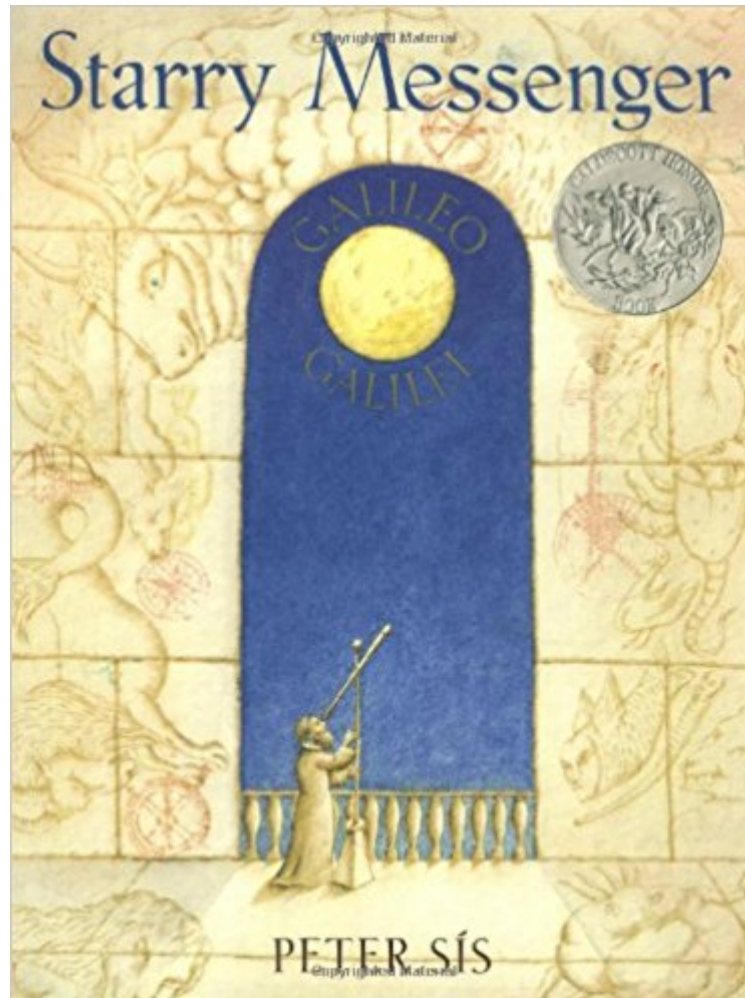




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# Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei



## Synopsis

"If they had seen what we see, they would have judged as we judge." -- Galileo Galilei  
In every age there are courageous people who break with tradition to explore new ideas and challenge accepted truths. Galileo Galilei was just such a man--a genius--and the first to turn the telescope to the skies to map the heavens. In doing so, he offered objective evidence that the earth was not the fixed center of the universe but that it and all the other planets revolved around the sun. Galileo kept careful notes and made beautiful drawings of all that he observed. Through his telescope he brought the stars down to earth for everyone to see. By changing the way people saw the galaxy, Galileo was also changing the way they saw themselves and their place in the universe. This was very exciting, but to some to some it was deeply disturbing. Galileo has upset the harmonious view of heaven and earth that had been accepted since ancient times. He had turned the world upside down. In this amazing new book, Peter S. employs the artist's lens to give us an extraordinary view of the life of Galileo Galilei. S. tells his story in language as simple as a fairy tale, in pictures as rich and tightly woven as a tapestry, and in Galileo's own words, written more than 350 years ago and still resonant with truth. This title has Common Core connections. *Starry Messenger* is a 1997 Caldecott Honor Book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374470278

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Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 8.8 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

The story of Galileo is at once inspiring and troubling. The brilliant astronomer was a celebrated scientist who was showered with honors and patronage until his greatest discovery--that the earth circled the sun rather than the other way around--proved to be too much of a threat to prevailing orthodoxy. Peter Sis, author of the wonderful children's book *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*, tells Galileo's tale for children ages 8 and older. A brilliant and sophisticated illustrator and a sensitive storyteller, he traces Galileo's life from childhood to his final days as a prisoner of the church. (Click to see a sample spread. © 1996 by Peter Sis. Reprinted by permission of the publisher, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.) (Ages 8 and older) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Extraordinary pictures light up this tribute to Galileo, telling the story of his discoveries, rise to prominence and excommunication by the Church. Sis (*Follow the Dream*), an experienced and sophisticated chronicler of history's visionaries, outdoes himself with his illustrations. Detailed and delicate, ingeniously conceived, his paintings convey abstractions with an immediate impact. The artist expresses the simultaneous wonder and prevision of Galileo's celestial observations, for example, in a luminous multipaneled composition: in the center, Galileo trains his telescope on the moon; surrounding panels replicate Galileo's notes about and sketches of the lunar surface. Other paintings take inspiration from contemporaneous maps and treatises; still others borrow historical imagery to convey the loneliness of the censored scientist. Handwritten passages from Galileo's own works embellish the pages and supply information missing from the text. Even with the powerful art, however, this volume does not open up Galileo's story to the uninitiated: the brief text oversimplifies the issues, even for a picture book, and seems to presume the reader's awareness of the historical significance of Galileo's struggles. While the book's usefulness may be limited, its strengths are not: it is a book with deep if not broad appeal. Ages 6-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm saving this book for my grandchildren to grow a few more years. Peter Sis is a most marvelous illustrator and storyteller. I have started collecting his books!

I returned the first copy because text and pictures were bound into the spine of the book. Second copy exactly the same. How could it win a Caldecott prize if it's so poorly bound?! However the pictures and text are beautifully done and we'll just have to forget trying to read/see the parts that

are bound into the cover. (not a serious complaint, but annoying nonetheless.)

I really enjoyed this book. I wanted to teach my child about the importance of Galileo's findings and challenging the status quo and I think this book does demonstrate this very well. The dialog is not too overwhelming and so my child doesn't lose attention. The pictures are pretty interesting and have a lot of detail. I try to turn that into a game by finding stuff. The message is clear though so I am pretty pleased. There are a couple parts I tend to skip or adjust but it doesn't hurt the overall message.

This book is amazing! My students loved the activities that I built around it. It matches well with Sandra Kaplan's habits of a scholar.

I love Peter Sis's styling of his books. A upper elementary grade student could read the main body of the text and enjoy it - then those up for the challenge would enjoy all the extra bits of information beautifully woven throughout.

The young grandson is so far entranced. What more could a gift-giving grandma ask?

loved it

Very nice book, excellent condition and it arrived at break neck speed! Perfect supplement for our chapter on ancient star gazers! No complaints what so ever! Thanks a bunch! Would definitely order from them again!

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