Candlewick Press Authors and Illustrators Receive Awards, Recognition at 2021 American Library Association Youth Media Awards

Candlewick authors awarded three Newbery Honors, with two going to Christina Soontornvat; See the Cat wins Geisel Award; Kekla Magoon receives Margaret A. Edwards Award

SOMERVILLE, MA – January 25, 2021 –The Newbery Selection Committee recognized author Christina Soontornvat with two Newbery Honors for her books *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team* and *A Wish in the Dark*, and author Carole Boston Weatherford with a Newbery Honor for her book *BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*; while author David LaRochelle and illustrator Mike Wohnoutka received the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for their early reader *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*; and author Kekla Magoon received the Margaret A. Edwards Award at the 2021 American Library Association Youth Media Awards, given during the American Library Association’s Midwinter meeting, held virtually this year.

“Especially after a year that has been so difficult for children and their caregivers, we are deeply grateful to the tireless heroes of the American Library Association for recognizing these books. The profound courage Carole Boston Weatherford depicts in *BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*; the extraordinary collective effort and shared hope that Christina Soontornvat describes in *All Thirteen*; the pursuit of true justice Soontornvat brings to life in *A Wish in the Dark*; and of course the infectious silliness with which David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka animate *See the Cat*—all are more necessary than ever this year. We’re especially thrilled that the range of Christina’s writing for young people—from deeply researched nonfiction to richly imagined fiction—was celebrated by an extraordinary two Newbery Honors as well as a Robert F. Sibert Honor and her selection as an Excellence in Nonfiction finalist. And we can’t imagine better recognition for Kekla Magoon’s immersive and world-broadening body of work than the Margaret A. Edwards Award. The ALA Youth Media Awards not only recognize outstanding books, but also remind us what those outstanding books bring to the children who need them,” said Karen Lotz, president and publisher of Candlewick Press and managing director of the Walker Books Group, of the honors.

The Newbery Selection Committee, charged with selecting the most distinguished contributions to American literature for children, awarded Christina Soontornvat separate Newbery Honors for the narrative nonfiction *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team*, which combines on-the-ground reporting with suspense, science, and cultural insight to offer the authoritative account of the 2018 rescue of the Wild...
Boars soccer team; and the novel *A Wish in the Dark*, a dazzling, fast-paced adventure looking at issues of privilege, protest, and justice, inspired by Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* and set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world. Soontornvat is the first author to be receive two Newbery Honors in the same year since Meindert DeJong in 1954.

*All Thirteen* was additionally recognized with a Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor, given to distinguished informational books published in the United States in English during the preceding year, and was a finalist for the YALSA Award for Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction.

The Newbery Committee also awarded a Newbery Honor to celebrated poet Carole Boston Weatherford for *BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*. Illustrated by artist Michele Wood, BOX uses distinctive poetic form—stanzas of six lines each, each line representing one side of a box—to movingly and lyrically tell the story of Henry Brown, who courageously shipped himself out of slavery. Weatherford’s previous work has been honored with awards including the NAACP Image Award, a Coretta Scott King Author Honor, and a Robert F. Sibert Honor.

Author David LaRochelle and illustrator Mike Wohnoutka received the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, given annually to the author and illustrator of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States during the preceding year, for their metafictional romp *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*. This warmhearted spoof of traditional primers was described in a starred review in *School Library Journal* as a “humorous, self-referential, fourth wall–demolishing easy reader.”

Kekla Magoon, author of more than a dozen books for young readers, received the Margaret A. Edwards Award, administered by Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and sponsored by *School Library Journal*, which honors an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. *X: A Novel*, cowritten with Ilyasah Shabazz and first published by Candlewick Press in 2015, was long-listed for the National Book Award and received an NAACP Image Award and a Coretta Scott King Author Honor.

ABOUT CANDLEWICK PRESS
Candlewick Press is an independent publisher based in Somerville, Massachusetts. For more than thirty 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, and Laura Amy Schlitz; 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.

###

**All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team**
by Christina Soontornvat
HC: 978-1-5362-0945-7 | $24.99 (29.99 CAN)
Ages 8–12 · 288 pages

**A Wish in the Dark**
by Christina Soontornvat
HC: 978-1-5362-0494-0 | $17.99 ($23.99 CAN)
e-book: 978-1-5362-1172-6 | $17.99
Ages 8–12 · 384 pages

**BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom**
by Carole Boston Weatherford
illustrated by Michele Wood
HC: 978-0-7636-9156-1 | $17.99 ($23.99 CAN)
Age 10 and up · 56 pages

*See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*
by David LaRochelle
illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
HC: 978-1-5362-0427-8 | $8.99 ($11.99 CAN)
Ages 4–8 · 64 pages

*X: A Novel*
by Kekla Magoon and Ilyasah Shabazz
PB: 978-0-7636-9092-2 | $8.99 ($11.99 CAN)
e-book: 978-0-7636-7425-0 | $8.99 ($12.00 CAN)
Age 14 and up · 384 pages