

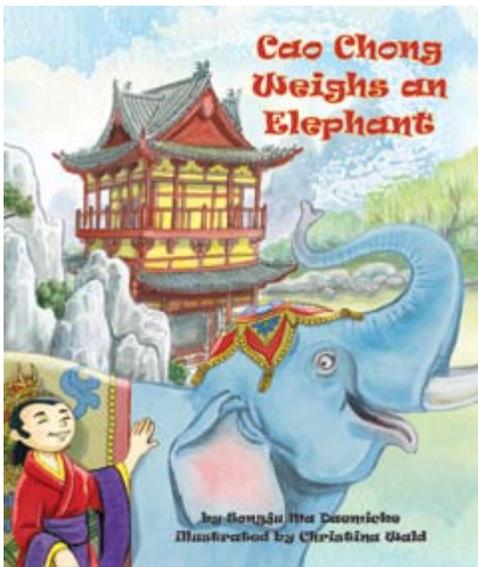
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## Culture and science inspire learning in Songju Ma Daemicke's latest picture book

Mount Pleasant, SC — Author Songju Ma Daemicke and illustrator Christina Wald travel back in time to the Han dynasty for their first picture book collaboration. *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* releases on September 10th from Arbordale Publishing.

Rich in Chinese history, the story begins when the ambassador of the Wu Kingdom presents Cao Cao with an elephant. Cao Cao challenged his advisors to find a way to weigh the giant animal. It was his six-year-old son, Cao Chong, who emerged with the best idea. The weight of the elephant was discovered using the Archimedes principle of buoyancy. The kingdom celebrated.

It was a very different child prodigy that inspired Daemicke to write this book. Having just attended a performance of Mozart's "Table Music for Two," performed by her young daughters, she told the story of one of China's most celebrated young geniuses. "It was incredible to see that the world could still enjoy and appreciate Mozart's creative genius over 150 years later," said Daemicke. "This inspired me to share this favorite story about a Chinese child prodigy and his creative thinking with American readers."

Wald's cheery watercolor illustration sets the tone for the story. Before she could put the brush to paper, Wald researched the historical costume and architecture of Ancient China. "I had to get several books on Chinese architecture and costume in an attempt to approximate the setting," said Wald. "I also watched the Chinese movie Red Cliff about 100 times. It is about Cao Cao. While movies are probably not a totally accurate representation of the history, there was a lot of costume of all levels of society depicted." As Wald's first book fully in watercolor, she wanted the palette to be bright and colorful.

In addition to the story, an appended "For Creative Minds" section explores the buoyancy principle and a history of Cao Chong's short life. A downloadable teaching activities guide and quizzes are available on the book's homepage for easy classroom lessons on Cao Chong and Archimedes buoyancy principle.

*Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* is available in hardcover (9781628559033, \$17.95), paperback (9781628559040, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559064, \$6.95), and dual-language, interactive ebook (9781628559088, \$6.95). A Spanish-language edition, *Cao Chong pesa un elefante*, is available in paperback (9781628559057, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559071, \$6.95), and interactive ebook (9781628559095, \$6.95). Find out more about this and other Arbordale books on the publisher's website [www.arbordalepublishing.com](http://www.arbordalepublishing.com).