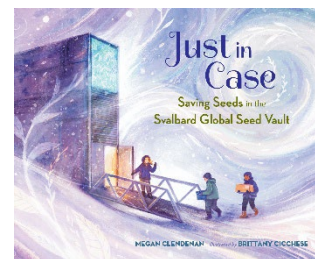


# NCTE ORBIS PICTUS AWARD®

## FOR OUTSTANDING NONFICTION FOR CHILDREN WINNER LIST

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.

**2026 Winner:** *Just in Case: Saving Seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault* by Megan Clendenan, illustrated by Brittany Cicchese (Charlesbridge)



### Honor Books:

- *Rebels, Robbers, and Radicals: The Story of the Bill of Rights* by Teri Kanefield (Harry N. Abrams)
- *Dreams to Ashes: The 1871 Los Angeles Chinatown Massacre* by Livia Blackburne, illustrated by Nicole Xu (Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)
- *Alberto Salas Plays Paka Paka Con La Papa* by Sara Andrea Fajardo, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (Roaring Book Press, an imprint of Macmillan)
- *The Keeper of Stories* by Caroline Kusin Pritchard, illustrated by Selina Alko (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *At Last She Stood: How Joey Guerro Spied, Survived, and Fought for Freedom* by Erin Entrada Kelly (Greenwillow Books)

### Recommended Books:

- *The Secret World of Spider Webs* by Jan Beccaloni, illustrated by Namasri Niumim (Thames & Hudson)
- *Some of Us: A Story of Citizenship and the United States* by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Huy Youn Lee (Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Hachette Book Group)
- *Whale Eyes: A Memoir about Seeing and Being Seen* by James Robinson, illustrated by Brian Rea (Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House)
- *The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit* by Kelly Crull (Millbrook Press™, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)
- *Extreme Places: The Most Remote Homes on Earth* by Giles Laroche (Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins)
- *Tomatoes on Trial: The Fruit v. Vegetable Showdown* by Lindsay H. Metcalf, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers)
- *Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People* by Kamalani Hurley, illustrated by Harinani Orme (Millbrook Press™, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)
- *Magic in a Drop of Water: How Ruth Patrick Taught the World about Water Pollution* by Julie Winterbottom, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Rocky Bond Books)

**2025 Winner: *Stealing Little Moon: The Legacy of the American Indian Boarding Schools* by Dan SaSuWeh Jones (Scholastic Focus)**



**Honor Books:**

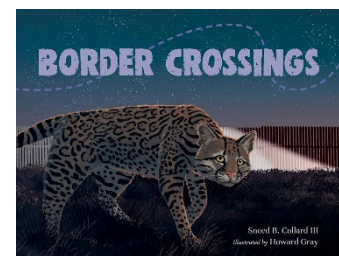
- *Borderlands and the Mexican American Story* by David Dorado Romo (Crown Books for Young Readers)
- *Ode to Grapefruit: How James Earl Jones Found His Voice* by Kari Lavelle, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Alfred A. Knopf)
- *Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall* by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books)
- *Behold the Hummingbird!* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez (Peachtree)
- *Space: The Final Pooping Frontier* by Annabeth Bondor-Stone and Connor White, illustrated by Lars Kenseth (Godwin Books)

**Recommended Books:**

- *Urban Coyotes* by May Kay Carson, photographs by Tom Uhlman (Clarion)
- *Sleepy: Surprising Ways Animals Snooze* by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Robin Page (Beach Lane)
- *Daughter of the Light-Footed People: The Story of Indigenous Marathon Champion Lorena Ramirez* by Belen Medina, illustrated by Natalia Rojas Castro (Atheneum Books)
- *Yasmeen Lari, Green Architect: The True Story of Pakistan's First Woman Architect* by Marzieh Abbas, illustrated by Hoda Hadadi (Clarion Books)
- *We Sing from the Heart: How the Slants® Took Their Fight for Free Speech to the Supreme Court* by Mia Wenjen, illustrated by Victor Bizar Gómez (Red Comet Press)
- *A Plate of Hope: The Inspiring Story of Chef José Andrés and the World Central Kitchen* by Erin Frankel, illustrated by Paola Escobar (Random House Studio)
- *Wat Takes His Shot: The Life & Legacy of Basketball Hero Wataru Misaka* by Cheryl Kim, illustrated by Nat Iwata (Lee & Low Books)
- *Listening to Trees: George Nakashima, Woodworker* by Holly Thompson, illustrated by Toshiki Nakamura (Neal Porter Books)

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**2024 Winner: *Border Crossings* by Sneed B. Collard III, illustrated by Howard Gray (Charlesbridge)**



**Honor Books:**

- *The Fire of Stars: The Life and Brilliance of the Woman Who Discovered What Stars are Made Of* by Kirsten W. Larsen, illustrated by Katherine Roy (Chronicle Books)
- *Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge* by Deidre Havrelock & Edward Kay, illustrated by Kalila Fuller (Christy Ottaviano Books)
- *Hidden Systems: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets behind the Systems We Use Every Day* by Dan Nott (Random House Graphic)
- *Ketanji Brown Jackson: A Justice for All* by Tami Charles, illustrated by Jemma Skidmore (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *Game of Freedom: Mestre Bimba and the Art of Capoeira* by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

**Recommended Books:**

- *Cool Green: Amazing Remarkable Trees* by Lulu Delacre (Candlewick Press)

- *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport* by Caren Stelson, illustrated by Selina Alko (Carolrhoda Books)
- *Polar: Wildlife at the Ends of the Earth* by L. E. Carmichael, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler (Kids Can Press)
- *Breaking the Mold: Changing the Face of Climate Science* by Dana Alison Levy (Holiday House)
- *The Bees of Notre Dame* by Meghan P. Browne, illustrated by E. B. Goodale (Random House Studio)
- *Benito Juárez Fights for Justice* by Beatriz Gutierrez Hernandez (Godwin Books)
- *On the Tip of a Wave: How Ai Weiwei's Art Is Changing the Tide* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Cátia Chien (Orchard Books)
- *This is Tap: Savion Glover Finds His Funk* by Selene Castrovilla, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Holiday House)

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**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)



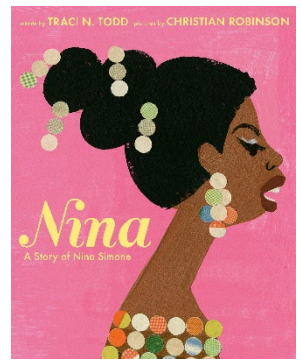
#### Honor Books:

- *Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement* by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington (Roaring Brook Press)
- *Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler, illustrated by Vivien Mildener (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:

- *A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn* by Patricia Newman, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Millbrook Press)
  - *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)
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**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 Belpré 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)



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