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.

2010  The Secret World of Walter Anderson by Hester Bass, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Candlewick Press)

Honor Books:
- Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick Press)
- 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)

Recommended Books:
- 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)

2009  Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

Honor Books:
- George Washington Carver by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books)
- Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson (Hyperion Books for Children)
- When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, illustrated by Dan and Cassie Hartman (Walker Books for Young Readers)

Recommended Books:
- A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams by Jen Bryant (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
- A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero by Gina Capaldi (Carolrhoda Books)
- The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West by Sid Fleischman (Greenwillow Books)
- 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)
• In Defiance of Hitler: The Secret Mission of Varian Fry by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar Straus and Giroux)
• Lincoln through the Lens: How Photography Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Life by Martin W. Sandler (Walker Books for Young Readers)


Honor Books:
• Black and White Airman: Their True History by John Fleischman (Houghton Mifflin)
• Spiders by Nic Bishop (Scholastic)
• Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures by George Sullivan (Scholastic)
• Muckrakers by Ann Bausum (National Geographic)
• Venom by Marilyn Singer (Darby Creek Publishing)

Recommended Books:
• 3-D ABC: A Sculptural Alphabet by Bob Razcka (Millbrook Press)
• Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People by Sheila Keenan (Scholastic)
• Clarabelle: Making Milk and So Much More by Cris Peterson (Boyds Mills Press)
• Living Color by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)
• The Snow Baby: The Arctic Childhood of Admiral Robert E. Peary’s Daring Daughter by Katherine Kirkpatrick (Holiday House)
• Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion, by Loree Griffin Burns (Houghton Mifflin)
• The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sis (Farrar Straus Giroux)

2007 Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea by Sy Montgomery, Photos by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin)

Honor Books:
• Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas, by Cheryl Bardoe, illustrated by Jos. A. Smith (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
• John Muir: America’s First Environmentalist by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Stan Fellows (Candlewick Press)
• Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
• Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin)

Recommended Books:
• An Egg is Quiet by Diana Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long (Chronicle Books)
• Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum (National Geographic Children’s Books)
• Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paula Kahumbu (Scholastic)
• Onward: A Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson by Delores Johnson (National Geographic Children’s Books)
• Rescues by Sandra Markle (Millbrook Press)
• Saving the Buffalo by Albert Marrin (Scholastic)
• The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin by Susan Goldman Rubin and Ela Wiessberger (Holiday House)
• Construction Zone by Cheryl Willis Hudson, photographs by Richard Sobol (Candlewick Press)
2006  
Children of the Great Depression  
by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)

Honor Books:
- ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room by Donna Jackson (Houghton Mifflin)
- Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students by Suzanne Jurmain (Houghton Mifflin)
- Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein by Marfe Ferguson Delano (National Geographic)
- Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Scholastic)
- Mosquito Bite by Alexandra Siy and Dennis Kunkel (Charlesbridge Publishing)

Recommended Books:
- Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii by James M. Deem (Houghton Mifflin)
- Built to Last: Building America’s Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers by George Sullivan (Scholastic)
- Chameleon, Chameleon by Joy Cowley and Nic Bishop (Scholastic)
- Maritcha: A Nineteenth Century American Girl by Tonya Bolden (Harry N. Abrams)
- Mummies: The Newest, Coolest, & Creepiest from Around the World by Shelley Tanaka (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley by Sally M. Walker (Carolrhoda Books)
- Wild Dogs Past and Present by Kelly Milner Halls (Darby Creek Publishing)

2005  
York’s Adventures with Lewis and Clark: An African-American’s Part in the Great Expedition by Rhoda Blumberg (HarperCollins)

Honor Books:
- Actual Size by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)
- The Race to Save the Lord God Bird by Phillip Hoose (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
- Secrets of the Sphinx by James Cross Giblin illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Scholastic)
- Seurat and La Grande Jatte: Connecting the Dots by Robert Burleigh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- The Voice That Challenged A Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)

Recommended Books:
- Albino Animals by Kelly Milner Halls (Darby Creek Publishing)
- A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954-1968 by Diane McWhorter (Scholastic)
- Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat by George Levenson, illustrated by Shmuel Thaler (Tricycle Press)
- Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy by Andrea Warren (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
- George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides by Rosalyn Schanzer (National Geographic)
- Looking for Seabirds: Journal from an Alaskan Voyage by Sophie Webb (Houghton Mifflin)
- Roman Army: The Legendary Soldiers Who Created an Empire by Dyan Blacklock, illustrated by David Kennett (Walker & Company)
- With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman’s Right to Vote by Ann Bausum (National Geographic)
2004  An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books)

