

**Candlewick Entertainment to publish books based on the animated series *Dot*.
Books will feature tech-savvy character created by best-selling author Randi Zuckerberg**

October 26, 2018 – Somerville, MA. Randi Zuckerberg knows that girls need to be exposed to tech-savvy role models, and she knows that kids need to find a balance with technology, recognizing when to plug in and when to unplug. So she created Dot, a tech-confident eight-year-old girl who leaps into new adventures with abandon when something sparks her endless curiosity. The eponymous animated series starring this outgoing and spunky character, now in its second season on Universal Kids and streaming on Hulu, is making the leap from the screen to two tie-in books to be published by Candlewick Entertainment in April 2019, launching a new publishing program.

Candlewick Entertainment will release the early readers, *Leaf It to Dot* and *Rocket Out of the Park*, simultaneously in hardcover and paperback in the United States, Canada, and Australia. The books will be edited by Joan Powers, group editorial director for Candlewick Entertainment and Walker Entertainment, who acquired world rights in English from The Jim Henson Company, which handles all consumer products rights for the property worldwide.

Leaf It to Dot follows Dot as she goes on an outdoor scavenger hunt with Dad and her best friend. Her tablet helps her spot incredible things — but she sees that it’s awesome to see nature with her own eyes, too. In *Rocket Out of the Park*, Dot and her friends build rockets at the Creative Fair, where the sky’s the limit for ingenuity.

Joan Powers says, “Randi Zuckerberg has created a character who is very timely indeed. In every episode — and in every book — Dot discovers that technology can enhance real-world experiences, but it certainly doesn’t replace them. Dot is entertaining and inspiring; we are excited to welcome her to our list.”

Dot. is the first animated show for *New York Times* best-selling author Randi Zuckerberg, who is also founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media. *Dot.* was born from Zuckerberg’s passion for motivating and inspiring young girls to develop an early love and appreciation for technology, math, and science. Since its debut in 2016, the series has received a Kidscreen Award for Best New Series, a Parents’ Choice Award Silver Medal, a Common Sense Media five-star rating, a BANFF World Media Festival Rogers Prize for Excellence in Canadian Content, and an ACTRA Outstanding Performance (Voice) for Lilly Bartlam (Dot) nomination, among other accolades. The series app, Dotopedia, won a Youth Media Alliance Best Cross-Platform Interactive Content Award, a Common Sense Media four-star rating, a BANFF World Media Festival Interactive Content for Children and Youth nomination, a Canadian Screen Award for Best Cross-Platform Project for Children and Youth, and a W³ Silver Award. *Dot.* is produced by Industrial Brothers in association with The Jim Henson Company and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

ABOUT CANDLEWICK ENTERTAINMENT

Candlewick Entertainment is a media-inspired imprint of Candlewick Press, an independent publisher based in Somerville, Massachusetts. For more than twenty-five 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

U.K. and Walker Productions in London and Walker Books Australia. The Walker Books Group has a unique ownership structure that includes its employees worldwide. Visit Candlewick online at www.candlewick.com.

ABOUT THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

The Jim Henson Company has remained an established leader in family entertainment for over 60 years and is recognized worldwide as an innovator in puppetry, animatronics and digital animation. Best known as creators of the world-famous Muppets, Henson has received over 50 Emmy Awards and nine Grammy Awards. Recent credits include *Julie's Greenroom* (Netflix), *Dot.* (Universal Kids /Hulu), *Splash and Bubbles* (PBS), *Word Party* (Netflix), *Doozers* (Hulu/ Sprout), and the Emmy®-nominated *Sid the Science Kid* (PBS), *Dinosaur Train* (PBS), and *Pajanimals* (Universal Kids). Television productions include *Fraggle Rock*, *The Storyteller*, and the sci-fi cult series *Farscape*. Features include Disney's *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, as well as *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, *MirrorMask*, and *Jim Henson's Turkey Hollow*. The Company is currently in production on the upcoming Netflix original series *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*. Projects in development include the highly anticipated film *Fraggle Rock*.

With additional locations in New York and London, The Jim Henson Company is headquartered in Los Angeles on the historic Charlie Chaplin lot, complete with soundstage and post-production facilities. The Company is home to Jim Henson's Creature Shop™, a preeminent character-building and visual effects group with international film, television, theme park, and advertising clients, as well as Henson Recording Studios, one of the music industry's top recording facilities, known for its world-class blend of state-of-the-art and vintage equipment. The Company's Henson Alternative brand recently premiered *The Curious Creations of Christine McConnell* (Netflix) and is currently touring *Puppet Up! – Uncensored*, a live puppet improvisational show. Its feature *The Happytime Murders*, starring Melissa McCarthy, was released last summer.

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