



YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS!



Annie with fellow library fans Khavisaan Senthuran, Celine Chaiban and Martin Tran

I've never had someone ask me why I love my job. I've never had someone say, "what is it about your job that has you come home every evening with a skip in your step and a smile on your face?"

People don't have to ask, because I don't give them a chance; I talk about my job constantly.

Sometimes it's about the little girl who came in to the library to show me her brand new brother. Sometimes it's the teenagers having a breakdance battle at Lalor Library's Teen Night. Sometimes it's the look on someone's face when you tell them that the self check-out machine can speak to you not only in English, Chinese and Italian, but Pirate as well!

As a full-time children's librarian it's hard to find something I don't like about my job. Every day is different, rewarding and amusing. I've dressed up as a witch and the Easter bunny, turned toy libraries into dungeons, and used a lot of crayons. I've also shared stories with hundreds of children, met some amazing families and been a part of a fantastic team.

The most rewarding part of my job is the chance to be a part of so many different people's lives, even if it's only a tiny part. Four times a week I share my love of libraries and stories with the adults and children who attend storytime. Once a week I run an after-school program

for primary students where we play games, make art, eat lollies and gossip. Every Thursday evening I help many of those students with their homework. I might struggle to remember how to multiply a fraction, but it is so rewarding when I see the children help each other with their spelling sheets.

"I can make at least one person happy today, and the smile on my face is because they make me happy too."

Every single day I help at least one person.

And on weekends, I do it all over again at my casual children's librarian job at a different library service.

So even though I didn't give you a chance to ask, the thing I like most about my job is meeting and helping people. That skip in my step comes from knowing that I can make at least one person happy today, and the smile on my face is because they make me happy too.

Annie Bourne

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I love my library because...

There are always books nearby as journalist Jennifer Byrne dashes between her multiple radio and TV commitments for the ABC. Jennifer says hosting The First Tuesday Book Club is her "dream job."

I love bookshops with their shining new books - what reader doesn't? - but I love libraries even more. They are a book's true home, the place where it can relax among friends without needing to follow fashion or turn a profit. I don't think of the books in libraries as "used" but shared and that gives them a special resonance, the pages infused with the scent and touch of other readers' explorations. Even when I go to my library in search of a specific book, I always have a good dig around the returns trolley to see what others have enjoyed and carry unexpected treats home to my reading lair.

I can't remember when my library love affair started but it goes back to before I could actually read or in fact walk - I know because I remember seeing a photo of me settled happily in a pram surrounded by library books. And I took my son from year dot too. A grand library is a fine thing, but it's the local libraries I love best, for their familiarity, the cosiness of their collections and because the librarians do so much so patiently with such limited resources. They are the custodians of our community treasures. I want to express my gratitude to them all.

Jennifer Byrne



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