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.

### 2021

**Above the Rim: How Elgin Taylor Changed Basketball** by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Harry N. Abrams)

**Honor Books:**
- *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box* by Evette Dionne
- *The Teachers March! How Selma's Teachers Changed History* by Sandra Neil Wallace & Rich Wallace, illustrated by Charly Palmer
- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat
- *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann
- *If You Take Away the Otter* by Susannah Buhrman-Deever, illustrated by Matthew Trueman

**Recommended Books:**
- *Drawing on Walls* by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Josh Cochran
- *We Had to Be Brave: Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport* by Deborah Hopkinson
- *All of a Sudden and Forever* by Chris Baron, illustrated by Nicole Xu
- *How we Got to The Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco
- *Jumbo: The Making of the Boeing 747* by Chris Gall
- *The Lion Queens of India* by Jan Reynolds
- *Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease* by Gail Jarrow
- *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman

### 2020

**A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech that Inspired a Nation** by Barry Wittenstein, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Holiday House)

**Honor Books:**
- *Manhattan: Mapping the Story of an Island* by Jennifer Thermes (Abrams)
- *Soldier for Equality: José de la luz Sáenz and the Great War* by Duncan Tonatiuh (Harry N. Abrams)
- *1919: The Year that Changed America* by Martin W. Sandler (Bloomsbury)
- *The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in Our Food and Drugs* by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek)
- *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré* by Aneka Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paola Escobar (HarperCollins)

**Recommended Books:**
- *The First Dinosaurs: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth* by Ian Lendler, illustrated by C. M. Butzer (Margaret K. McElderry Books/S&S)
- *Beware of Crocodile* by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura (Candlewick Press)
- *Let ’Er Buck: George Fletcher, the People’s Champion* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Carolrhoda Books)
- Todos Iguales / All Equal: Un corrido de Lemon Grove / A Ballad of Lemon Grove by Christy Hale (Lee & Low)
- It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Julie Morstad (HarperCollins)
- Crossing on Time: Steam Engines, Fast Ships, and a Journey to the New World by David Macaulay (Roaring Brook Press)
- Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Rebecca Huang (Sterling)
- Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us! by Christopher Lloyd, illustrated by Mark Ruffle (What on Earth Books)

2019  
**Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery** by Sandra Neil Wallace, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Simon & Schuster)

Honor Books:
- Champion: The Comeback Tale of the American Chestnut Tree by Sally M. Walker (Henry Holt and Company)
- Pass Go and Collect $200: The Story of How Monopoly was Invented by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Stephen Salerno (Henry Holt and Company)
- The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Claire A. Nivola (Candlewick Press)
- Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story by Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Melissa Iwai (Clariion Books)
- We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorrel, illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge Publishing)

Recommended Books:
- Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam by Elizabeth Partridge (Viking)
- Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, a Monumental Man by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books)
- Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez, illustrated by Felicita Sala (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of the Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Katherine Roy (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill by Heather L. Montgomery, illustrated by Kevin O’Malley (Bloomsbury Children’s Books)
- What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?: The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan by Chris Barton, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (Beach Lane Books)

2018  
**Grand Canyon** by Jason Chin (Roaring Brook Press)

Honor Books:
- Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee, illustrated by Man One (Readers to Eaters)
- Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion by Chris Barton, illustrated by Victo Ngai (Millbrook Press)
- Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris (Chronicle Books)
- The Quilts of Gee’s Bend by Susan Goldman Rubin (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane Books)

Recommended Books:
- Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México by Duncan Tonatiuh (Dreamscape Media)
- Fault Lines in the Constitution by Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson (Peachtree Publishers)
- If Sharks Disappeared by Lily Williams (Roaring Brook Press)
• Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Reveal’d by Mary Losure (Candlewick Press)
• Life on Surtsey: Iceland’s Upstart Island by Loree Griffin Burns (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
• Maya Lin: Thinking With Her Hands by Susan Goldman Rubin (Chronicle Books)
• The Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & the Invention of the Piano by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
• The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found by Martin W. Sandler (Candlewick Press)

2017  Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White  
by Melissa Sweet (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

Honor Books:
• Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)
• The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial written by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Bloomsbury)
• Giant Squid by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Roaring Brook Press)
• I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• ¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z!: Descubriendo el bosque nublado / Olinguito, from A to Z: Unveiling the Cloud Forest by Lulu Delacre (Children’s Book Press)

Recommended Books:
• Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer by Diane Stanley, illustrated by Jessie Hartland (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• Ada’s Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• Comics Confidential: Thirteen Graphic Novelists Talk Story, Craft, and Life Outside the Box compiled and edited by Leonard Marcus (Candlewick Press)
• Dive!: World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic)
• How to Build a Museum: Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture by Tonya Bolden (Viking Books for Young Readers)
• Miss Mary Reporting: The True Story of Sportswriter Mary Garber by Sue Macy, illustrated by C. F. Payne (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story by Caren Stelson (Carolrhoda)
• Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness by Donna Janell Bowman, illustrated by Daniel Minter (Lee & Low Books)

2016  Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans  
by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

Honor Books:
• Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• Growing Up Pedro by Matt Tavares (Candlewick)
• Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno (Candlewick)
• Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad (Chronicle Books)
• Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

Recommended Books:
• Courage & Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Press)
• **Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game** by John Coy, illustrated by Randy DuBurke (Carolrhoda Books)
• **The House that Jane Built: A Story about Jane Addams** by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Kathryn Brown (Henry Holt & Company)
• **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War** by Steve Sheinkin (Roarcing Brook Press)
• **My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle’s Journey to Alvin Ailey** by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
• **Raindrops Roll** by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books)
• **Trombone Shorty** by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
• **W Is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary** by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Boris Kulikov (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

### 2015

**The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia**
by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade)

**Honor Books:**
- **A Home for Mr. Emerson** by Barbara Kerley illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic Press)
- **Mr. Ferris and His Wheel** by Kathryn Gibbs Davis illustrated by Gilbert Ford (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- **The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus** by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
- **Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation** by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos** by Stephanie Roth Sisson (Roaring Brook Press)

**Recommended Books:**
- **Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World** by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- **Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa’s Fastest Cats** by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- **The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement** by Teri Kanefield (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Little Melba and Her Big Trombone** by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Lee & Low Books)
- **Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands** by Katherine Roy (David Macaulay Studio/Roaring Brook Press)
- **The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life** by Lois Ehlert (Beach Lane)
- **The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America’s Hero** by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Terry Widener (Calkins Creek)
- **Strike!: The Farm Workers’ Fight for Their Rights** by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek)