2015 Phoenix Picture Book Honor Book

Charlotte Zolotow for *When the Wind Stops*, illustrated by Stefano Vitale (HarperCollins, 1995)

There is a wonderful tension in these illustrations that reflect the “wind” and “stops” of the title: stillness and movement, flatness and depth, weight and lightness, consistency and change. These qualities are effected by the wood grain visible through the paint as well as the folk art style of the artwork. A brilliant study in the complementarity of facing pages and the value of space in design, Vitale’s style balances simplified features of characters and landscape with rich colour and mood, and the organic vitality of shapes. The subtle, thoughtful, and haunting illustrative choices in the book match the evocative philosophical exploration of beginnings and endings.