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**

- **Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution**
  by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Steve Jenkins
  (Boyds 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 (Boyds Mills Press)

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

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

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

**Honor Books:**
- *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)
- *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)

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