born in Melbourne in 1966 and attended schools in both Melbourne and Paris where she learned German in school. At first, she studied law and worked as a lawyer, then she became a documentary filmmaker. She later completed post-graduate studies in creative writing at The University of Melbourne.

In the 1980s, Anna Funder received a German Government scholarship to study at the Free University of Berlin. In 1997 she received further financial assistance to return to Germany as a Write-in Residence at the Australia Centre in Potsdam. She met Miriam Weber which gave her the idea to write a book that would become *Stasiland*. It was published in 2002, has been translated into a number of languages and has also been studied by school and university students.

Awards:

Winner, the BBC Four Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction, 2004.

Shortlisted, The Guardian First Book Award.

Shortlisted, The Age Book of the Year.

Anna Funder has since published, *All That I Am*, also set in Germany. This won the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 2012, and the Indie Book of the Year in 2012.

Anna Funder lives in New York with her husband and three children.