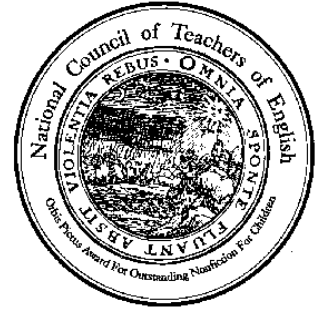
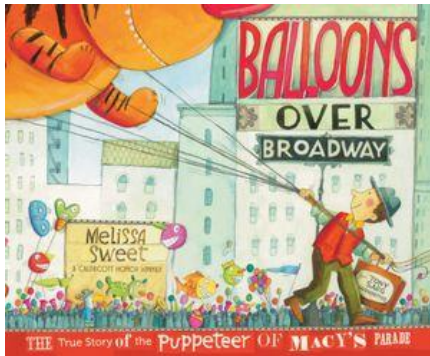


# 2012 NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children



The world of children's literature contains a variety of genres, all of which have appeal to the diverse interests of children, as well as potential for classroom teaching. In recent years, nonfiction or informational books have emerged as a very attractive, exciting, and popular genre. The NCTE Orbis Pictus Award Committee established the award in 1990 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.



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

## Recommended Books

### 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.)

*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 Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers)

*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 (Boyd's Mills Press)

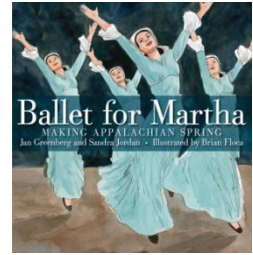
*Me...Jane*  
by Patrick McDonnell (Little, Brown and Company)

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

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## **2011** *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring*

by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca  
(Roaring Brook Press)



### **Honor Books:**

- *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)

### **Recommended Books:**

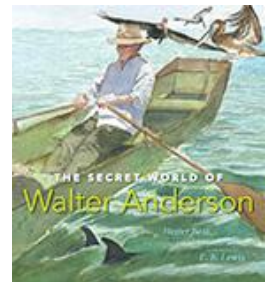
- *Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story* by S.D. Nelson (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Little, Brown & Company)
- *The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Suzy)* by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (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)

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

### **Honor Books:**

- *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press)
- *Darwin: With Glimpses into His Private Journal and Letters* by Alice B. McGinty (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
- *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)



### **Recommended 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)
- *The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews during the Holocaust* by Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durland Desaix (Holiday House)
- *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)

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**Additional award titles can be found at: [www.ncte.org/awards/orbispectus](http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispectus)**