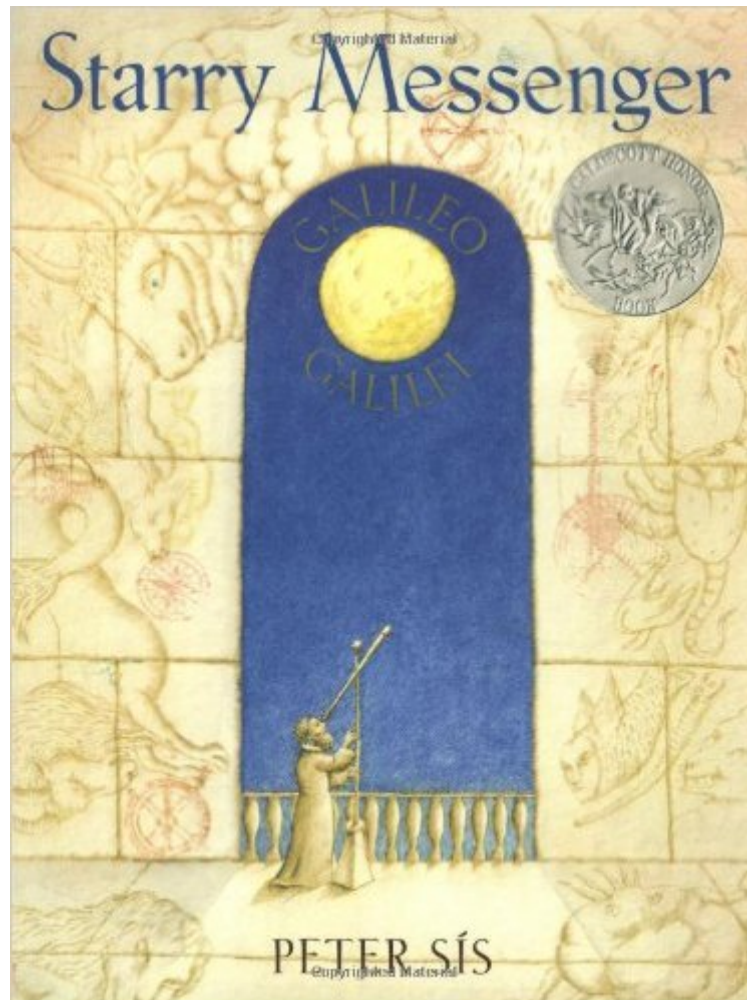


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# Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei



## 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 SÃ-s employs the artist's lens to give us an extraordinary view of the life of Galileo Galilei. SÃ-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

ISBN-13: 978-0374470272

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.4 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #256,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #147 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy](#) #161 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation](#) #200 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

I've reviewed a fair amount of Peter Sis books in my day on .com, but this is the first book by Sis that I've come across that has so many negative/tepid reviews. Now, before I review a book I give its .com page a once-over to get a feel for what the public at large thinks about the story. Peter Sis is one of those authors who can write extraordinarily simple books for little children (like "Komodo", "Madlenka", or "Fire Truck") then turn around and do mind-bendingly complex picture books in the same breath (like, "Tibet: Through the Red Box", and "Tree of Life"). "Starry Messenger" was one of Sis' first forays into this combination of complex and simplistic together. As you can see, it wasn't wholly successful. Though still a visually eye-popping wonder and a tale that makes equal concessions to both young and old readers, the story sacrifices fact for simplification in ways that not everyone will enjoy. I believe that while this book is a necessary addition to any Galileo collection, it should certainly not be the ONLY book on that starry-eyed scientist available to your children. Right from the get-go we are told that the whole notion of the earth moving around the sun is a bit new. People (and here we are shown a lovely Ptolemaic System of the universe) thought the planets, the moon, and the sun moved around the earth. There's a sudden and brief glimpse on the next page of The Copernican System, but the text tells us that Copernicus never published this idea and that, "it would take someone else to do that...". Enter, someone else. Someone else by the name of Galileo Galilei. Born on February 15, 1564 when Italy was just a quilt of city-states, little Galileo grew up with a healthy scientific curiosity.

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