

A Case of Sense

While Ming plays outside one summer day, the smell of delicious food fills the air. It is coming from greedy Fu Wang's house. "What is he up to?" wonders Ming. To his alarm, Fu Wang demands that all the neighbors pay him for the pleasant smells. When the neighbors refuse, the case goes to court. How will the judge rule in this unusual case and will justice be served? Can Fu Wang make money from the neighbors' sense of smell? A wise judge makes use of another sense to close the case with clever and convincing logic.



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Thanks to Rachel Carpenter, Education Manager of The Children's Discovery Museum of Normal, IL, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

The For Creative Minds includes

- ° Senses
- ° Sme
- * Match the Sound
- ° Diffusion

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Songju Ma Daemicke grew up in Jilin, China, where she enjoyed listening to the stories her grandparents told. Songju moved to the United States in 1996. After obtaining a master's degree in computer science, she worked as a software engineer until her twin daughters were born. Songju has always excelled in math and has recently gravitated back to her early love of literature and stories. Her debut picture book, A Case of Sense is inspired by a folktale her grandfather told her as a child. Songju lives in Illinois with her husband and their daughters. Visit her website at www.songjumadaemicke.com.

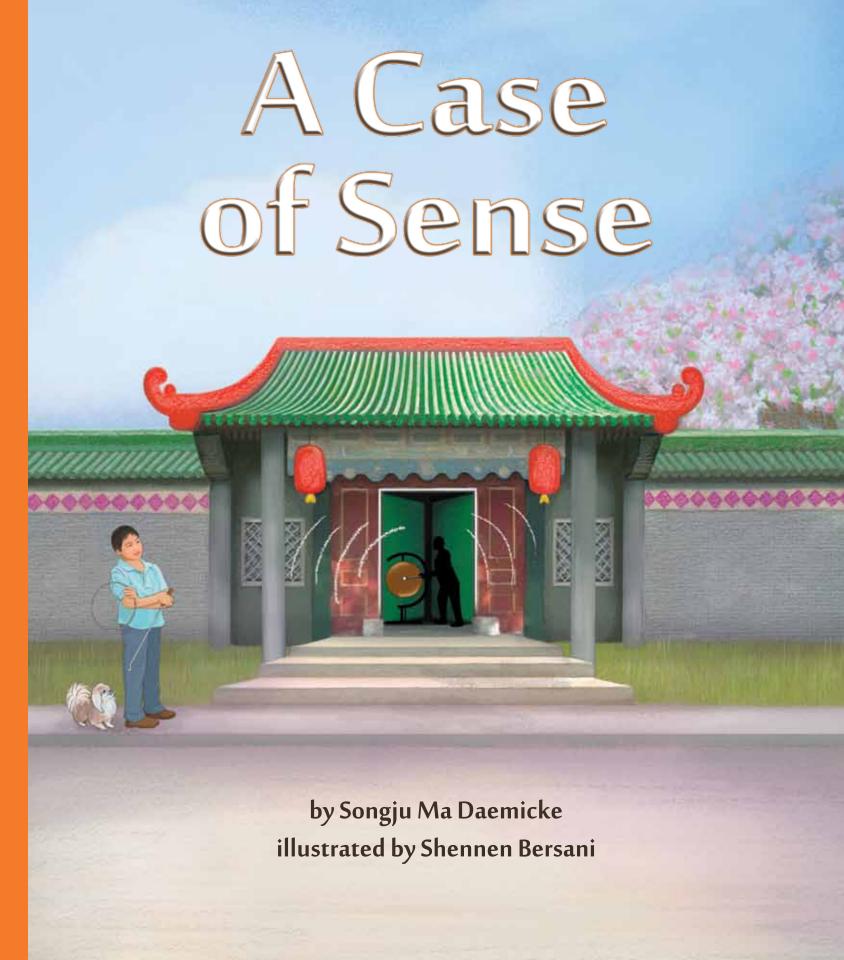
Shennen Bersani is an award-winning illustrator with 2 million copies of her books cherished and read by children, parents, and teachers throughout the world. Her art delivers heartfelt emotion, the wonders of nature and science, and creates a unique joy for learning. Some of Shennen's other illustrated works include Animal Partners; Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Gooey and Under the Sea; Shark Baby; Home in the Cave; Astro: The Steller Sea Lion; The Glaciers are Melting!, Once Upon an Elephant, The Shape Family Babies; and Salamander Season for Arbordale. She is also the author and illustrator of Achoo! Why Pollen Counts. Shennen lives with her family near Boston. Visit her website at www.shennenbersani.com.

