The NCTE Orbis Pictus Award was established in 1989 for promoting and recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. The name Orbis Pictus commemorates the work of Johannes Amos Comenius, Orbis Pictus—The World in Pictures (1658), considered to be the first book actually planned for children.

**2000**

*Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges, Margo Lundell (Scholastic Press)

**Honor Books:**
- *Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso* by Susanna Reich (Clarion Books)
- *Mapping the World* by Sylvia A. Johnson (Atheneum)
- *The Snake Scientist* by Sy Montgomery, illustrated by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin)
- *The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest* by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)

**Recommended Titles:**
- *Babe Didrikson Zaharias: The Making of a Champion* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)
- *Bound for America: The Forced Migration of Africans to the New World* by James Haskins, Kathleen Benson, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Lothrop Lee & Shepard)
- *Building the Book Cathedral* by David MacAulay (Houghton Mifflin)
- *A Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings* by Lucy Micklethwait (Dorling Kindersley)
- *Einstein: Visionary Scientist* by John B. Severance (Clarion Books)
- *In Search of the Spirit: The Living National Treasures of Japan* by Sheila Hamanaka, Ayano Ohmis (Morrow Jr.)
- *Kids on Strike!* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin)
- *The Mystery of the Hieroglyphics: The Story of the Rosetta Stone and the Race to Decipher Egyptian Hieroglyphics* by Carol Donoughue (Oxford University Press Children's Books)
- *A Nest of Dinosaurs: The Story of the Oviraptor* by Mark Norell, Lowell Dingus, illustrated by Mike Ellison (Doubleday)
- *Rushmore* by Lynn Curlee (Scholastic)
- *Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina* by Maria Tallchief, Rosemary Wells (contributor), illustrated by Gary Kelley (Viking Press)

**1999**

*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance* by Jennifer Armstrong (Crown)

**Honor Books:**
- *Black Whiteness: Admiral Byrd Alone in the Antarctic* by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Walter Lyon Kudrop (Atheneum)
- *Fossil Feud: The Rivalry of the First American Dinosaur Hunters* by Thom Holmes (Messner)
- *Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest* by Steve Jenkins (Houghton)
- *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War* by Anita Lobel (Greenwillow)
Recommended Titles:
- Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I by Jane Resh Thomas (Clarion)
- Discovering the Inca Ice Maiden: My Adventures on Ampato by Johan Reinhard (National Geographic)
- Duke Ellington by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Hyperion)
- Frontier Merchants: Lionel and Barron Jacobs and the Jewish Pioneers Who Settled the West by Jerry Stanley (Crown)
- Joan of Arc by Diane Stanley (Morrow)
- Light Shining Through the Mist: A Photobiography of Dian Fossey by Tom L. Matthews (National Geographic)
- Looking Back: A Book of Memories by Lois Lowry (Houghton)
- Martha Graham: A Dancer’s Life by Russell Freedman (Clarion)
- Pioneer Girl: Growing Up on the Prairie by Andrea Warren (Morrow)
- Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange by Elizabeth Partridge (Viking)
- Safari by Robert Bateman (Little, Brown)
- Samuel Adams: The Father of American Independence by Dennis Fradin (Clarion)
- Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian (Houghton)
- What’s the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase by Rhoda Blumberg (National Geographic)

1998  An Extraordinary Life: The Story of a Monarch Butterfly by Laurence Pringle (Orchard Books)

Honor Books:
- A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder by Walter Wick (Scholastic)
- A Tree is Growing by Arthur Dorros (Scholastic)
- Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero by James Cross Giblin (Clarion)
- Kennedy Assassinated! The World Mourns: A Reporter’s Story by Wilborn Hampton (Candlewick)
- Digger: The Tragic Fate of the California Indians from the Missions to the Gold Rush by Jerry Stanley (Crown)

Recommended Titles:
- Animal Dads by Sneed B. Collard III, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Houghton)
- The Brain: Our Nervous System by Seymour Simon (Morrow)
- Catching the Fire: Philip Simmons, Blacksmith by Mary E. Lyons, photographs by Mannie Garcia (Houghton)
- The Dead Sea Scrolls by Ilene Cooper, illustrated by John Thompson (Morrow)
- Dinosaur Ghosts: The Mystery of Coelophysis by J. Lynett Gillette, illustrated by Douglas Henderson (Dial Books)
- Fiery Vision: The Life and Death of John Brown by Clinton Cox (Scholastic)
- The Great Wall by Elizabeth Mann, illustrated by Alan Witschonke (Mikaya)
- A Log’s Life by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Robin Bickman (Simon and Schuster)
- Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee (Lee & Low)
- The Planet Hunters: The Search for Other Worlds by Dennis Brindell Fraden (McElderry)
- The Snake Book by Mary Ling and Mary Atkinson, photos by Frank Greenaway and David King (DK)
- Leon’s Story by Leon Walter Tillage, collage art by Susan L. Roth (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)

