The NCTE Orbis Pictus Award was established in 1989 for promoting and recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. The name Orbis Pictus commemorates the work of Johannes Amos Comenius, *Orbis Pictus—The World in Pictures* (1657), considered to be the first book actually planned for children.

### 2017

**Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White**
written and illustrated by Melissa Sweet
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

**Honor Books:**
- *Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics* by Steve Jenkins
- (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)
- *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial* written by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Bloomsbury)
- *Giant Squid* by Candace Fleming; illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Roaring Brook Press)
- *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z!: Descubriendo el bosque nublado / Olinguito, from A to Z: Unveiling the Cloud Forest* by Lulu Delacre (Children’s Book Press)

**Recommended Books:**
- *Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer* by Diane Stanley, illustrated by Jessie Hartland (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *Ada’s Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay* by Susan Hood, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *Comics Confidential: Thirteen Graphic Novelists Talk Story, Craft, and Life Outside the Box* compiled and edited by Leonard Marcus (Candlewick Press)
- *Dive!: World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific* by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic)
- *How to Build a Museum: Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture* by Tonya Bolden (Viking Books for Young Readers)
- *Miss Mary Reporting: The True Story of Sportswriter Mary Garber* by Sue Macy, illustrated by C. F. Payne (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story* by Caren Stelson (Carolrhoda)
- *Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness* by Donna Janell Bowman, illustrated by Daniel Minter (Lee & Low Books)

### 2016

**Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans**
by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

**Honor Books:**
- *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras* by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- *Growing Up Pedro* by Matt Tavares (Candlewick)
- *Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France* by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno (Candlewick)
- *Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova* by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad (Chronicle Books)
- *Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America* by Susan Campbell Bartoeletti (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

**Recommended Books:**
- *Courage & Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark* by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Press)
• **Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game** by John Coy, illustrated by Randy DuBurke (Carolrhoda Books)
• **The House that Jane Built: A Story about Jane Addams** by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Kathryn Brown (Henry Holt & Company)
• **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War** by Steve Sheinkin (Roaring Brook Press)
• **My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey** by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• **Raindrops Roll** by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books)
• **Trombone Shorty** by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• **W is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary** by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Boris Kulikov (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

**2015** **The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia**
by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade)

**Honor Books:**
• **A Home for Mr. Emerson** by Barbara Kerley illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic Press)
• **Mr. Ferris and His Wheel** by Kathryn Gibbs Davis illustrated by Gilbert Ford (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
• **The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus** by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
• **Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation** by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• **Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos** by Stephanie Roth Sisson (Roaring Brook Press)

**Recommended Books:**
• **Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World** by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
• **Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa’s Fastest Cats** by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
• **The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement** by Teri Kanefield (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• **Little Melba and Her Big Trombone** by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Lee & Low Books)
• **Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands** by Katherine Roy (David Macaulay Studio/Roaring Brook Press)
• **The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life** by Lois Ehler (Beach Lane)
• **The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America’s Hero** by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Terry Widener (Calkins Creek)
• **Strike!: The Farm Workers’ Fight for Their Rights** by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek)

**2014** **A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin**
by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Alfred A. Knopf)

**Honor Books:**
• **Locomotive** by Brian Floca (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
• **The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos** by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Roaring Brook Press)
• **Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909** by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Balzer + Bray)
• **Parrots Over Puerto Rico** by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore (Lee & Low Books Inc.)
• **Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America’s First Black Paratroopers** by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press)

**Recommended Books:**
• **Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln and the Dawn of Liberty** by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• **Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker’s Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty** by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
• The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr Eccentric Genius by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Roaring Brook Press)
• Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by John O’Brien (Calkins Creek)
• Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives by Elizabeth Rusch, photographs by Tom Uhlman (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
• Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal (Chronicle Books)
• Who Says Women Can’t Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Henry Holt and Company)
• Scaly, Spotted, Feathered, Frilled: How Do We Know What Dinosaurs Really Looked Like? by Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)


Honor Books:
• Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard by Loree Griffin Burns, photos by Ellen Harasimowicz (Henry Holt & Company)
• Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin by Robert Byrd (Dial Books for Young Readers)
• The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity by Elizabeth Rusch (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
• Those Rebels, John & Tom by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic)
• We’ve Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March by Cynthia Levinson (Peachtree Publishers)

Recommended Books:
• A Black Hole is NOT a Hole by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano, illustrated by Michael Carroll (Charlesbridge Publishing)
• Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)
• The Amazing Harry Kellar: Great American Magician by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek)
• Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport (Candlewick Press)
• The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: A Scientific Mystery by Sandra Markle (Millbrook Press)
• Chuck Close: Face Book by Chuck Close (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt’s Treasured Books by Karen Leggett Abouraya, illustrated by Susan L. Roth (Dial Book for Young Readers)
• Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle by Claire A. Nivola (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

2012 Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy’s Parade by Melissa Sweet (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)

Honor Books:
• Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books)
• Father Abraham: Lincoln and His Sons by Harold Holzer (Calkins Creek)
• Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People by Monica Brown illustrated by Julie Paschkis (Henry Holt and Company)
• Terezin: Voices from the Holocaust by Ruth Thomson (Candlewick Press)
• The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families by Susan L. Roth & Cindy Trumbore (Lee & Low Books Inc.)

Recommended Books:
• Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Boyd’s Mills Press)
• Far from Shore: Chronicles of an Open Ocean Voyage by Sophie Webb (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
• For the Birds: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson by Peggy Thomas, illustrated by Laura Jacques (Calkins Creek)
• Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson (Balzer + Bray)
Harry Houdini: The Legend of the World's Greatest Escape Artist by Janice Weaver, illustrated by Chris Lane (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

Inkblot by Margaret Peot (Boyds Mills Press)

Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell (Little, Brown and Company)

Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators by Jim Arnosky (Sterling)

Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca (Roaring Brook Press)

Birmingham Sunday by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek)

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot" by Michael O. Tunnell (Charlesbridge)

If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge by Mark Aronson (National Geographic)

Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures by Rebecca L. Johnson (Millbrook Press)

Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age by Cheryl Bardoe (Abrams Books for Young Readers)


Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Little, Brown & Company)

The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Suzy) by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic)

For Good Measure by Ken Robbins (Roaring Brook Press)

Henry Aaron’s Dream by Matt Tavares (Candlewick Press)

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin)

Polar Bears by Mark Newman (Henry Holt and Company)

They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin)

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press)


The Frog Scientist by Pamela S. Turner (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)

How Many Baby Pandas? by Sandra Markle (Walker Books for Young Readers)

Noah Webster: Weaver of Words by Pegi Deitz Shea (Calkins Creek Books)

The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth by Kathleen Krull (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose (Farrar Straus and Giroux)

Eleanor, Quiet No More by Doreen Rappaport (Hyperion Books for Children)


Life in the Boreal Forest by Brenda Z. Guiberson (Henry Holt and Company)

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh (Philomel Books)

Truce by Jim Murphy (Scholastic)

Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland by Sally M. Walker (Carolrhoda Books)