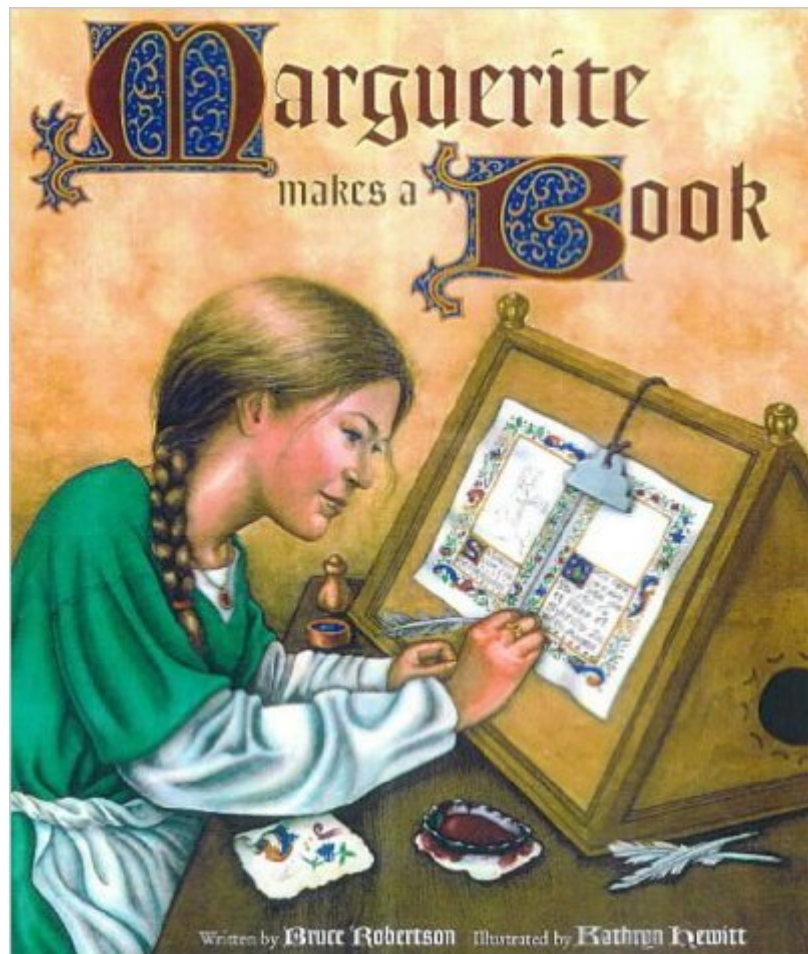


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# Marguerite Makes A Book (Getty Trust Publications: J. Paul Getty Museum)



## Synopsis

Paris in the 1400s. A young girl named Marguerite delights in assisting her father, Jacques, in his craft: illuminating manuscripts for the nobility of France. His current commission is a splendid book of hours for his patron, Lady Isabelle, but will he be able to finish it in time for Lady Isabelle's name day? In this richly illustrated tale, Marguerite comes to her father's aid. She journeys all over Paris buying goose feathers for quills, eggs for mixing paints, dried plants and ground minerals for pigments. Then she expertly finishes the illumination of Lady Isabelle's book, to the delight of her father and his patron. This delightful book, brought to life by the finely detailed, evocative art of a renowned children's artists, was inspired by an illuminated manuscript in the collection of the Getty Museum.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Series: Getty Trust Publications: J. Paul Getty Museum

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: J. Paul Getty Museum; 1 edition (October 28, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 089236372X

ISBN-13: 978-0892363728

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #49,843 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #209 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts,](#)

[Music & Photography > Art](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Both the story and illustrations in this book are wonderful. The story explains how books were illuminated. A fold out section explains how the different color paints were created. The story may be a little long for beginning listeners in a read aloud situation. The book has a glossary of technical terms that expands on the meaning given in the text. Inspired by a group of Parisian Manuscripts in

the Getty Museum.

