

**The Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award** is presented annually to the authors of outstanding works published the previous year in the categories of Beginning Reader Fiction, Beginning Reader Nonfiction, Transitional Fiction, and Transitional Nonfiction. The award is given by the Children's Services Division of the Maryland Library Association. Award criteria include appropriateness for target age group, overall child appeal, appropriateness of text to support the needs of beginning readers, visual appeal, and the "total package" or overall spirit of the book. The award committee also generates annotated lists of honor titles at the Beginning Reader and Transitional levels, for use by librarians, teachers, and caregivers.

**Winner, Transitional Fiction:**

**\*\*Pennypacker, Sara. *Stuart Goes to School*. Orchard Books, 2003.**

Stuart is worried about starting the third grade but, with the help of his magical cape, wonderful adventures are sure to follow. This sequel to *Stuart's Cape*, full of zany humor and quirky line drawings, will help children conquer their own fears of common childhood experiences.

**Winner, Transitional Nonfiction:**

**\*\*Heyman, Anita. *Gretchen the Bicycle Dog*. Dutton, 2003.**

Fall in love with Gretchen the bicycle dog, who, after a spinal injury, learns how to savor life and win friends despite her disability. The story is presented in a scrapbook format with fantastic photographs that capture Gretchen's pure joy. Sure to win over even the most reluctant readers and leave us all with HOPE!



For more information about the MD Blue Crab Young Reader Award, see [www.mdlib.org/divisions/csd/blue.html](http://www.mdlib.org/divisions/csd/blue.html)

**The 2004 Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award Committee**

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THE MARYLAND  
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Transitional  
Level  
Annotated List



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## Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award Transitional Honor List

\*\*Starred titles are especially appropriate for older reluctant readers.



### Fiction:

\*\*Ahlberg, Allan. *The Cat Who Got Carried Away*. Candlewick Press, 2003.

Many mysterious and humorous events take place in this third book about the Gaskitt family. Bright water-color and crayon illustrations accompany the text and move the fun adventure to a surprising end.

Cowley, Joy. *Agapanthus Hum and the Angel Hoot*. Philomel, 2003.

Now that quirky Agapanthus Hum has lost her front tooth, she can make an "angel hoot", and a hoot-and-howl act with her dog, Major Bark, ensues. Cowley brings a unique literary style to this transitional reader, and Jennifer Plecas' joyful color illustrations complement the zany text.

\*\*Hopkinson, Deborah. *Our Kansas Home*.

*Aladdin Paperbacks*, 2003.  
When Papa has to go into hiding because of his anti-slavery views, 9-year-old Charlie must take care of Momma, his sisters and baby brother during a violent time in the Kansas territory of the 1850s. Based on actual events, this 3rd book in the *Prairie Skies* series gives readers a true picture of pioneer life.

\*\*Howe, James. *Bud Barkin, Private Eye*.

*Atheneum Books for Young Readers*, 2003.  
Writing a book is hard work, especially if you're a dog. Howie is determined to write a mystery worthy of the "Newbony Award." This hysterical book switches between Howie's writing journal and his book, and is perfect for a reader beginning to understand similes.

\*\*Levy, Elizabeth. *The Mystery of Too Many Elvises*. *Aladdin Paperbacks*, 2003.

For a school pet talent show, Fletcher, the basset hound in Elvis costume, prepares to shake his hips like the King himself. When his wig disappears, Fletcher and his flea friend Jasper must find the animal thief in this funny, fast-moving mystery.

\*\*McKissack, Patricia. *Tippy Lemmey*. Aladdin, 2003.

In 1951 Tennessee, Leandra and her friends' biggest worry is a neighborhood dog, Tippy Lemmey, who chases their bicycles. When they see dog-nappers steal Tippy, they have to make a choice. The believable characters and suspenseful fast-paced plot are just right for new chapter book readers. Black and white illustrations depict these African American characters.



### Nonfiction:

\*\*Burke, Rick. *Deborah Sampson*. Heinemann, 2003.  
A lively, straightforward account of the life of Deborah Sampson, a woman who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution by disguising herself as a man. This highly readable biography with eye-catching photos thoroughly engages the reader from the surprise beginning to the many carefully researched facts presented on each page. Added features include captioned illustrations, a clear timeline and glossary, and suggestions for further reading and appropriate places to visit.

\*\*Burke, Rick. *George Washington*. Heinemann, 2003.  
This is a wonderfully written and interesting introduction to the first leader of our nation. The format includes a table of contents, color photographs and paintings, time line, glossary, index, places to visit, and more to read. Sure to please students and teachers alike.

\*\*Haskins, Lori. *Spooky America: Four Real Ghost Stories*. Random House, 2003.

An illustrated collection of four fact-based stories from across the United States that feature ghosts, a haunted painting and skeletons. A beginning note explains to young readers the difference between history and legend.

\*\*Holub, Joan. *Why Do Horses Neigh?*

*Dial Books for Young Readers*, 2003.  
Using an easy-to-read question and answer format, this nonfiction book contains information about the behavior and characteristics of horses. Photographs and diagrams complement the written facts.

\*\*Kendell, Patricia. *Leopards*.

*Raintree Steck-Vaughn*, 2003.  
Wonderful photographs of leopards in the wild with clear accompanying text and fascinating leopard facts make this a very appealing transitional reader book. Includes pages directing readers to additional resources, and a glossary.



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