

*For Immediate Release*

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## ***Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* is Tops in STEM**

Mount Pleasant, SC (December 11, 2017) -- Announced today, *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* by Songju Ma Daemicke and illustrated by Christina Wald lands a spot on the 2018 Best STEM Books list. The list is curated in a joint project by the National Science Teacher's Association and the Children's Book Council to select the best trade books that integrate science, technology, engineering, and math.

A lack of technology is central to the problem in Daemicke's story, and the trouble starts when the first elephant arrives in ancient China. The crowd speculates the weight of the enormous animal, and Cao Cao challenges his trusted advisors to weigh the elephant without a scale. It is the emperor's six-year-old son that comes forward with the best plan. They use buoyancy to weigh the elephant.

The use of science and creative thinking is integral to the story, and also makes *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* a good fit for this list. The Best STEM Books list provides a recommended reading list to educators, librarians, parents and guardians looking for books that exemplify the creative approach to discovering and applying knowledge about our world to solve problems. Each year a panel of educators and scientists gather to select a variety of books that meet these guidelines and feature one of the four disciplines. View the entire list here: <http://static.nsta.org/pdfs/2018BestSTEMBooks.pdf>.

As a former software engineer, Daemicke wanted to share with children the importance of solving problems through creative thinking as well as incorporate her Chinese heritage. *Cao Chong* is a celebrated child prodigy in China, but it was actually a Mozart piece played by her daughters that inspired Daemicke to write this story.

Wald has illustrated many books with Arbordale and embraces each new challenge with extensive research. For *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant*, historical accuracy was an especially difficult challenge, and she turned to movies to recreate the varied dress of many classes of society. Once research was complete, Wald settled on a whimsical style and went through many revisions before the book was complete.

*Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* is available in hardcover (9781628559033, \$17.95), paperback (9781628559040, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559064, \$6.95) and multilingual interactive ebook (9781628559088, \$6.95). A Spanish language edition is available in paperback (9781628559057, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559064, \$6.95) and multilingual interactive ebook (9781628559088, \$6.95). Finally, a Chinese language edition is available in paperback (9781607187196, \$9.95), ebook (9781607187202, \$6.95) and multilingual interactive ebook (9781607187219, \$6.95).