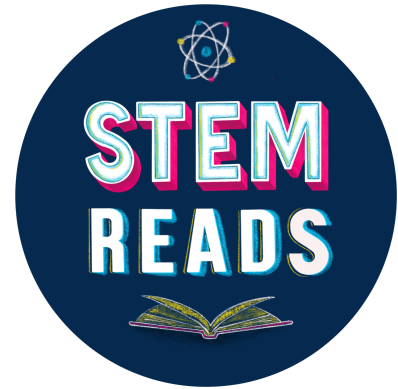


For Immediate Release: March 31, 2022

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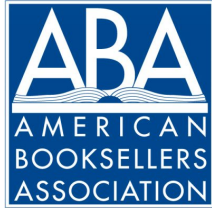


**General Motors, Candlewick Press, and American Booksellers Association Partner for
“STEM Reads” Book Giveaway**

Thousands of copies of Christina Soontornvat’s The Last Mapmaker will be given to readers in underserved communities

White Plains, NY: Today, the American Booksellers Association (ABA), Candlewick Press, and General Motors announced the “STEM Reads” book giveaway. The program, funded by General Motors, aims to encourage young readers to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through consuming science fiction and fantasy writings. The program will make available up to 20,000 copies of a special paperback edition of Christina Soontornvat’s *The Last Mapmaker*, a resolute, high-seas adventure set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, to readers in underserved communities.

This program is an element of GM’s larger initiative The Future Fiction Collective, focused on diversifying the science-fiction genre and STEM literature, creating more space for representation from underserved communities.



"General Motors is collaborating with organizations like ABA to inspire a new generation of young advocates and creators to decolonize the science fiction and fantasy genre, reclaiming creative spaces for a more diverse and inclusive community," said Hina Baloch, Executive Director, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Sustainability, Data Analytics and STEM Education Communications. "We recognize that interest and immersion in science fiction media transcends to all students, regardless of their education, gender, or race, and seeing themselves reflected in it can help encourage them to explore their own voice in this space."

Through the "STEM Reads" campaign (#STEMReads), independent booksellers across the country can sign up to receive a free box of the special paperback edition of *The Last Mapmaker* to distribute to children in an underserved community this fall, and to purchase additional cartons at cost for the giveaway. Stores that participate in this giveaway will receive a marketing stipend and will be invited to enter to win an in-person or virtual visit from Soontornvat.

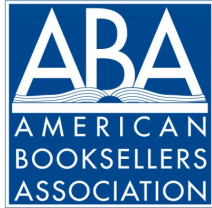
Soontornvat is the award-winning author of more than a dozen books for children of all ages, including Newbery Honor books *A Wish in the Dark* and *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*. In addition to being an author, she is passionate about STEM and STEAM and holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in science education.

ABA has implemented successful giveaway programs in the past, most recently when the association partnered with Simon & Schuster and American Express to deliver 12,500 special edition copies of Jason Reynolds' *New York Times* bestseller *Ghost* to children in Title 1 schools with the help of 460 participating bookstores.

Through *The Last Mapmaker* campaign:

- Books will reach children from fourth to eighth grades between the ages of 8 and 12 in underserved communities; research shows that this is the ideal age to introduce kids to STEM topics as they build their STEM identity and foundation.
- Readers will have the opportunity to meet Soontornvat virtually or in-person to hear first-hand about the science that has inspired her writing throughout her career and the importance of representation in the science-fiction genre.
- Soontornvat will serve as a role model for children interested in further developing their STEM-based skill sets, offering advice and personal anecdotes on how she's persevered in her field; research shows that all jobs will require STEM skills in the future, not just STEM careers.

"Independent bookstores and the American Booksellers Association have witnessed first-hand how books can change lives," says ABA CEO Allison K Hill. "ABA is proud to participate with



General Motors and Candlewick to support indies as they inspire future readers, scientists, tech explorers, engineers, and mathematicians.”

“Science fiction and fantasy can open doors for future exploration and catalyze a young person’s interest in studying science,” says ABA Children’s Group Senior Manager Gen de Botton. “ABA sees reading as the gateway for untapped inventors to discover the possibilities, whether that’s advances in string theory, intergalactic space travel, the biomechanics of dragons and other mythological creatures, or even a future with flying cars.”

“Candlewick is honored to join forces with ABA and General Motors to put a special edition of *The Last Mapmaker* into the hands of thousands and thousands of young people in underserved communities this fall,” says Elise Supovitz, Executive Director of Independent Retail and Canada Sales at Candlewick Press. “We’re immensely grateful to all the indie booksellers coast to coast who will make this literacy mission possible, and to the incomparable Christina Soontornvat, who is the perfect ambassador for this program.”

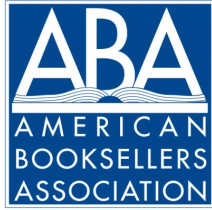
Booksellers with questions about the program can contact Project Manager Sydney Jarrard at sydnejj@bookweb.org.

ABOUT

The American Booksellers Association (ABA) is a national not-for-profit trade organization that celebrates books and believes in the power of independent bookstores in their communities. ABA works to support more than 2,400 independent bookstore members across the country by providing education, advocacy, e-commerce, and business services to help them in their work. Learn more at www.bookweb.org.

Candlewick Press is an independent publisher based in Somerville, Massachusetts. For almost 30 years, Candlewick has published outstanding children’s books for readers of all ages, including books by award-winning authors and illustrators such as National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature emerita Kate DiCamillo, M. T. Anderson, Meg Medina, Jon Klassen, Christina Soontornvat, and Carole Boston Weatherford; the widely acclaimed Judy Moody, Mercy Watson, and ‘Ology series; and favorites such as *Guess How Much I Love You*, *Maisy*, and *Where’s Waldo?* by Martin Handford. Candlewick is part of the Walker Books Group, together with Walker Books UK in London and Walker Books Australia. Visit Candlewick online at www.candlewick.com.

General Motors (NYSE:GM) is a global company focused on advancing an all-electric future that is inclusive and accessible to all. At the heart of this strategy is the Ultium battery platform,



which powers everything from mass-market to high-performance vehicles. General Motors, its subsidiaries, and its joint venture entities sell vehicles under the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Baojun and Wuling brands. More information on the company and its subsidiaries, including OnStar, a global leader in vehicle safety and security services, can be found at www.gm.com.

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