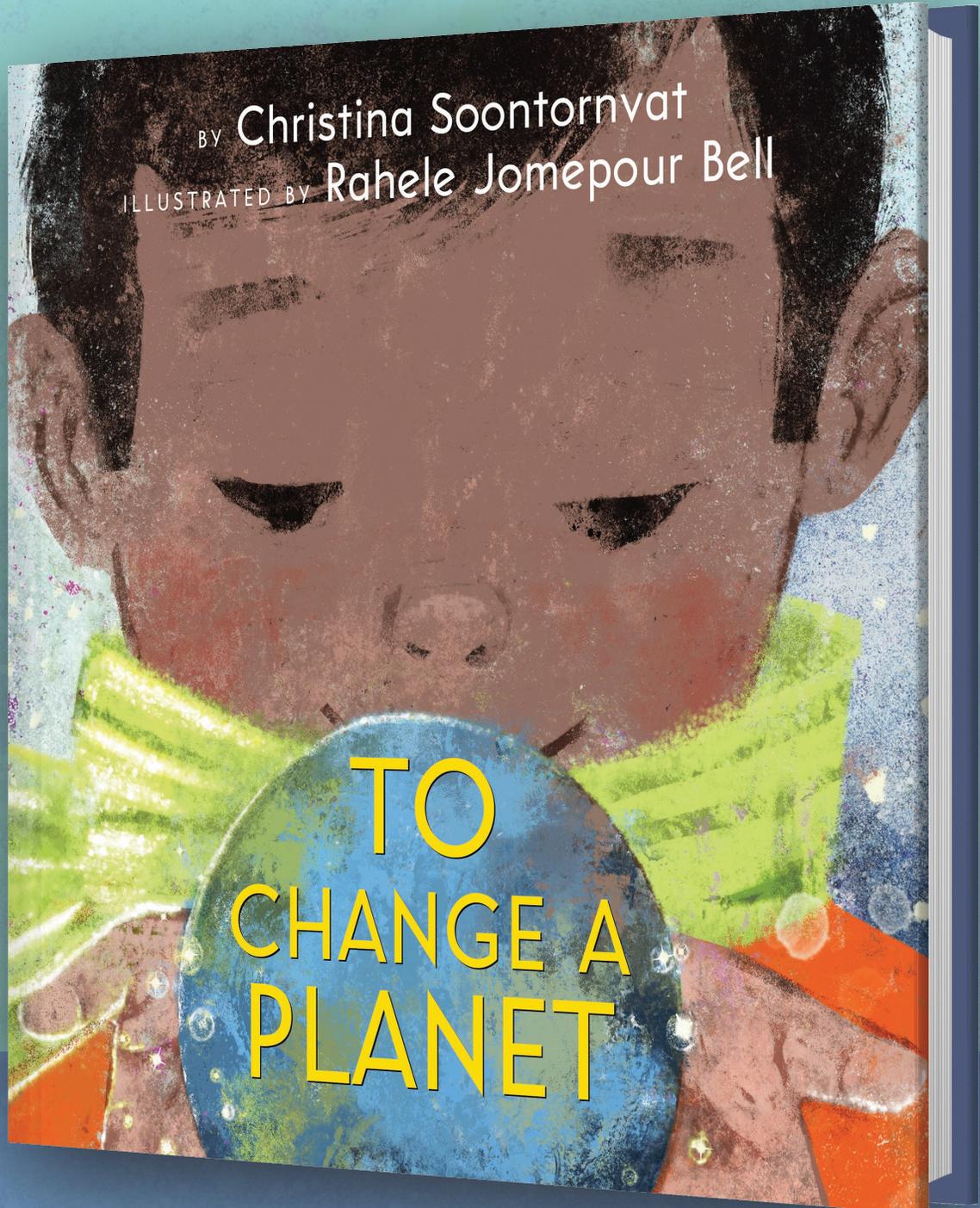


# VIRTUAL STORYTIME TOOLKIT TO CHANGE A PLANET

BY Christina Soontornvat ILLUSTRATED BY Rahele Jomepour Bell

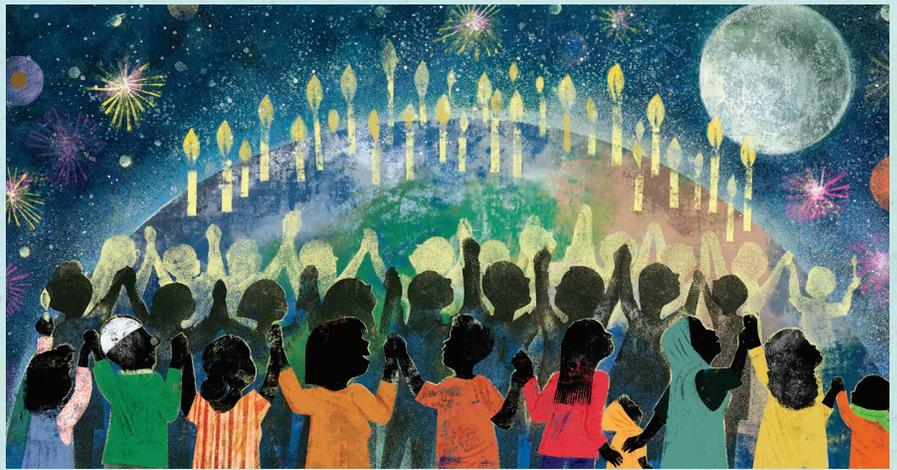


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# A beautiful ode to our planet and a clarion call to protect it



**Our planet seems tough, but it is fragile.**

**Our planet seems big, but it needs us.**

One carbon dioxide molecule may seem small and insignificant. But when cars, factories, and cities let loose millions and billions and trillions, they can trap and stifle like a too-warm blanket. One notch higher on the thermometer may seem small and insignificant, but one notch higher can change our seas, our seasons, life, us. But when one person and one person and one person become many . . . THEY can change a planet—for the better. Meticulously researched, vetted by experts, and brimming with beauty, hope, and proactive ideas that will edify and empower even the youngest readers, *To Change a Planet* is vital for every child, classroom, and family.

## TO CHANGE A PLANET

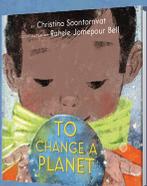
BY Christina Soontornvat ILLUSTRATED BY Rahele Jomepour Bell

Hardcover: 9781338628616 • \$18.99 Also available as an ebook Ages 4–8; Grades P–3

★ “Earth’s beauty and fragility provide the impetus for activism in this introduction to climate change . . . An attractive entree to a vital subject for the youngest citizens.”  
—KIRKUS REVIEWS, starred review

“The book’s overall tone is hopeful, centered around the conviction that, just as we can exacerbate the effects of climate change, so too can we forestall and reverse them.”  
—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

“Gracefully illuminates how ‘when one person, and one person . . . become many’ they ‘can change a planet’ . . . has the potential to inspire all.”  
—SHELF AWARENESS



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# A Q&A with Author CHRISTINA SOONTORNVAT

