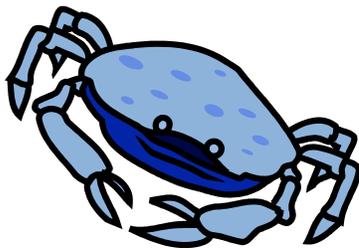
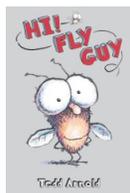


The 2006 Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Awards



Easy Fiction

Winner: Hi! Fly Guy! *Tedd Arnold. Cartwheel Press, 2005.* Hi! Fly Guy captures your attention before you even lift the cover. Can a fly be a pet, rather than a pest and enter the “Amazing Pet Show?” Every reader will be rooting for Buzz and Fly Guy. Tedd Arnold has outdone himself with these unusual and expressive illustrations that compliment his engaging text.



Honor Books

Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas. *Cynthia Rylant. Illustrated by Suçie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster, 2005.* On a visit to Great Grandpa Bill, Henry and his enormous dog Mudge discover a wonderful swimming pond. All the grandpas decide to join them and cool off with a swim (in their skivvies!) Intergenerational love and friendship shines through in another solid entry in this acclaimed series.

Fred and Ted Go Camping. *Peter Eastman. Random House, 2005.* In an homage to his father P.D. Eastman, author Peter Eastman has recreated the delightfully silly characters from Big Dog, Little Dog. This book includes wonderful illustrations and is a joy to read!

May I Please Have a Cookie? *Jennifer Morris. Cartwheel Books, 2005.* Alfie the alligator’s mom has baked a plate of delicious cookies. Alfie tries every trick he can to get a cookie until he realizes that all he needs to do is to say “Please.” The illustrations are bright and energetic and teaches everyone about the value of manners.

Mr. Putter & Tabby Make a Wish. *Cynthia Rylant. Illustrated by Arthur Howard. Harcourt, 2005.* It’s Mr. Putter’s birthday but he feels too old and silly to celebrate by himself. With help from his friends, he realizes that birthdays are always a reason to celebrate, no matter how old you are.

Easy Non-Fiction

Winner: Chameleon, Chameleon. *Joy Cowley. Photographs by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2005.*

A chameleon ventures from the safety of his own tree in search of a new home. On his journey he meets a variety of creatures, not all of whom are friendly. Beautifully illustrated with incredible photographs and simple text, Cowley gives young readers colorful images of a chameleon’s many moods.



Honor Books

Aircraft Carriers. *Matt Doeden. Lerner Publications, 2005.* Wouldn’t you love a private tour of a Naval Aircraft carrier? Climb aboard in this Easy Non-Fiction book as Matt Doeden treats you to a very informative learning experience. The vivid photography makes you feel that you are actually aboard the ship.

A Chick Grows Up. *Pam Zollman. Children’s Press, 2005.* This wonderfully informative book traces the life of an egg as it hatches and grows up into a chicken. The photos show the process beautifully.

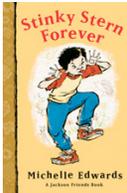
Starfish. *Lloyd Douglas. Children’s Press, 2005.* With eye-catching pictures, this simple book clearly explains the life cycle of a starfish. Interesting facts are packed into this small and educational book.

Little Shark. *Anne Rockwell. Illustrated by Megan Halsey. Walker Books, 2005.* Even though sharks are the biggest fish in the sea, this baby shark feels tiny in the big ocean. Creative paper collage illustrations simulate the effects of the water as the reader roots for the littlest shark to find his way.



Transitional Fiction

Winner: The Next-Door Dogs. *Colby Rodowsky. Illustrated by Amy June Bates. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.* Sara Barker is very frightened of dogs is very nervous when a neighbor with two large dogs moves next door. When a crisis forces her to confront the dogs (and her fears) she surprises herself with her new-found courage. The sensitive text and expressive illustrations show that fears can be conquered.



Special Recognition Award: Stinky Stern Forever. *Michelle Edwards. Harcourt, 2005.*

Stinky Stern, the most obnoxious kid in Mrs. Fennessey's 2nd grade class, is struck by a white van as he is leaving school. The next day the class learns that Stinky died. Mrs. Fennessey encourages the class to share their memories and feelings, good and bad, about their classmate. A difficult subject, handled with heart and respect.