1997    Leonardo da Vinci by Diane Stanley (Morrow Junior Books)

Honor Books:
- Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad by Rhonda Blumberg (National Geographic Society)
- The Life and Death of Crazy Horse by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship by Mary Pope Osborne (Alfred A. Knopf)
Recommended Titles:
- The Abracadabra Kid by Sid Fleischman (Greenwillow)
- A Desert Scrapbook by Virginia Wright-Frierson (Simon & Schuster)
- A Strange and Distant Shore by Brent Ashabranner (Cobblehill)
- Dia's Story Cloth by Cha Dia (Lee & Low/Denver Museum of Natural History)
- Free to Dream by Audrey Osofsky (Lothrop)
- Growing Up in Coal Country by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton)
- Hurricanes by Patricia Lauber (Scholastic)
- John Steinbeck by Catherine Reef (Clarion)
- Mandela by Floyd Cooper (Philomel)
- Nearer Nature by Jim Arnosky (Lothrop)
- Starry Messenger by Peter Sis (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
- We Have Conquered Pain by Dennis Brindell Fradin (McElderry/Simon & Schuster)
- Who Were the Founding Fathers? by Steven Jaffe (Holt)
- With Needle and Thread by Raymond Bial (Houghton)

1995  The Great Fire by Jim Murphy (Scholastic)

Honor Books:
- Dolphin Man: Exploring the World of Dolphins by Lawrence Pringle, photographs by Randall S. Wells (Atheneum)
- Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II by Penny Colman (Crown)

Recommended Titles:
- Air: The Elements by Ken Robbins (Henry Holt)
- The Book of North American Owls by Helen Roney Sattler, illustrated by Jean Day Zallinger (Clarion)
- Everglades by Jean Craighead George, paintings by Wendell Minor (HarperCollins)
- The Golden City: Jerusalem’s 3,000 Years by Neil Waldman (Atheneum)
- In Search of the Grand Canyon: Down the Colorado with John Wesley Powell by Mary Ann Fraser (Holt)
- Learning from the Dalai Lama: Secrets of the Wheel of Time by Karen Pandell and Barry Bryan, photographs by John B. Taylor (Dutton)
- The Life and Times of the Honeybee by Charles Micucci (Ticknor & Fields)
- Listen for the Bus: David’s Story by Patricia McMahon, photos by John Godt (Boyds Mills)
- The Magic of Mozart: Mozart, the Magic Flute, and the Salzburg Marionettes by Ellen Switzer, photographs by Costas (Atheneum)
- Raptor Rescue: An Eagle Flies Free by Sylvia A. Johnson, photographs by Ron Winch (Dutton)
- Summer Ice: Life Along the Antarctic Peninsula by Bruce McMillan (Houghton Mifflin)
- The Underground Railroad by Raymond Bial (Houghton Mifflin)
- Unraveling Fibers by Patricia Keeler and Francis X. McCall Jr. (Atheneum)

1996  Safari Beneath the Sea: The Wonder World of the North Pacific Coast by Diane Swanson (Sierra Club Books)

Honor Books:
- Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters by Patricia C. McKissack and Frederick L. McKissack (Scholastic)
- Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)
Recommended Titles:
- Ancient Ones: The World of the Old-Growth Douglas Fir by Barbara Bash (Sierra Club Books)
- Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Christine Herman Merrill (HarperCollins)
- Cheap Raw Material: How Our Youngest Workers Are Exploited and Abused by Milton Meltzer (Viking)
- Cleopatra by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema (Morrow)
- Fur, Feathers, and Flippers: How Animals Live Where They Do by Patricia Lauber (Scholastic)
- I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment by Jerry Stanley (Crown)
- Jazz: My Music, My People by Morgan Monceaux (Knopf)
- Lives of the Writers: Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt (Harcourt Brace)
- Rosie, a Visiting Dog’s Story by Stephanie Calmenson, photographs by Justin Sutcliffe (Clarion)
- Science to the Rescue by Sandra Markle (Atheneum)
- Squish! A Wetland Walk by Nancy Luenn, illustrated by Ronald Himler (Atheneum)
- Take a Look, an Introduction to the Experience of Art by Rosemary Davidson (Viking)
- Unconditional Surrender: U.S. Grant and the Civil War by Albert Marrin (Atheneum)
- Vanilla, Chocolate & Strawberry: The Story of your Favorite Flavors by Donnie Busenberg (Lerner Publications)

1994  Across America on an Emigrant Train by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books)

Honor Books:
- Making Sense: Animal Perception and Communication by Bruce Brooks (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc.)
- To the Top of the World: Adventures with Arctic Wolves by Jim Brandenburg (Walker & Company)