“Hope is the first step in problem-solving, and I am hopeful we can change our future for the better.”

—Christina Soontornvat



Sam Bond Photography, 2019

## What is climate change?

In the last two centuries, humans have caused average temperatures on Earth to rise about 1° C (1.8° F)—enough to affect our planet’s delicate ecosystems. Scientists warn that if the climate continues to warm too much and too quickly, it could have dire consequences for much of life on Earth.

## What is causing climate change?

The major cause of the current rise in global temperatures is human activity. Most factories, vehicles, and cities are powered by fossil fuels, including coal, petroleum, and natural gas. When these fossil fuels are used for energy, they release carbon gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases transmit sunlight to the earth’s surface, and then trap some of the sun’s heat in the atmosphere, warming our planet. An excess of greenhouse gases traps too much heat and leads to harmful levels of warming.

## How will rising temperatures affect life on Earth?

Climate change is *already* affecting life on our planet. Our oceans have become warmer and more acidic. As the ice caps at the North and South poles melt, they are causing sea levels to rise. All over the globe, flowers and trees are budding earlier, and butterflies and birds are shifting their ranges because of rising temperatures. A warming planet causes weather to become more extreme. Scientists predict that climate change will bring more heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires to places where humans live. Climate change will also affect our food supply, as crops, pests, and pollinators respond to rising temperatures. Global inequality puts the most vulnerable people—such as low-income communities and people of color—at the highest risk of suffering from a changing climate.

