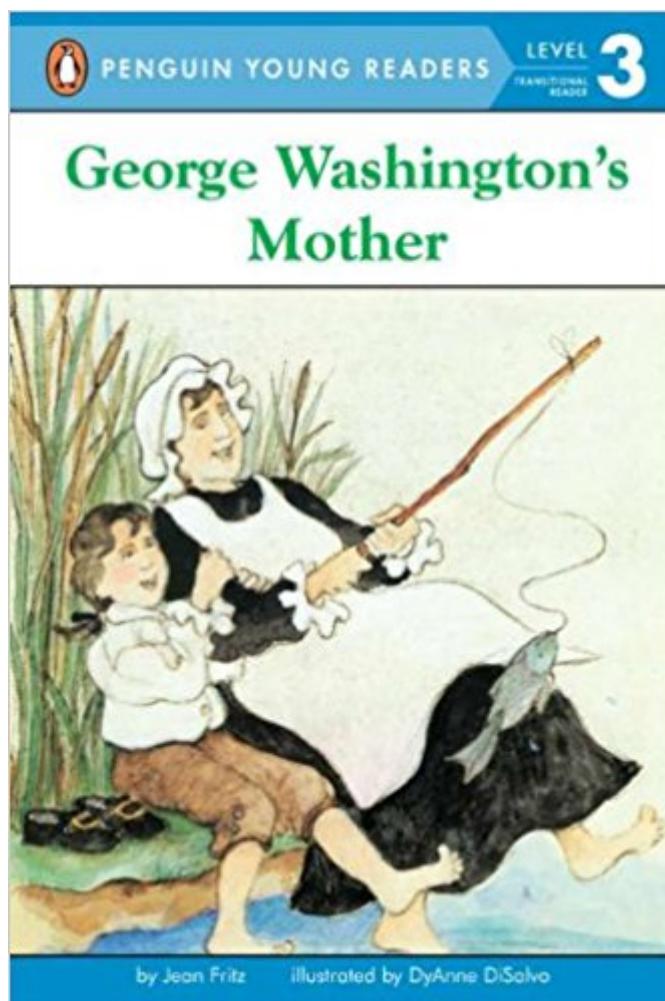


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# George Washington's Mother (Penguin Young Readers, Level 3)



## **Synopsis**

Everyone has a mother. Even George Washington. But Mary Washington is nothing like you'd think! She hates to dress up. And she always thinks she knows what's best for George. After all, she's his mother! You can read more about her in this true story by Jean Fritz.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 250L (What's this?)

Series: Penguin Young Readers, Level 3

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers; Reissue edition (August 7, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0448403846

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #133,751 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies #88 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #294 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 2-4-- Fritz brings the excitement of history to newly independent readers. They will easily relate to teenaged George having to obey his mother, but may not understand her continual meddling and kvetching once her son becomes an adult. Using factual data and funny incidents, the author humorously depicts Mary Ball Washington as a manipulative and stubborn worrywart. The numerous, half- and full-page, pencil-and-watercolor illustrations are reminiscent of Margot Tomes's work; they complement the text and extend the humor. However, the paintings lack the visual crispness associated with Fritz's earlier biographies illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman and others. Still, George Washington's Mother gives youngsters an enjoyable introduction to our nation's first president from a unique perspective. --Gale W. Sherman, Pocatello Public Library, IDCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Jean Fritz, the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Homesick*, is best known for her engaging and enlightening nonfiction for young readers, including *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*, *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?*, and *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*. She was honored with the Knickerbocker Award for Juvenile Literature by the New York State Library Association, and won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for her career contribution to American children's literature.

I went to University Mary Washington (named for George Washington's mother) and this was the perfect book to give my college roommate when her daughter started kindergarten.

I picked this up at a garage sale and was pleasantly surprised as I read it since I'd seen some negative reviews here. I found it a delightful book and quite funny, though I'm sure George wasn't always able to laugh at his situation. Apparently his mother was quite the character, yet never in the book was George disrespectful of her. On the contrary, he honoured her. Sometimes Washington seems rather two dimensional, but, by humorously describing the family dynamics, this book makes him seem more human, more three dimensional to me. Though the focus of the book is on his mother, it's also a nice, brief review for a child of the different phases of his life (Fr.-Indian War, revolution, presidency).

Not only is this book's central theme the negativity of Mary Washington, but it includes a graphic illustration of George Washington being hanged, which is over the top for a children's book (a daydream from Mary, who is constantly worried about George being hurt on the battlefield or by the British). Toward the end of the book you get the impression that Mary Washington was mentally unstable. The book had zero value and, as other reviewers have mentioned, has some grammatical problems to boot. This is a terrible book. It's inappropriate for children and has no value at any age level.

I am a fan of Jean Fritz, but I was disappointed with this book. It portrays Mrs. Washington in a very bad light, selfish, and greedy. While this may be true, I don't feel it is appropriate for this age level. Children this age should be taught to respect adults. If what Jean Fritz wrote about Mrs. Washington is true then I don't mind my children learning about it...when they are a bit older. Although this book was a disappointment, I do recommend other Fritz books such as *George Wahington's Breakfast*, and *Shh! We're writing the Constitution*.

I really appreciated this book. It shows that we are all human and even George Washington had a clingy dependent mother. Whatever flaws he had in his own personality and flaws in his relations, he still found himself being able to cope and achieve. That's a great message to send to readers. It also highlights the dependency women had on men. George Washington's mother was not able to support herself and believed she could not cope.

As a teacher, I was very disappointed that a noted author would have such poor writing skills. There are so many sentence fragments in this story, I lost count. I do not know how many times I have to tell students to not start sentences with the word "and". This story has sentences that start with the word "and", and sentences that are just prepositional phrases. It is hard to teach students to write, when authors write poorly.

Poor George ! This book really surprised me. Is this based on facts? Good lesson on contentment. We should all count our blessings, daily. Mrs. Washington had many, yet she was blind to them.  
**WOULD STILL BUY THIS AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF CHARACTER TRAITS.**

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