I think the best way to review this book is to describe my 4 ½ yr olds response to it. We read it aloud twice and then she was ready to role-play the character in the book who's learning to be an 'illuminator' of manuscripts from her father in the 1400's in Paris, France (my daughter loves role playing). So this morning we dressed in our best approximation of 1400's French medieval dress (think handkerchief on head, wool shawl, cloth nappy tied as apron). We collected parsley from the garden and soot from the chimney to make our paints, just like Marguerite. We also used tea, beetroot and calendula. After preparing with the mortar and pestle these were strained then mixed with beaten egg white. We used scissors to sharpen feathers into quills after a try with a knife wasn't very successful. We used some oyster shells from our shell collection and voila! My daughter was able to role play being an illuminator in medieval France! She spent the rest of the morning 'illuminating' with amazing concentration and when it was time to go to an appointment she wanted to 'stay in role'. So we did. There was a man paying who was obviously intrigued by our get up - let's face it, I had a handkerchief on my head and was wearing a long green velvet dress! Turns out he spoke French, had been to Paris, and knew some history - spoke to us in French (ouch!) - tres bon! A book that captures our interest and imagination like this is definitely a star in our eyes. I so wish there were more books like this! My daughter says regarding Marguerite: 'She did interesting things - like making the paint' and 'her clothes were different and olden day'. Highly recommended especially for children interested in art, history, book making, architecture, fashion, social classes, France, technology and especially girls for the strong female lead. Age - very wide - I've found this book listed under 'Sophisticated Picture Books 8-12 yrs' - I think our experience shows how much younger ages can find intense interest in this book. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did. If you're really keen, email the publisher like I did to say: WE Loved This Book - Please Do More ! I'm sure Getty Museum would love to hear this from you!

Marguerite's father Jacques is the most famous manuscript illuminator in Paris, when he is injured and cannot finish the book he is working on, Marguerite sets out to do it for him. We see Marguerite travelling round Paris buying the things she needs to complete the book, then we see her preparing the pages, mixing the paints, and completing the picture her father was working on. The story is accompanied by beautiful illustrations showing life in medieval Paris and details of illuminated manuscripts. This charming book is an ideal introduction to the middle ages for children (especially girls) showing that there was more to the period than knights in armour and plague. A lovely and

unusual book.

Wow, this book has the most beautiful illustrations I have seen in a long time! My daughter and I just love the story and the fold out pages! We have been inspired to do more digging into this topic. I am going to share this book with my Grade 2 and 3 art students. A definite must for little artists.

The illustrations are beautiful, and the historical information about illuminations was wonderful. We enjoyed reading it, and it inspired my 5 year old to make her own fancy lettering with drawings and illumination (gold glitter!).

This is aimed at older children, but I found it so charming and interesting that I bought it anyway. My daughter, almost 4 years old, asked to have it read to her, sat through it all the first time, and has requested repeat readings over the 5 months we've had it. By now, she's learned parts of the story and I'm eagerly awaiting the day when she asks to make paint the way Marguerite does. She likes to find the cat or cats on every page and sees lots of details about medieval life while looking. When she began to color the backgrounds behind her emerging drawings of stick people, cats and flowers, I'm pretty sure this book partly gave her the idea, because we read it a lot that week. A good read-aloud earlier than expected, although it falls into the category of "special treat" for a bedtime book because it takes 20 minutes! Fun new vocabulary words, too--the villain of the piece is "the loathsome Andre."

I have always been fascinated by illuminated books so this book immediately caught my attention when shopping for nieces and nephews. It is beautifully illustrated and the story is sweet. It would be nice though if once a young lady could render assistance by being invited instead of having her father injure himself first! The center fold on how to make paints is a little unusual. Read the two opposing pages first, then open. Lovely book for children and their parents.

600 years ago, Lady Isabelle of Paris ordered a book from Papa Jacques, a famous book maker and he has only three days left to finish it. However, Jaqueses' eyeglasses is broken. So Jaqueses' daughter, Marguerite finished the book for him. Margurite went to Master Raymond's house for gold leafs, a farm for parchment, the market for eggs, goose feathers,parsley, and a pot of honey, and finally the apothcary for dried saffron flowers, madder roots, a cake of vermilion, some wax, pine pitch, and some lapis lazuli stone. At her house, Marguerite prepared he pens and paint. Then

Marguerite started to paint. On one page, which was decorated with Lady Isabelle's favorite daises Marguerite colored Lady Isabelle's robe and hair. When Isabelle came to check on the book, she was very impressed.

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