

# AROUND THE TRAPS

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## TAKDARE HEEDS 'JUST DO IT!' CALL

ASK Lisa Takdare what book she is reading, and her response might surprise you. When listing her favourite authors she has more in common with the tastes of children at the school library where she works, than the average Australian adult reader.

Takdare is an emerging children's writer and for her, just being surrounded by books every day at St Michael's Grammar School, Victoria, is a source of inspiration. Takdare finds each story she starts naturally gravitates to the children's genre.

"I am surrounded by a vast array of children's books every day, and see how children relate to different stories," she explains. With more than 25,000 books for inspiration, she also has about 1200 children ready to give her feedback on her own story ideas.

Being close to the action, Takdare can see first-hand why a book garners a response. A simple trip to the junior library can shape a whole new story idea for her. Writing has been a shaping influence on Takdare's life for almost 20 years. She found writing like being in a river and just had to flow with it. Within this flow, characters, protagonists and plots started to emerge and as a young mother she found herself 'tinkering' with writing in amongst the many other demands of a life filled with work and family responsibilities.



**Working in a school library has inspired Lisa Takdare to write.**

But it was a resolute 'just do it' from a journalist friend three years ago, that finally had her making the space to pursue her writing in earnest. She enrolled in a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing course at the Centre for Adult Education and 'just did it'.

Takdare has placed herself at the centre of a symbiotic union between writing and children. Her first published book will be received with glee by the greatest critics she knows best – the junior school students. It is the words that matter most, and Takdare would rather see the eyes of the children grow wide with wonder than be 'famous' for her writing craft.

As for the shape of things to come? She maintains her characteristic poise and says: "The lesson has been to take myself, and my writing, seriously so that others can do the same. I need to write and in doing so I am a better person." Takdare has a clear vision of her writing future – some would say she is already there.