

NCTE News Release

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

Contact: Millie Davis
(800) 369-6283 ext. 3634, public_info.ncte.org

February 3, 2009

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

Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig, has been given the 2009 Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). In addition, five titles have been named Honorable Mention books: *George Washington Carver* by Tonya Bolden; *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* by Candace Fleming; *Washington at Valley Forge* by Russell Freedman; *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson; and *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, illustrated by Dan and Cassie Hartman.

"If we want kids to read for pleasure and for information, then we've got to give them the very best books we can find," said Kim Ford, librarian at Cypress Middle School in Memphis, Tennessee, who chaired the award selection committee. "Orbis Pictus non-fiction award winners are those books. Full of great writing, authentic photographs, and stirring artwork, these will entice students and keep them engaged as they learn about history, science, biography, and more."

In *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, 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.

The NCTE Committee on the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children each year selects one winner and up to five honorable mention books as well as a list of recommended nonfiction children's titles. Books are judged on accuracy, organization, design, and style; in addition, they 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.

For this year's list of recommended books and for more information about the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, see <http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus>.

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 50,000 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>.

###

National Council of Teachers of English Phone: 217-328-3870 ■ 800-369-6283
1111 W. Kenyon Road Fax: 217-278-3761 ■ Web: www.ncte.org
Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096 E-mail: public_info@ncte.org