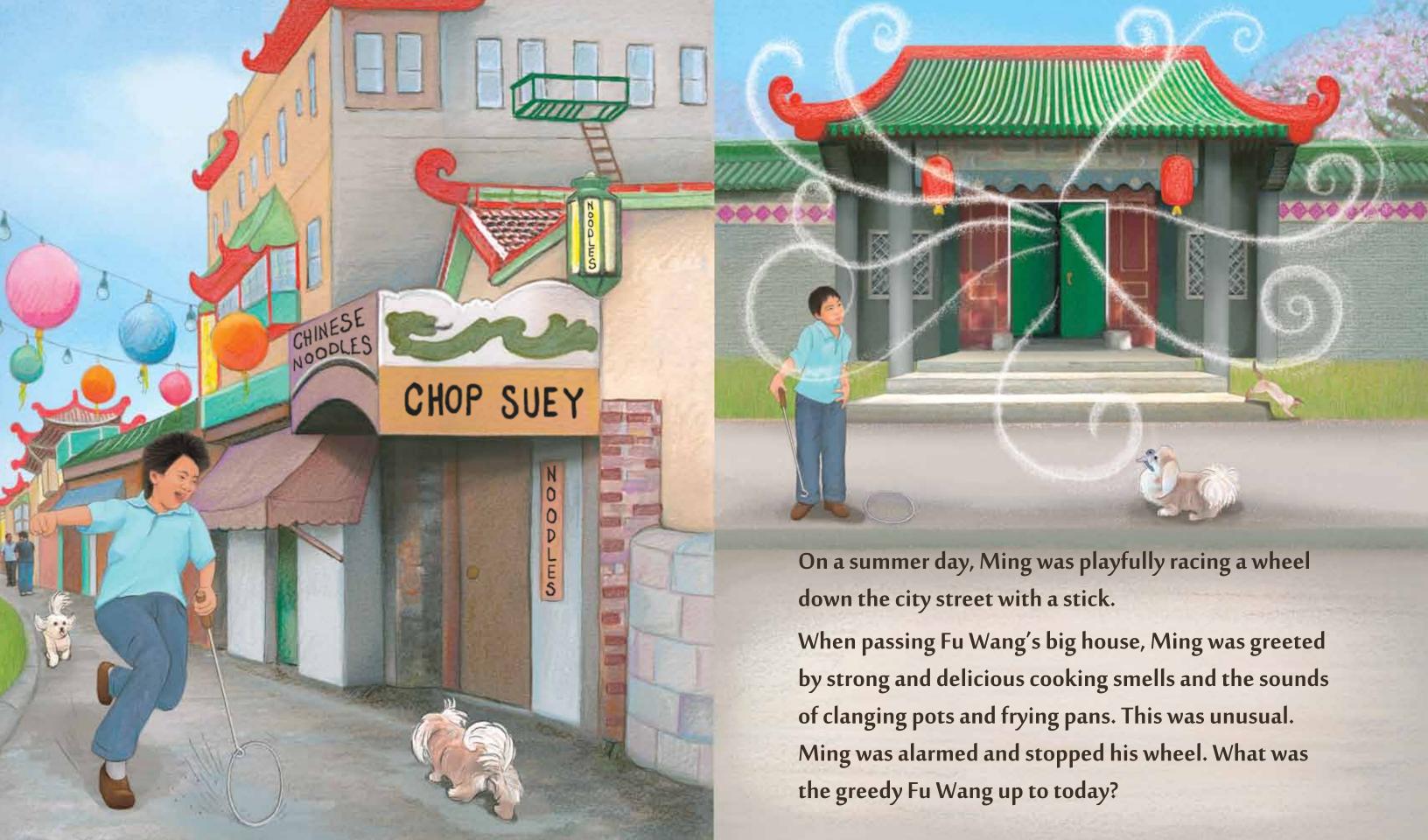


Songju Ma Daemicke



Shennen Bersani





Suddenly, a loud cry flew out. "Neighbors, your attention please! We are cooking eight wonderful dishes for you today!" The gong sounded.

