

# The Orbis Pictus Award

Given by the National Council of Teachers of English  
<http://www.ncte.org/elem/awards/orbispictus/106877.htm>

The Orbis Pictus Award is an annual award 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* (1657), considered to be the first book actually planned for children.

## Selection Criteria

### Accuracy

- Facts are current and complete
- Balance of fact and theory
- Text offers varying points of view
- Stereotypes avoided
- Author's qualifications adequate
- Appropriate scope
- Authenticity of detail

### Organization

- Logical development of topic
- Clear sequencing
- Interrelationships indicated
- Patterns provided (general-to-specific, simple-to-complex, etc.)

### Design

- Attractive
- Readable
- Illustrations complement text
- Placement of illustrative material appropriate and complementary
- Appropriate media, format, and type

### Style

- Writing is interesting and stimulating
- Reveals author's enthusiasm for subject
- Curiosity and wonder encouraged
- Appropriate terminology
- Rich language

### Usefulness for classroom teaching

- Encourages thinking and reading
- Models exemplary expository writing and research skills
- Shares interesting and timely subject matter
- Appeals to a wide range of ages