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SuperQuesters – A STEM-Sational new book series inspiring ALL children to become super problem-solvers and curious creators through STEM adventures

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SuperQuesters: The Case of the Stolen Sun is the first title in a unique new interactive children's book series, published on 3 May 2022, by STEM experts Dr Thomas Bernard and Lisa Moss (illustrated by Amy Willcox).

A husband and wife team, Lisa Moss and computer scientist Dr Thomas Bernard co-founded QuestFriendz after the birth of their twin daughters when they realised there weren't many books or toys for younger children that would nurture STEM learning. Lisa and Thomas naturally raise their daughters (now 7 years old) with STEM built into their everyday routines but they're acutely aware of the STEM kills gap in the UK, particularly among women and ethnic minorities.

The aim of SuperQuesters is to instil a love of STEM learning from a young age through an interactive reading adventure complete with hands-on activities (called STEM quests) that will develop different STEM skills such as coding, debugging, abstraction, logic, trial and error. Each book in the series is carefully designed with cross-curricular learning opportunities in mind, linking with the UK computing, maths and science national curriculum.

As technology continues to evolve and changes the work landscape, it's imperative that ALL children are provided with opportunities to develop core skills in these key areas. The UK remains one of the worst regions in Europe when it comes to encouraging women into STEM roles. The STEM skills gap is estimated to be costing the UK economy £1.5 billion per year (source: E&T the IET). Currently, only 24% of UK STEM roles are held by women (source: Wise).

One third of parents and teachers inaccurately perceive STEM discipline as more closely fitting boys' brains, personalities and hobbies (source: Accenture Girls in STEM 2017 report) and even children as young as six can develop ideas that girls don't like computer science and engineering as much as boys (source: PNAS

The SuperQuesters are on a mission to embolden *ALL* children, and especially girls, to become super problem-solvers and curious creators as they join them on their STEM adventures.

Not only do STEM skills equip children with a transferrable skillset, but they also help them to develop a love of learning and a sense of curiosity, promoting self-esteem as children learn how to problem-solve and view failure as part of the learning process.

SuperQuesters is already garnering fantastic reviews from authors like Konnie Huq and educational and STEM influencers like engineer Roma Agrawal. The wider team at QuestFriendz includes leading UK children's publishing creative Sophie Stericker who has worked on top selling children's brands and authors such as Waterstones Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell and J. K. Rowling.

"A fun, interactive book for inquisitive minds and any budding young STEM enthusiasts."

Konnie Huq, STEM advocate and author of Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World

"Action packed adventure with interactive challenges! Kids will love the story and illustrations, and particularly the quests that need some thought, and some stickers!"

Roma Agrawal, Engineer and Author of How Was That Built?

Book two, *SuperQuesters: The Case of the Missing Memory* will publish in Autumn 2022.

About the authors and illustrator

Husband and wife author team, Dr Thomas Bernard and Lisa Moss were inspired to co-found QuestFriendz, a STEM children's book publisher, following the birth of their twin daughters and their passionate belief that all children should be nurtured to love STEM learning. Lisa grew up in Canada and has written stories from a young age. A 20-year corporate career at several high-tech companies led her to become acutely aware of the STEM skills gap. Thomas grew up in France and was inspired by his grandfather to have a curiosity for science, technology and discovering the world around him. His love for coding and the opportunity to create and innovate led him to pursue a PhD in Computer Engineering. He became profoundly aware of the STEM skills gap and more specifically the gender gap in STEM during his time as a computer science lecturer and during his career at several high tech companies. **Twitter @lisa_a_moss**

Amy Willcox studied illustration at Falmouth University and now works as a freelance illustrator. She is represented by Lemonade Illustration Agency. She lives and works in Norwich with her husband James, daughter Elsie, son Miles and Alfie the dog. She loves to draw and create interesting characters.