Bong!

"Steamed Fish!"

Bong!

"Fried Shrimp!"



"Beef Stew!"

Bong!

"Kungpao Chicken!" Bong!

Ming soon recognized the voice as that of Fu Wang.

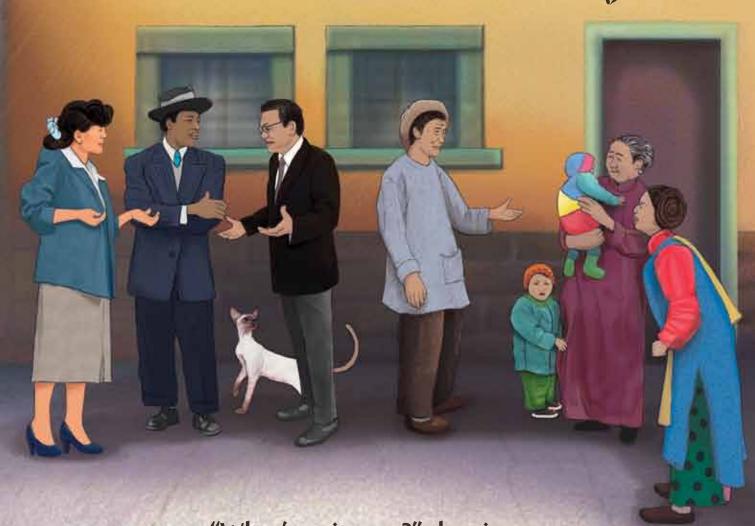
"Dumplings!" Bong!

"Spicy Noodles!" Bong!

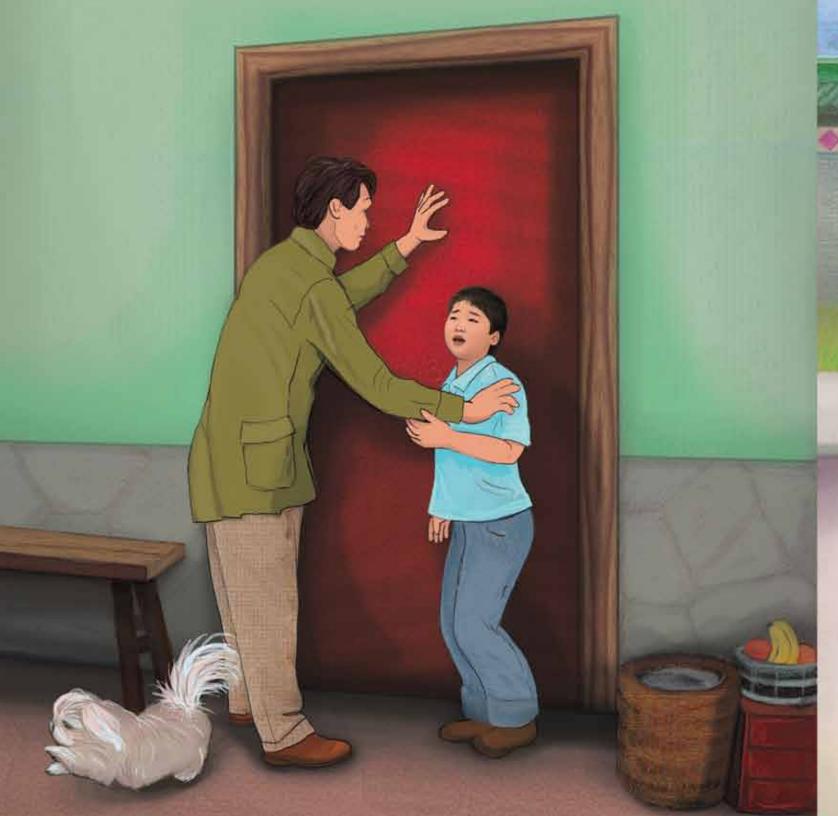
"Chicken with Mushrooms!"

Bong!

"Bok Choy!"



