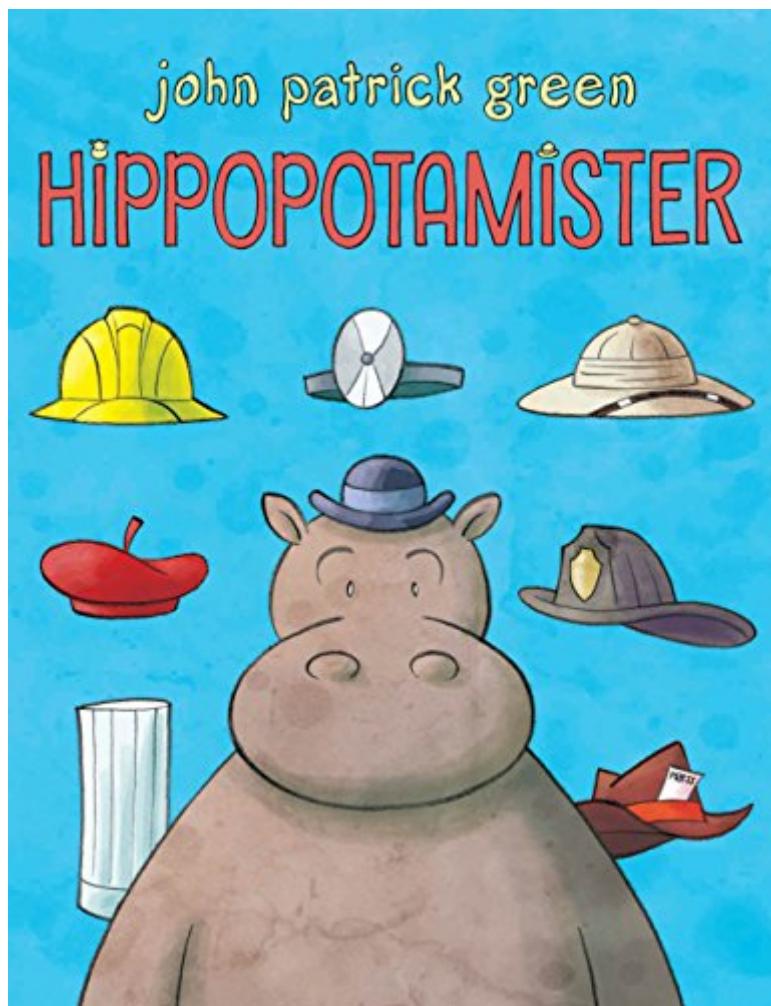


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# Hippopotamister



## Synopsis

The zoo isn't what it used to be. It's run down, and Hippo hardly ever gets any visitors. So he decides to set off for the outside with his friend Red Panda. To make it in the human world, Hippo will have to become a Hippopotamister: he'll have to act like a human, get a job, and wear a hat as a disguise. He's a good employee, whether he's a construction worker, a hair stylist, or a sous chef. But what he really needs is a job where he can be himself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My late mom and the author/artist's grandmother were close friends many moons ago. I got books from for my grandchildren in CA & NY. The kids & I enjoyed the pictures and the story very much. It is a long book and held my 2 year old g'son's attention all the way thru. It has a cute story that makes you smile. I hope there will be MORE adventures of Hippopotamister and Red Panda!

Adorable book! Great lessons about perseverance and trying to learn new skills. Also a good book about friendship and believing in each other and yourself. The artwork is quite lovely. Totally recommend.

Loved this book! Cute story, great art, my kids love it.

Great story line and wonderfully illustrated.

Hippopotamister sends its title character, a hippopotamus from a run-down zoo, out into the world to try on different hats as he works to find the right job. He's pretty good at work, too, with a variety of skills, until his buddy Red Panda messes things up and sends them looking once again. I like the way that the two friends interact. Hippopotamister needs the inspiration and example of Red Panda to decide to try something new, even though he's clearly got abilities. I also like how the story is more than just a series of wacky pictures, pulling together into something more substantial. Even Red Panda eventually finds the right job for himself. The art is evocative, cartoony but recognizable, with a slightly exaggerated spectrum of colors. Kids will like seeing the zoo animals take on jobs ranging from construction worker to hairdresser to chef. The two-page spreads where Hippo and Red Panda's results are revealed are both funny and lovely. And readers of very popular YA graphic novels may recognize Hippo's patient when he's a dentist. At the end, there are how-to-draw pages for Hippopotamister and Red Panda. (The publisher provided an advance digital review copy. Review originally posted at [ComicsWorthReading.com](http://ComicsWorthReading.com).)

The zoo where Hippo lives is run down and doesn't get many visitors at all. His friend Red Panda suggests that Hippo join him in the human world and get a job. The two of them put on hard hats and try their hands at construction. Hippo discovers that he is quite good at building, but he doesn't build the expected skyscraper. The two then try being hair dressers with similar results, though Hippo does find that he's quite good at it. They put on chef hats and work in a restaurant kitchen where Hippo creates a pasta masterpiece and Red Panda creates a mess. They go on to try being bankers and dentists and many other jobs until they head back to the zoo on one of their day's off. Hippo decides to return to the zoo and discovers that he may just have the exact skills needed to help the zoo return in style. Green's dismal zoo with limp animals quickly turns into an active story about different jobs, wild and wonderful ways to screw them up, visual gags, and plenty of laughs. The ending of the book is entirely satisfying, even as readers realize where it is headed. It is a pleasure to watch it play out visually and see Hippo come into his own with his myriad of skills. The illustrations in this graphic novel are welcoming and fun. Filled with bright colors and plenty of action, they have a wonderful feel to them. Especially effective

are the images done in series with Red Panda and then Hippo trying hat after hat and job after job. The entire book is filled with a jolly humor. Funny and lighthearted, this book also has a cheerful depth to it which is immensely satisfying. Appropriate for ages 6-9.

**Summary:** Hippo and Red Panda spend their days in a run-down zoo, until Red Panda decides he's had enough, and leaves to find a job. Whenever he comes back for a visit, he tells Hippo that he has the best job ever, although his hats suggest it's always a different job. Finally, Hippo decides to join him. Red Panda tells Hippo that he's now Hippopotamister, and he has to act like a human. The two friends try cooking, hair dressing, banking, and a host of other jobs. In each one, Hippopotamister is a bit unsure of himself, but does his work well; Red Panda, on the other hand, is completely confident, but makes a mess of things and gets them both fired. Finally, discouraged, Hippo returns to the zoo, where he finds everything just as bad as he left it. In one night, he uses all his new job skills to fix everything. The animals elect him zookeeper, and Red Panda, with his ebullient personality, is hired on as head of customer relations. 96 pages; grades K-3. **Pros:** This graphic novel has cute illustrations and lots of gentle humor, with a satisfying ending. Kids will enjoy learning how to join Hippopotamister and Red Panda on the last page. **Cons:** The lengthy job search got a bit repetitious.

Loved this one. The art was very good and the characters funny. Great message about working hard and appreciating your particular talents. Looking forward to more by this author.

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Hippopotamister

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