## What can we do to take action?

One of the most important ways we can make an impact on climate change at home and in our communities is to create fewer greenhouse gases. This means lowering our energy use overall by driving less, eating more plants and less meat, conserving water, and making our homes more energy efficient. Producing new things requires energy, so we can buy less new stuff and reuse and recycle our old stuff. We can talk about climate change with our friends and neighbors and make sure they know where to find reliable sources of science-based information. We can hold companies accountable. We can tell our leaders in local, state, and national governments that we expect them to take the health of our planet seriously. Climate change is the biggest challenge we face today. But when one person, one person, and one person come together, we can do the work required to change our planet for the better.



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# Discussion Questions

- \* Text at the beginning of the book states: "Our planet has spun through eons of time. Mere moments ago, we arrived." What is the author saying here about human life on Earth?
- \* Look closely at the fourth double page spread in the book that shows groups of people moving from the left to the right across the pages. How does the illustration convey the passage of time?
- \* Find the two sections of the book with the text: "But when one person, and one person, and one person become many, they can change a planet." How do the illustrations depict two very different interpretations of that same line of text?
- \* A line in the book says, "Our planet seems big, but it needs us." How can we help our planet? Make a list and post it prominently in your classroom or home.
- \* Small things, like a single molecule of carbon dioxide or a single person, seem insignificant, but when they multiply, they do much more together—in good ways and in bad ways. How does this idea play out over the course of the book?
- \* One of the most important things we can do to tackle climate change is talk about it with the people in our lives. Who can you talk to about climate change and what will you share with them?

## Meet the Author and Illustrator

**CHRISTINA SOONTORNVAT** is a two-time Newbery Award honoree, Sibert Award honoree, and former science educator. She holds a BS in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in science education. She spent a decade working in the science museum field, where she designed programs and exhibits to get kids excited about science and STEM. Christina lives in Austin, Texas, with her family. Learn more at [soontornvat.com](http://soontornvat.com).



Sam Bond Photography, 2019

**RAHELE JOMEPOUR BELL** is the illustrator of *Our Favorite Day of the Year*, *Playdate*, *Book's Big Adventure*, and other acclaimed picture books. She immigrated to the United States from Iran in 2011 to pursue her dream of studying art at Iowa State University, where she received her MFA in integrated visual arts. Learn more at [rahelestudio.com](http://rahelestudio.com).



Rahele Jomepour Bell



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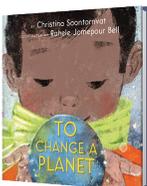
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# Our Only Home

Helping our planet starts with loving it. What is one place or living thing on Earth that you love and want to help protect? Draw a picture. Where and how could you share your picture to inspire others to protect that place or thing?



A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture related to the prompt.



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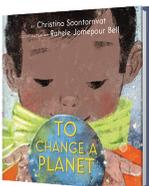
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# Write a Letter for Our Planet

Use your voice to help our planet. Write a letter to your local newspaper, an elected official, your principal, or a local business owner about an issue important to you, and encourage them to take action. Cut out your letter and mail it!



A series of horizontal blue lines for writing a letter, starting below a dashed cut line and ending above another dashed cut line.



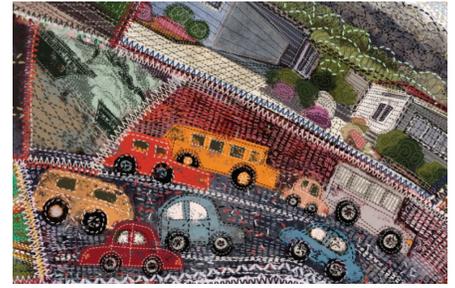
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# Blanket of Hope

Excessive greenhouse gases trap heat in our planet's atmosphere like a too-warm blanket. Design a quilt that shows images of a healthy Earth—a vision of what's possible if we work together to change our planet for the better.






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