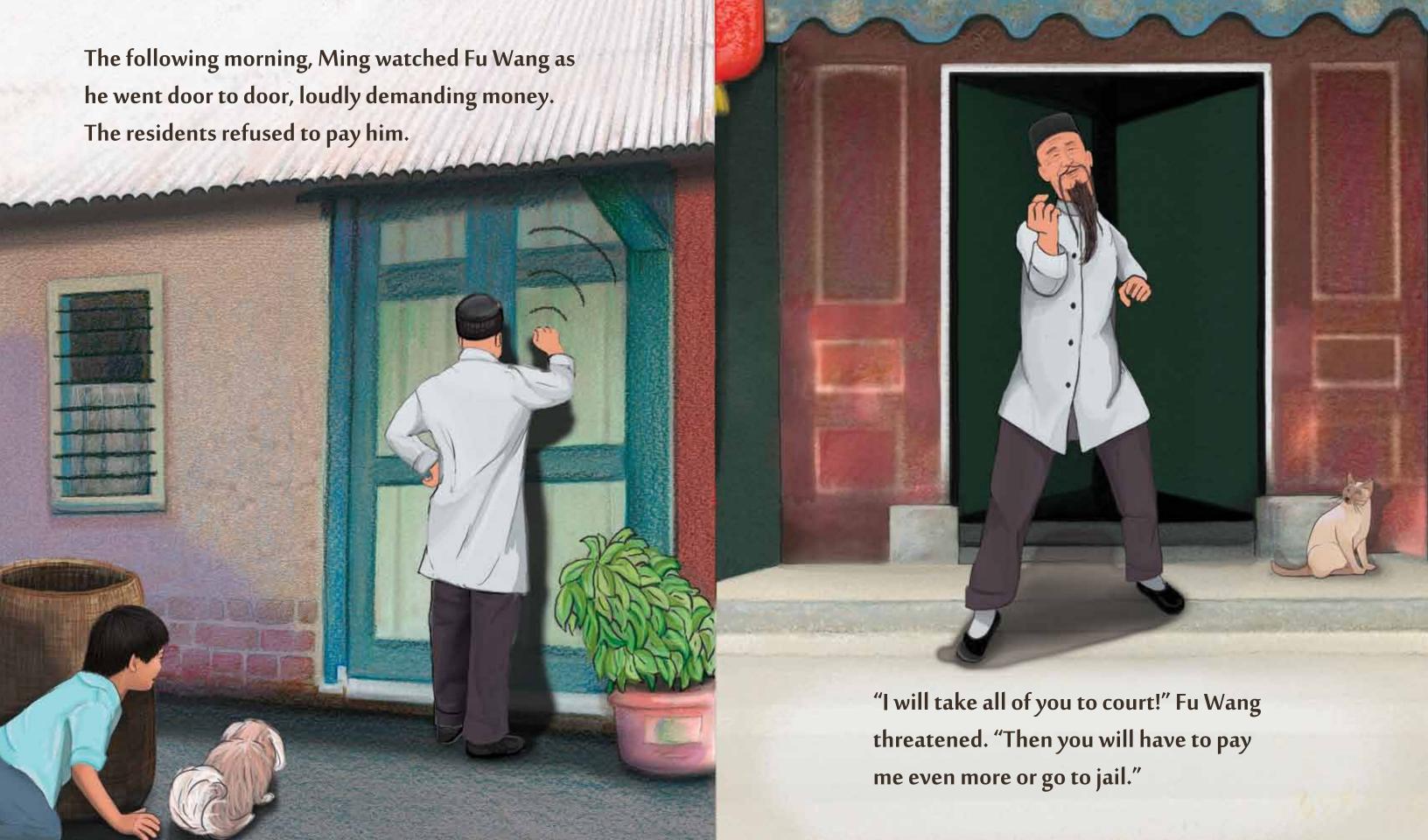
"What's going on?" the city folk questioned each other. Ming's father rushed over. He dragged him back home and closed the door behind them.





Later that afternoon, Fu Wang's voice was heard again. "Neighbors, an important announcement! I have prepared the wonderful aromas of many fine dishes today for your enjoyment. Tomorrow morning, I will collect forty cents per family as payment. Have your money ready!"

