

Margie and Hippo

A Picture Book

Second Edition



By Miles Murdocca, with technology by OpenAI

Second edition: 5 June 2026

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First edition: 5 February 2023

This second edition keeps the original story text and updates the illustrations so that Margie and Hippo keep the same visual style and physical features throughout the book. This was a difficult task at the time the original book was created in February 2023.

Creating a Picture Book with AI

I used OpenAI technology to write a picture book. The technology assist is very cool.

A prompt is the text we type to an artificial intelligence (AI) to evoke a response:

Human: Who are you?

AI: I am a chatbot who can talk on any subject. What would you like to talk about?

In the dialog above, the prompt is what the Human types: "Who are you?"

We have a dog Margie and I was curious what ChatGPT might come up with in a story about one of her favorite stuffed animals. This is the prompt I used in February 2023:

In 500 words or less, write a story about my Labrador Retriever dog Margie's best stuffed animal friend called Hippo. Hippo is a blue hippopotamus stuffed animal. Margie has a whole collection of stuffed animals but she likes Hippo the best and carries Hippo to greet people.

The response became the story in the rest of the book.

For this second edition, I kept the original story text and rebuilt the illustrations in a consistent soft 3D picture-book style. Margie remains a light yellow Labrador Retriever with warm brown eyes, a dark brown nose, floppy ears, a blue collar, and a gentle, happy expression. Hippo remains a soft blue stuffed hippopotamus with rounded features, small ears, stitched details, and a friendly smile.

Hope you like it!

Margie and Hippo

Once upon a time, there was a Labrador Retriever named Margie. Margie was a happy and playful dog, who loved to play with her toys. Among her many toys, there was one special stuffed animal that she loved the most. It was a blue hippopotamus named Hippo.



Hippo was Margie's best friend and she always carried him with her wherever she went. Margie would greet everyone with a wagging tail and a big smile, with Hippo in her mouth. People would always smile back and pet her, while admiring her stuffed animal friend.



One day, Margie's family decided to go on a camping trip and they invited Margie to come along. Margie was so excited and she knew that she had to bring Hippo with her. They packed their bags and set off on their adventure.



During their trip, Margie and Hippo had many fun adventures. They went hiking, swimming, and even had a picnic by the river. Margie was always the center of attention, with Hippo by her side. Everyone loved seeing the two of them together and they always took pictures of them.



On their last day of the trip, Margie woke up early and went out for a walk. She was so excited to explore the woods and see all the different animals. But as she was running around, she got a little too excited and lost sight of Hippo. She searched everywhere, but she couldn't find him.



Margie was so sad and she didn't want to leave without her best friend. Her family searched the woods with her, but they couldn't find Hippo either. They tried to cheer her up by saying that they would buy her a new stuffed animal when they got back home, but Margie just didn't want anyone else.



Just as they were about to leave, Margie heard a familiar noise. She followed the sound and soon she found Hippo. He had gotten tangled up in some bushes and couldn't get free. Margie was so happy to see him and she wagged her tail and licked his face.



From that day on, Margie never let Hippo out of her sight. She knew that he was her best friend and she loved him more than anything else. Even though Margie had many other stuffed animals, none of them could ever replace Hippo. He was her loyal companion and her best friend forever.

Yay Margie and Hippo!