Recommended Titles:
- Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary by Ruud van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven (Viking)
- Be Seated: A Book about Chairs by James Cross Giblin (HarperCollins)
- Behind the Secret Window: A Memoir of Hidden Childhood During World War II by Nelly S. Toll (Dial Books)
- Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery by Russell Freedman (Clarion)
- The Great Migration: An American Story by Jacob Lawrence (HarperCollins)
- Lincoln: In His Own Words by Milton Meltzer, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn (Harcourt Brace)
- Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon (Knopf)
- Shadows of the Night: The Hidden World of the Little Brown Bat by Barbara Bash (Sierra Club Books for Children)
- Seven Candles for Kwanzaa by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Dial Books)
- The Way West: Journal of a Pioneer Woman by Amelia Stuart Knight, adapted with introduction by Lillian Schlissel, illustrated by Michael McCurdy (Simon and Schuster)
- Whaling Days by Carol Carrick (Clarion)


Honor Books:
- Come Back, Salmon by Molly Cone (Sierra Club Books)
- Talking with Artists by Pat Cummings (Bradbury Press)
Recommended Titles:
- A Twilight Struggle: The Life of John Fitzgerald Kennedy by Barbara Harrison and Daniel Terris (Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books)
- The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part by Milton Meltzer (HarperCollins)
- An Indian Winter by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- Antarctica: The Lost Unspoiled Continent by Lawrence Pringle (Simon and Schuster)
- Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema (Morrow)
- The Great St. Lawrence Seaway by Gail Gibbons (Morrow)
- Hopscotch Around the World by Mary d. Lankford, illustrations by Karen Milone (Morrow Junior Books)
- The Long Road to Gettysburg by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books)
- Surtsey: The Newest Place on Earth by Kathryn Lasky, photographs by Christopher G. Knight (Hyperion Books for Children)
- The Tainos: The People Who Welcomed Columbus by Francine Jacobs, illustrated by Patrick Collins (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
- Wings Along the Waterway by Mary Barrett Brown (Orchard Books)


Honor Books:
- Now Is Your Time! The African American Struggle for Freedom by Walter Dean Myers (HarperCollins)
- Prairie Vision: The Life and Times of Solomon Butcher by Pam Conrad (HarperCollins)

Recommended Titles:
- A Young Painter: The Life and Paintings of Wang Yani by Zhensun and Low (Scholastic, Inc.)
- Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds by Cynthia Rylant, illustrations by Barry Moser (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich)
- Batman: Exploring the World of Bats by Laurence Pringle, photographs by Merlin Tuttle (Charles Scribner's Sons)
- Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! by Jean Fritz, illustrations by Mike Wimmer (G.P. Putnam)
- Dawn to Dusk in the Galapagos by Rita Goldman Gelman, photographs by Tui DeRuy (Little Brown)
- The Discovery of the Americas by Betsy and Giulio Maestro (Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard)
- Earthquakes by Seymour Simon (Morrow Junior)
- N.C. Wyeth's Pilgrims by Robert SanSouci (Chronicle Books)
- The Painter’s Eye: Learning to Look at Contemporary American Art by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Delacorte)
- Pueblo Boy: Growing Up in Two Worlds by Marcia Keegan (Cobblehill)
- Pueblo Storyteller by Diana Hoyt-Goldsmith (Holiday)
- The Remarkable Voyages of Captain Cook by Rhoda Blumberg (Bradbury)
- Summer of Fire: Yellowstone 1988 by Patricia Lauber (Orchard)
- Voyager to the Planets by Necia H. Apfel (Clarion)
- The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane by Russell Freedman (Holiday)

1991  Franklin Delano Roosevelt by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)

Honor Books:
- Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiak (Henry Holt)
- Seeing Earth from Space by Patricia Luber (Orchard Books)
Recommended Titles:

- Christopher Columbus by Nancy Smiler Levinson (Lodestar/Dutton)
- The Clover and the Bee by Anne Ophelia Dowden (Crowell)
- Columbus and the World Around Him by Milton Meltzer (Franklin Watts)
- Dinosaur Dig by Kathryn Lasky, photographs by Christopher G. Knight (Morrow)
- Giraffes by Helen Roney Sattler, illustrations by Christopher Santoro (Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard)
- Good Queen Bess by Diand Stanley and Peter Vennema (Four Winds)
- The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System by Joanna Cole, illustrations by Bruce Degan (Scholastic)
- The Many Lives of Benjamin Franklin by Mary Pope Osborne (Dial)
- Mom Can’t See Me by Sally Hobart Alexander, photographs by George Ancona (Macmillain)
- My Hiroshima by Junko Morimoto (Viking)
- Oceans by Seymour Simon (Morrow)
- The Oregon Trail by Leonard Everett Fisher (Holiday House)
- The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone by James Cross Giblin (Crowell)
- Totem Pole by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith, photographs by Lawrence Migdale (Holiday House)
- Wolves by R.D. Lawrence (Sierra Club/Little Brown)
- Wood-Song by Gary Paulsen (Bradbury)

1990  The Great Little Madison by Jean Fritz (Putnam)

Honor Books:

- The Great American Gold Rush by Rhoda Blumberg (Bradbury Press)
- The News about Dinosaurs by Patricia Lauber (Bradbury Press)

Recommended Titles not selected