Honor Books

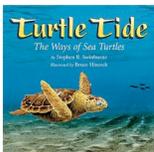
Moose Crossing. *Stephanie Greene. Illustrated by Joe Mathieu. Marshall Cavendish, 2005.* Moose is proud and overjoyed to see the brand new sign installed in front of his house announcing a "Moose Crossing." That is, until the pesky crowds come, desperate for a peek at a moose. Stranded inside, he tries to figure out how to escape his own fame. Both the text and illustrations are filled with a wonderfully silly sense of fun and humor.

The Secret Seder. *Doreen Rappaport. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Hyperion, 2005.* This breath-taking book chronicles the story of a family in hiding risking their freedom to attend a secret Passover Seder. With tight pacing and realistic pictures by Caldecott medalists Doreen Rappaport and Emily McCully, this book makes the reader feel a part of the ancient tradition of Passover.

Jigsaw Pony. *Jessie Haas. Illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu. Greenwillow, 2005.* Jigsaw is an aging pony that comes into the care of twin girls. Fran and Kiera each want to have Jigsaw all to themselves, until they realize that the pony is a senior citizen who needs their care. This book conveys in a straightforward and compassionate way several complex themes about aging, friendship, sharing and animal care.

That Crazy Eddie and the Science Project of Doom. *Judy Cox. Illustrated by Blanche Sims. Holiday House, 2005.* Matt and Eddie are determined to win their school's science fair. But when Eddie tells the whole class an embarrassing secret about Matt, their friendship (and project) quickly disintegrate. This fun and silly book charts a grade-school friendship with good humor, and even includes a science fair project idea at the end.

Transitional Non-Fiction



Winner: Turtle Tide: The Way of Sea Turtles. *Stephen Swinburne. Illustrated by Bruce Hiscock. Boyds Mill Press, 2005.* A sea turtle crawls ashore and lays 100 eggs in a hole she digs in the beach. She heads back to sea while predators of all shapes and sizes stand between the baby sea turtles and the safety of the deep Atlantic waters. This non-fiction book reads like a well-crafted story while giving a powerful lesson about an endangered species.

Honor Books:

Always Remember Me. *Marisabina Russo. Antheneum Books, 2005.* This tale follows one family's story of survival and hope through the pain and separation caused by the Holocaust. Author and illustrator Marisabina Russo portrays the characters in this biography with such vividness that the reader feels they are turning the pages of her family album. The title is appropriate... this book is hard to forget.

Houdini: World's Greatest Mystery Man and Escape King. *Kathleen Krull. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Walker Books, 2005.* Author Kathleen Krull brings the famous and fascinating Harry Houdini to life brilliantly in this unique biography. Interspersed throughout the book are detailed descriptions of Houdini's most intriguing tricks. The descriptive and life-like illustrations help the reader feel they are a member of Houdini's audience.

Skyscrapers. *Seymour Simon. Chronicle Books, 2005.* Seymour Simon does an admirable job of bringing both the Skyscrapers and the construction to life. He effortlessly imparts a lot of information juxtaposed with great photographs. This book makes you want to climb to great heights and travel to foreign cities.

I Wonder Why Columbus Crossed the Ocean and Other Questions About Explorers. *Rosie Greenwood. Kingfisher, 2005.* This book describes the accomplishments of explorers throughout history with a combination of historic pictures and funny cartoons. This is a wonderful book packed with intriguing questions and fascinating answers.

Snakes: Biggest! Littlest! *Sandra Markle. Photographs by Joe McDonald. Boyds Mill Press, 2005.* Snakes come in all sizes. Incredible photographs reveal the smallest and largest of the species with fangs bared.

Dust Bowl: The 1930's Black Blizzard. *Richard H. Levey. Bearport Publishing, 2005.*

Journey back to the dust storms of the 1930's with this informative and intriguing book. Levey does an excellent job explaining the physical properties of the storms as well as the psychological impact on the survivors. Vivid photographs capture the sudden intensity of the dust storms.

About the Blue Crab Award

The Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award is presented annually by the Children's Services Division of the Maryland Library Association.

The purpose of the award is:

- To identify and promote the best books for beginning readers published and the K-2nd grade reading level and at the 2nd-4th grade reading level; both for children reading at grade level and for reluctant older readers.
- To provide teachers, librarians and caregivers with a resource list of excellent books for beginning readers.
- To encourage publishers, authors and illustrators to create high quality books for beginning readers.

The members of the 2006 committee were:

Sophia Van Schaick, Chair,
Harford County Public Library
Susan Kusel, InFocus Research Services
Nancy Peters, Prince George's County Memorial Library System
Lidia Schechter, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Delia Ullberg, Fairfax County Public Library
Camille Washington, Howard County Public School System

For more information about the Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award, see:

<http://www.mdlib.org/divisions/csd/blue.html>

