

2013 Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Award Announced by the National Council of Teachers of English

Urbana, IL—January 25, 2013—The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has awarded *Monsieur Marceau: Actor without Words* by Leda Schubert and illustrated by Gérard DuBois (Roaring Brook Press) with the 2013 Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children. NCTE, through its Orbis Pictus Award Committee, established the annual award in 1990 to promote and recognize excellence in children's nonfiction.

Each year, one winner and up to five honorable mention books are recognized. The committee prepares a list of recommended nonfiction children's titles as well. Books are judged on accuracy, organization, design, and style. Each nomination is intended to be useful in classroom teaching grades K-8, 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.

The award's name honors Johannes Amos Comenius and his work *Orbis Pictus—The World in Pictures*, the 1657 children's book considered to be the first of its kind. Books include biography, but exclude textbooks, historical fiction, folklore, or poetry, and must have been published in the United States during the previous calendar year.

This year's **Honorable Mention books** are *Citizen Scientist: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard* by Loree Griffin Burns, photographs by Ellen Harasimowicz (Henry Holt & Company); *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by Robert Byrd (Dial Books for Young Readers); *The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity* by Elizabeth Rusch (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children); *Those Rebels, John & Tom* by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edward Fotheringham (Scholastic); *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson (Peachtree Publishers).

This year's list of **Recommended books** includes *A Black Hole is NOT a Hole* by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano, illustrated by Michael Carroll (Charlesbridge Publishing); *Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books); *The Amazing Harry Kellar: Great American Magician* by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek); *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust* by Doreen Rappaport (Candlewick Press); *The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: A Scientific Mystery* by Sandra Markle (Millbrook Press); *Chuck Close: Face Book* by Chuck Close (Abrams Books for Young Readers); *Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books* by Karen Leggett Abouraya, illustrated by Susan L. Roth (Dial Books for Young Readers); *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* by Claire A. Nivola (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

The winning titles will be honored at the NCTE Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, during the Books for Children Luncheon on Saturday, November 23.

For more information about the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, including past winners, see <http://www.ncte.org/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>.