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Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Award Announced

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has awarded the 2012 Annual Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children to ***Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade*** by Melissa Sweet (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children).

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.

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

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

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

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The National Council of Teachers of English, with 35,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit <http://www.ncte.org>.

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