



## 2018 Maryland Blue Crab Committee

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Howard County Library System

Miriam DesHarnais  
Towson University, Albert Cook Library

Pamela Hamlin  
Prince George's County Memorial Library

Tamarah Nuttle  
Howard County Library System

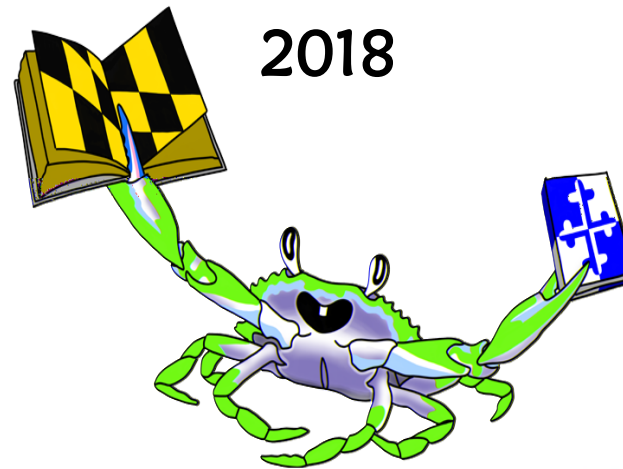
David Piper  
Anne Arundel County Public Library

Liz Saniga  
Anne Arundel County Public Library

Shannon Storm  
Calvert Library Prince Frederick

Faith Tydings  
Charles County Public Library

## Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award 2018

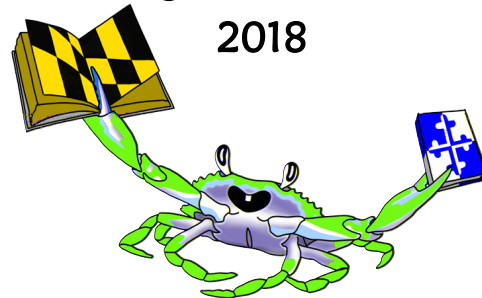


The Maryland Blue Crab Young Readers Award was created in 2004. Its purpose is to

- Identify and promote the best fiction and nonfiction books published at the K-2nd grade reading level (beginning readers) and at the 2nd-4th grade reading level (transitional readers) both for children reading at grade level and for reluctant older readers.
- Provide teachers, librarians, and caregivers with a resource list of excellent books for beginning readers.
- Encourage publishers, authors, and illustrators to create high quality books for beginning readers.

For more information on the

### Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award 2018



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[http://www.mdlib.org/content.asp?  
contentid=195](http://www.mdlib.org/content.asp?contentid=195)

Logo by Ingrid Nuttle, [ingridnuttle.com](http://ingridnuttle.com)

## MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Children's Services Division

1401 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21223





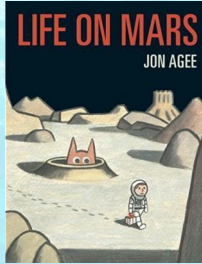
## Beginning Fiction

### Winner

#### ***Life On Mars***

Jon Agee  
Dial Books, 2017

Join an adventurous young astronaut as he searches for signs of life on the planet Mars. Confident that he will find someone to accept his gift of chocolate cupcakes, the boy grows increasingly despondent as he wanders across the apparently barren landscape, blithely unaware of his surroundings -- particularly the giant, pear-shaped Martian who is following him. Young readers will be delighted by the visual humor and being in on the secret, as the intrepid astronaut climbs over the unseen alien and returns to his spaceship only to find another mystery to solve. Agee's clear, stylized illustrations and short, easy-to-read sentences make this book an accessible, appealing page-turner.



### Honor Books

#### ***Alfie: (the turtle that disappeared)***

by Thyra Heder  
Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017

#### ***Charlie & Mouse***

by Laurel Snyder, ill. Emily Hughes  
Chronicle Books, 2017

#### ***Frankie***

by Mary Sullivan  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

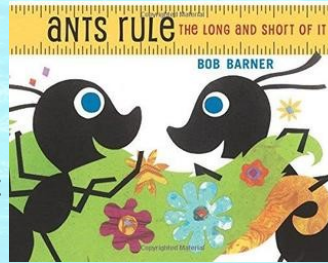
## Beginning Nonfiction

### Winner

#### ***Ants Rule: The Long and Short of It***

Bob Barner; Holiday House, 2017

A quirky introduction to measuring with non-standard units, *Ants Rule: The Long and Short of It*, immerses us in the ants' plans for a Blowout Bug Jamboree. The ants measure and count a whimsical array of bugs to make sure their construction will be big enough. This eye-catching math lesson includes not only vibrant, collage-created bugs, but also ant-based rulers along every page and clear, colorful charts and graphs to help the reader visualize the measurements. And what do all these measurements add up to? A double-fold out surprise that will delight every new reader!



### Honor Books

#### ***If Picasso Painted a Snowman***

by Amy Newbold, ill. Greg Newbold  
Tilbury House Publishers, 2017

#### ***What Will Grow?***

by Jennifer Ward, Ill. Susie Ghahremani  
Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2017

## Transitional Fiction

### Winner

#### ***Wedgie & Gizmo***

Suzanne Selfors; ill. Barbara Fisinger  
Katherine Tegen Books, 2017



What happens when a blended family has to blend its pets? Hilarious chaos, if the pets are one evil genius guinea pig (Gizmo) and an over-enthusiastic super-dog (Wedgie). Transitional readers will love the pets' voices as they take turns telling the story. Plenty of entertaining illustrations break up the text and when the humans talk, it appears in an easy-to-read dialogue. While you might learn something about cavia (guinea pigs) and Peru as a bonus, this book will draw readers with its broad appeal, action-packed humor, and the promise of a whole series to follow.

### Honor Books

#### ***Jada Jones: Rock Star***

by Kelly Starling Lyons, ill. Vanessa Brantley Newton  
Penguin Workshop, 2017

#### ***The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors***

by Drew Daywalt, ill. Adam Rex  
Balzer + Bray, 2017

#### ***Lola Levine and the Vacation Dream***

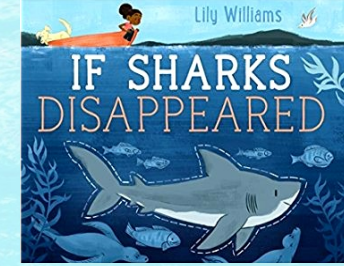
by Monica Brown, ill. Angela Dominguez  
Little, Brown and Company, 2017

## Transitional Nonfiction

### Winner

#### ***If Sharks Disappeared***

Lily Williams  
Roaring Brook Press, 2017



Sharks may seem scary, but they play a critical role in the ocean ecosystem, as Lily Williams demonstrates with this powerful package of scientific explanation and vivid illustration. With a young girl as our guide, the reader is carried down the food chain to see what oceans might look like without any sharks: empty, sludge-colored, and dismal. Complex vocabulary like "apex predator" and "trophic cascade" is well-explained in both straightforward text and rich, accessible back matter, while bright, simple pictures provide transitional readers with another level of understanding. After reading this book, kids will appreciate sharks as much more than terrifying jaws and teeth!

### Honor Books

#### ***Before She Was Harriet***

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, ill. James E. Ransome  
Holiday House, 2017

#### ***Her Right Foot***

by Dave Eggers, ill. Shawn Harris  
Chronicle Books, 2017