NCTE Orbis Pictus Award Winning Titles:
Biographical Texts

Growing Up Pedro by Matt Tavares (Candlewick Press), 2016 Honor Book

Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad (Chronicle Books), 2016 Honor Book

Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), 2016 Honor Book

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

A Home for Mr. Emerson by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic Press), 2015 Honor Book

Mr. Ferris and His Wheel by Kathryn Gibbs Davis, illustrated by Gilbert Ford (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), 2015 Honor Book

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers), 2015 Honor Book

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers), 2015 Honor Book

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson (Roaring Brook Press), 2015 Honor Books

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

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Roaring Brook Press), 2014 Honor Book

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Balzer + Bray), 2014 Honor Book

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America’s First Black Paratroopers by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press), 2014 Honor Book

Monsieur Marceau: Actor without Words by Leda Schubert, illustrated by Gérard DuBois (Roaring Book Press), 2013 Winner

Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin by Robert Byrd (Dial Books for Young Readers), 2013 Honor Book

Those Rebels, John & Tom by Barbara Kerley illustrated by Edward Fotheringham (Scholastic), 2013 Honor Book
Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books), 2012 Honor Book

Father Abraham: Lincoln and His Sons by Harold Holzer (Calkins Creek), 2012 Honor Book

Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People by Monica Brown illustrated by Julie Paschkis (Henry Holt and Company), 2012 Honor Book

The Secret World of Walter Anderson by Hester Bass, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Candlewick Press), 2010 Winner

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press), 2010 Honor Book


Noah Webster: Weaver of Words by Pegi Deitz Shea (Calkins Creek Books), 2010 Honor Book

Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig (Abrams Books for Young Readers), 2009 Winner

George Washington Carver by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers), 2009 Honor Book

The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books), 2009 Honor Book

Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman (Holiday House), 2009 Honor Book


Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures by George Sullivan (Scholastic), 2008 Honor Book


John Muir: America’s First Environmentalist by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Stan Fellows (Candlewick Press), 2007 Honor Book

Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), 2007 Honor Book

Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students by Suzanne Jurmain (Houghton Mifflin), 2006 Honor Book

Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein by Marfe Ferguson Delano (National Geographic), 2006 Honor Book

The Voice That Challenged A Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books), 2005 Honor Book


The Man Who Made Time Travel by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), 2004 Honor Book

When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson: The Voice of a Century by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic), 2003 Winner


To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers by Wendie C. Old, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker (Clarion Books), 2003 Honor Book

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press), 2002 Honor Book

Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Hyperion Books for Children), 2002 Honor Book

The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin by James Giblin, illustrated by Michael Dooling (Scholastic), 2001 Honor Book

America’s Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle by David A. Adler, illustrated by Terry Widener (Gulliver Books), 2001 Honor Book

Michelangelo by Diane Stanley, (HarperCollins Juvenile Books), 2001 Honor Book

Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper’s Daughter by Alan B. Govenar, illustrated by Shane Evans (Jump at the Sun), 2001 Honor Book

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges, Margo Lundell (Scholastic Press), 2000 Winner


Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso by Susanna Reich (Clarion Books), 2000 Honor Book


No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War by Anita Lobel (Greenwillow), 1999 Honor Book


Leonardo da Vinci by Diane Stanley (Morrow Junior Books), 1997 Winner

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse by Russell Freedman (Holiday House), 1997 Honor Book


Prairie Vision: The Life and Times of Solomon Butcher by Pam Conrad (HarperCollins), 1992 Honor Book

Franklin Delano Roosevelt by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books), 1991 Winner

The Great Little Madison by Jean Fritz (Putnam), 1990 Winner