Honor Books:
- Empire State Building: When New York Reached for the Skies by Elizabeth Mann, illustrated by Alan Witschonke (Mikaya Press)
- In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer by Robert Byrd (Dutton Children's Books)
- The Man Who Made Time Travel by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
- Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924 by Deborah Hopkinson (Orchard Books)

Recommended Books:
- Capital by Lynn Curlee (Atheneum)
- The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter by Bonnie Christensen (Knopf Books for Young Readers)
- Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe (Phyllis Fogelman Books)
- Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy by Ilene Cooper (Dutton Children's Books)
- The Library of Alexandria by Kelly Trumble, illustrated by Robina MacIntyre Mars (Clarion Books)
- The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Jesse Reisch (Dutton Children’s Books)
- The White House: An Illustrated History by Catherine O'Neill Grace (Scholastic)
- The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and Her Famous Brothers by Richard Maurer (Millbrook Press)

2003  When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson: The Voice of a Century by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic)

Honor Books:
- Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China by Jane O'Connor (Viking Children’s Books)
- Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science by John Fleischman (Houghton Mifflin)
- Tenement: Immigrant Life on the Lower East Side by Raymond Bial (Houghton Mifflin)
- To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers by Wendie C. Old, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker (Clarion Books)

Recommended Books:
- Ansel Adams: America's Photographer by Beverly Gherman (Little, Brown, and Company)
- The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail by Debbie Miller, illustrated by Jon Van Zyle (Walker & Company)
- Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)
- Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam by Diane Stanley (HarperCollins Children's Books)
- The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence by Dennis Brindell Fradin, illustrated by Michael McCurdy (Walker & Company)
- This Our Dark Country: The American Settlers of Liberia by Catherine Reef (Clarion Books)
- Under the Ice by K. E. Conlan (Kids Can Press)
- Young Adventure's Guide to Everest: From Avalanche to Zopkio by Jonathan Chester (Tricycle Press)
**2002** Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1850 by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin)

Honor Books:
- The Cod's Tale by Mark Kurlansky, illustrated by S.D. Schindler (Penguin Putnam Books)
- The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press)
- Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Hyperion Books for Children)

Recommended Books:
- Animals In Flight by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (Houghton Mifflin)
- B. Franklin, Printer by David A. Adler (Holiday House Books)
- Brooklyn Bridge by Lynn Curlee (Atheneum)
- Gandhi by Demi (McElderry Books)
- Hatshepsut: His Majesty, Herself by Catherine M. Andronik, illustrated by Joseph Daniel Fiedler (Atheneum)
- Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Hudson Talbott (Penguin Putnam Books)
- Vincent van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Delacorte Books for Young Readers)
- The Yellow House: Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin Side by Side by Susan Goldman Rubin, illustrated by Joseph A. Smith (Harry N. Abrams)

**2001** Hurry Freedom: African Americans in Gold Rush California by Jerry Stanley (Crown)

Honor Books:
- The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin by James Giblin, illustrated by Michael Dooling (Scholastic)
- America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle by David A. Adler, illustrated by Terry Widener (Gulliver Books)
- Michelangelo by Diane Stanley, (HarperCollins Juvenile Books)
- Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter by Alan B. Govenar, illustrated by Shane Evans (Jump at the Sun)
- Wild & Swampy by Jim Arnosky (HarperCollins Juvenile Books)

Recommended Books:
- Asteroid Impact by Douglas Henderson (Dial Books for Young Readers)
- Darkness over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews by Ellen Levine (Holiday House)
- Dragon Bones and Dinosaur Eggs: A Photobiography of Explorer Roy Chapman Andrews by Ann Bausum and George Borup Andrews (National Geographic Society)
- Feathered Dinosaurs by Christopher Sloan (National Geographic Society)
- Frank O. Gehry: Outside In by Sandra Jordan and Jan Greenberg (DK Publishing)
- A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial (Walker & Company)
- Liberty by Lynn Curlee (Atheneum)
- Nazi Germany: The Face of Tyranny by Ted Gottfried, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn (Twenty First Century Books, Inc.)
- Norman Rockwell: Storyteller With a Brush by Beverly Gherman, illustrated by Norman Rockwell (Atheneum)
- Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth by Anne F. Rockwell, illustrated by Gregory Christie (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Pick and Shovel Poet: The Journeys of Pascal D’Angelo by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books)
- Voices of the Alamo by Sherry Garland, illustrated by Ronald Himler (Scholastic Press)
**2000**  Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges, Margo Lundell (Scholastic Press)

Honor Books:
- At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic Press)
- 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 Books:
- 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)
- Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them by Karen Magnuson Beil (Harcourt Brace)
- 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)
- William Shakespeare and the Globe by Aliki (Harpercollins Juvenile Books)