

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 2010 Annual Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children to ***The Secret World of Walter Anderson* by Hester Bass, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Candlewick Press)**. 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 *The Secret World of Walter Anderson*, writer Hester Bass and illustrator E. B. Lewis pay homage to an uncompromising American artist. Residents along the Mississippi Gulf Coast thought Walter Anderson was odd, rowing across twelve miles of open water in a leaky skiff to reach Horn, an uninhabited island without running water or electricity. But this solitary artist didn't much care what they thought as he spent weeks at a time on his personal paradise, sleeping under his boat, sometimes eating whatever washed ashore, sketching and painting the natural surroundings and the animals that became his friends. Here Walter created some of his most brilliant watercolors, work he kept hidden during his lifetime.

This year's **Honorable Mention books** are *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).

This year's list of **Recommended Books** includes *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).

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