

NCTE News Release

A Professional Association of Educators in English Studies, Literacy, and Language Arts

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National Council Announces Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Award

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has awarded the 2009 Annual Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children to *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator* by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig (Abrams Books for Young Readers). NCTE, through the Committee on the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, established the annual award to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children.

Each year, one winner and up to five honorable mention books are awarded as well as a list of recommended nonfiction children's titles. Books are judged on accuracy, organization, design, and style. In addition, each nomination should be useful in classroom teaching grades K-8, should encourage thinking and more reading, model exemplary expository writing and research skills, share interesting and timely subject matter, and appeal to a wide range of ages. Books must have been published in the United States during the previous calendar year.

In *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, Shelley Tanaka introduces the daring young pilot whose disappearance still fascinates us. Carefully researched and documented, the book will entice students with its archival photographs and beautiful original art by illustrator David Craig. The biographical text is supplemented with sidebars containing the history and science of flight, as well as details that offer insights to the exploits of this extraordinary woman. Young readers will be drawn to this account of the adventurous life of a true superstar of flight.

This year's **Honorable Mention books** are *George Washington Carver* by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers); *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books); *Washington at Valley Forge* by Russell Freedman (Holiday House); *We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson (Hyperion Books for Children); *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, illustrated by Dan and Cassie Hartman (Walker Books for Young Readers).

This year's list of **Recommended Books** includes *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers); *A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero* by Gina Capaldi (Carolrhoda Books); *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West* by Sid Fleischman (Greenwillow Books); *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Roaring Brook Press); *Ice Bears* by Brenda Z. Guiberson (Henry Holt & Co.); *Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children); *In Defiance of Hitler: The Secret Mission of Varian Fry* by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar Straus and Giroux); *Lincoln through the Lens: How Photography Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Life* by Martin W. Sandler (Walker Books for Young Readers).

For more information about the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, see www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus.

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