The award was established in 1989 to promote and recognize 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.

2023 Winner:

*Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky* by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Honor Books:

- *Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler, illustrated by Vivien Mildenberger (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- *Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association* by Fred Bowen, illustrated by James E. Ransome (Margaret K. McElderry Books)
- *Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams’s Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration* by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki (Chronicle)
- *The Science of Light: Things That Shine, Flash, and Glow* by Margaret Peot (Holiday House)

Recommended Books:

- *The Adventures of Dr. Sloth: Rebecca Cliffe and Her Quest to Protect Sloths* by Suzi Eszterhas (Millbrook Press)
- *Caves* by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock (Orchard Books)
- *Crash from Outer Space: Unraveling the Mystery of Flying Saucers, Alien Beings, and Roswell* by Candace Fleming (Scholastic Focus)
- *One Wish: Fatima al Fihri and the World’s Largest University* by M. O. Yuksel, illustrated by Mariam Quraishi (HarperCollins)
- *The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford—Ally, Activist, and Co-Founder of PFLAG* by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Sam Kalda (Magination Press)
- *The Mystery of the Monarchs: How Kids, Teachers, and Butterfly Fans Helped Fred and Norah Urquhart Track the Great Monarch Migration* by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Erika Meza (Knopf Books for Young Readers)
- *The Waiting Place: When Home Is Lost and a New One Not Yet Found* by Dina Nayeri, illustrated by Anna Bosch Miralpeix (Candlewick)

2022

Winner:

*Nina: A Story of Nina Simone* by Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Christian Robinson (G. P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young readers)
Honor Books:
- *Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and The Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin (Roaring Brook Press)
- *Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers* by Juliet Menéndez (Henry Holt and Company)
- *Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer* by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Millbrook Press)
- *Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter* by Veronica Chambers (Versify)
- *Unbound: The Life & Art of Judith Scott* by Joyce Scott, with Brie Spangler and Melissa Sweet, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Recommended Books:
- *Butterfly for a King: Saving Hawai‘i’s Kamehameha Butterflies* by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore (Lee & Low Books)
- *Pura’s Cuentos: How Pura Belpre Reshaped Libraries with Her Stories* by Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Magaly Morales (Harry N. Abrams)
- *Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana* by Brian K. Mitchell, Barrington S. Edwards, and Nick Weldon (Historic New Orleans Collection)
- *What’s In Your Pocket? Collecting Nature’s Treasures* by Heather L. Montgomery, illustrated by Maribel Lechuga (Charlesbridge)
- *Sakamoto’s Swim Club: How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory* by Julie Abery, illustrated by Chris Sasaki (Kids Can Press)
- *We Must Not Forget: Holocaust Stories of Survival and Resistance* by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Focus)
- *Planet Ocean: Why We All Need a Healthy Ocean* by Patricia Newman, photographs by Annie Crawley (Millbrook Press)
- *Make Meatballs Sing: The Life & Art of Corita Kent* by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Kara Kramer (Enchanted Lion Books)