Ming now understood Fu Wang's greedy purpose.



For Creative Minds

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Senses

People learn about the world around them through senses. There are five senses that most people share: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Some people have senses that work differently (many people wear glasses to help their sense of sight) or have fewer than five senses.

Match the senses to the body part.

ears

eyes

nose

skin

tongue

The sense of taste can detect five flavors: sweet, sour, bitter, salty, and umami (savory or meaty). These five flavors can combine in many different ways.

The sense of smell detects tiny particles (molecules) that travel through the air. The brain interprets these as scent.

The sense of touch can feel different textures, pressure, pain, vibration, and temperature.

The sense of sight uses light to detect color and movement.

The sense of hearing picks up vibrations that travel through the air. The brain translates these vibrations into sound.

Match the Sound

Match the sound with its source.

ham hark bong clink-clank knock meow













Smell

What objects on this page have a strong smell? What objects have little or no smell?





What objects on this page do you think would smell good?
Are there any that you think would smell bad?





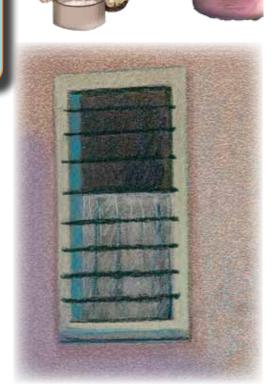
How can you describe smells? What words would you use to tell someone what something smells like or to compare two different smells?





What can you smell from a distance? What things do you have to be close to in order to smell?







When Fu Wang asked his cooks to prepare many delicious meals, the smell spread out the windows and down the street. Soon all the neighbors in the city could smell the food. This is called diffusion.

Diffusion is when something spreads out from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration. Smell is carried by molecules in the air. The smell of Fu Wang's food was highly concentrated in the kitchen, where the cooks were working. The molecules spread out of the kitchen and down the street, to areas of lower concentration. Eventually a smell diffuses so much that it is barely noticeable.



Diffusion in action

You can observe diffusion by adding food coloring to liquid and watching how it spreads.

For this process you will need:

- bowl
- food coloring
- water

Pour water into your bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring. Watch what happens and write down your observations.

After you are finished observing, pour the water down the drain.

Think about it: Would the colors diffuse the same way in different liquids, like syrup, milk, or a smoothie? What if you added soap or oil along with the food coloring? Come up with more questions about diffusion. Create your own experiments to test your hypotheses.

To both my grandpa and my late parents. My grandpa planted the seed of this story in my mind and my father instilled the love of the storytelling in me when I was a little girl!—SMD

To my cousin, Dorothy Hartnett, whose weekly phone call keeps me connected to my roots. Love ya, Cuz.—SB

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Daemicke, Songju Ma, author. | Bersani, Shennen, illustrator. Title: A case of sense / by Songju Ma Daemicke : illustrated by Shennen Bersani.

Description: Mount Pleasant, SC: Arbordale Publishing, 2016. | Summary: When greedy Fu Wang takes his neighbors to court for enjoying the aroma of food he had prepared, a wise judge inspires young Ming to become a judge himself, one day. Includes activities.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016018815 (print) | LCCN 2016019516 (ebook) | ISBN 9781628558524 (english hardcover) | ISBN 9781628558531 (english pbk.) | ISBN 9781628558555 (english downloadable ebook) | ISBN 9781628558579 (english interactive dual-language ebook) | ISBN 9781628558548 (spanish pbk.) | ISBN 9781628558562 (spanish downloadable ebook) | ISBN 9781628558586 (spanish interactive dual-language ebook) | ISBN 9781628558555 (English Download) | ISBN 9781628558579 (Eng. Interactive) | ISBN 9781628558562 (Spanish Download) | ISBN 9781628558586 (Span.

Subjects: | CYAC: Greed--Fiction. | Wisdom--Fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.D23 Cas 2016 (print) | LCC PZ7.1.D23 (ebook) | DDC

[E]--dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016018815

Translated into Spanish: Un caso con sentido común

Lexile® Level: AD 550L

Keywords: civics, community, logic, senses (hearing, smell), diffusion



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> Arbordale Publishing Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 www.ArbordalePublishing.com



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