

# SHARON FUJIMOTO-JOHNSON

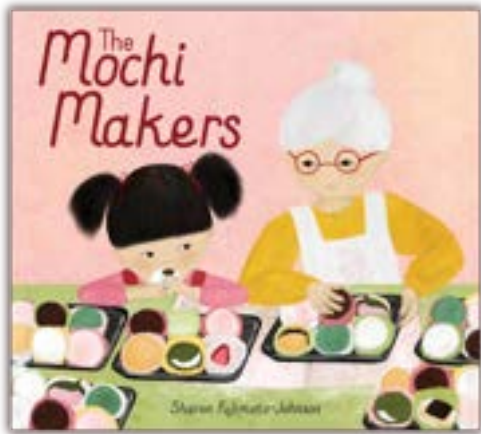
CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR

## ABOUT SHARON FUJIMOTO-JOHNSON

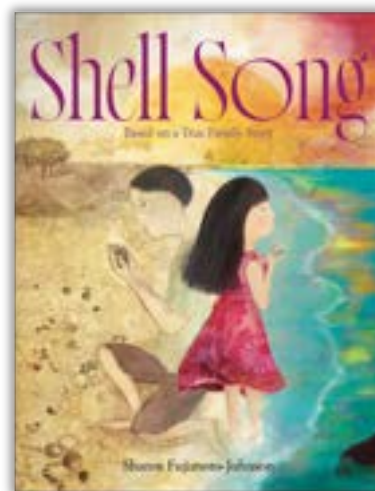
Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson is a children's book author-illustrator and fourth generation Japanese American. She grew up in both America and Japan. She now lives in California in a house filled with three generations of family, two languages, and countless books and art supplies.



Her books include THE MOCHI MAKERS (Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane Books, 2024), a gentle and joyous “storytelling treat” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) and SHELL SONG (Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane Books, 2025), inspired by the seashells her grandfather collected in a Japanese American incarceration camp in Hawai'i during World War II.



Kirkus Reviews, starred review



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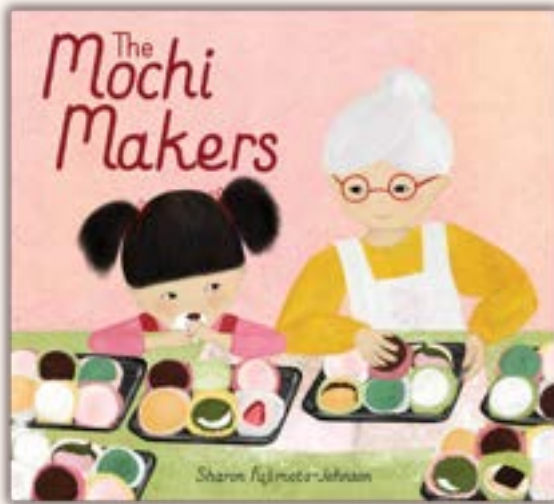
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# THE MOCHI MAKERS

## PICTURE BOOK



### ***The Mochi Makers by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson***

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane Books

Publication: March 19, 2024

Length: 40 pages

Trim: 11" x 10"

ISBN13: 9781665931540

Age range: 4-8

Retail: USD\$18.99



**Kirkus Reviews, starred review**

## ABOUT THE MOCHI MAKERS

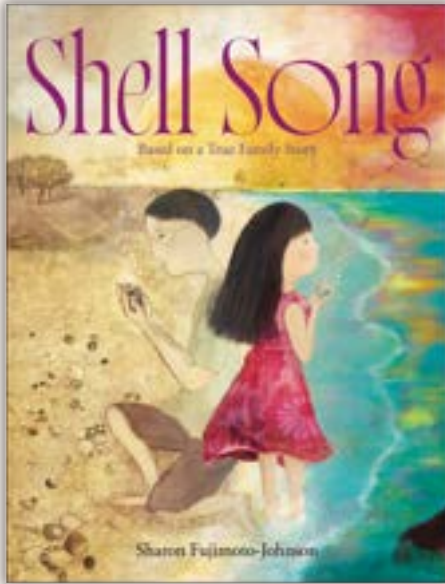
"Each step of this tasty story glows with joy and kindness, punctuated by rich sensory language.... A storytelling treat to be savored among family." – **Kirkus Reviews, starred review**

A girl and her grandmother spend the day making mochi together in this gentle and joyous story celebrating family, tradition, and the memories that matter most. It's a recipe that's been passed down for generations. Obaachan brought it with her when she first came to America from Japan and now, Emi is about to become her family's newest mochi maker!

- Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) **2024 Best of the Best Booklist**
- Kirkus Reviews: starred review
- 2025 Golden Poppy Awards **finalist** (California Independent Booksellers Alliance)
- 2025 Georgia Children's Book Awards **finalist** (Mary Frances College of Education, University of Georgia)
- Cooperative Children's Book Center **CHOICES 2025** (School of Education, University of Wisconsin - Madison)
- **Best Books of 2024** Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

# SHELL SONG

## PICTURE BOOK



### Shell Song by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane Books

Publication: April 15, 2025

Length: 48 pages

Trim: 8.5" x 11"

ISBN13: 9781665938679

Age range: 4-8

Retail: USD\$19.99



### ABOUT SHELL SONG

Based on the author's true family history, this picture book about Japanese American incarceration in Hawai'i during World War II is a moving tribute to the importance of finding and collecting pieces of hope, big or small, even in the darkest of times.

Grandfather loved music, seashells, and the sound of the ocean in Hawai'i. But when war came, there was no more music. And in this war, there was no kindness for anyone who looked Japanese. Taken to an island prison, Grandfather passed many long, lonely days away from his family searching for tiny seashells. He collected the shells, labelled them, and saved them with care. His collection has been passed down to his children and grandchildren, and now, author-illustrator Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson tells the story of her grandfather and his shells.

**"Both a story of historical memory and family through generations and a cautionary tale, *Shell Song* will be enjoyed by children and by their parents and grandparents alike."**

**— BRIAN NIIYA, DENSHO**



# PRESS

## ABOUT SHARON FUJIMOTO-JOHNSON & HER BOOKS

### Discover Nikkei | Show and Tell: Sharing the Shells of Her Family Story with Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson

"Rooted in personal family history, Fujimoto-Johnson shares the tale of her grandfather, simultaneously raising much-needed awareness toward one side of the complicated Japanese American experience during World War II."

### The Bright Agency Blog | Behind the Book: Shell Song

"While this book shares an important and overlooked event in history, it's both a touching and emotional family story of remembrance and inheritance."

### JANM Bookstore Blog | Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson's "Shell Song" Bridges Generations Through Art and History

"They say you can't judge a book by its cover, but *Shell Song*, written and illustrated by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson, proves them wrong. *Shell Song*'s jacket is breathtaking; a visual promise of beauty and depth."

### Review: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

"[T]his harrowing picture book manages to capture both the cruelty of humanity and the beauty of nature, emphasizing the idea that the latter will always outweigh the former. The shell makes a particularly good metaphor, scooped out of life and seemingly empty but filled with beauty and music if one is willing to spend a bit more time with it."

### Publishers Weekly

"Images of the author's grandfather's shells and fabric textures from familial garments anchor airbrush-like illustrations of the family in a simply told, inheritance-focused narrative from Fujimoto-Johnson..."

### Sactown Magazine: "A Hunger for Healing"

A Roseville cancer survivor reflects on the restorative power of writing and illustrating her debut children's tale, *The Mochi Makers*. In this case, a picture book is worth a thousand words.

### Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"*The Mochi Makers*: a storytelling treat to be savored among family"

### Behind the Book: The Mochi Makers

"So much of this story takes place in Obaachan's kitchen, so I wanted to include elements that one might find in a typical Japanese American kitchen—such as my own kitchens."

# APPEARANCES

## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

**Honouliuli National Historic Site 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speaker Series**

**Bishop Museum Event: SHELL SONG reading + shell activities**

**Bound by Memory: Japanese American Museum of San Jose**

**2025 Oshogatsu Festival at the Japanese American National Museum**

**2025 Sacramento Book Festival**

**2025 San Jose Obon Festival**

**2025 AAPI Joy at the Los Angeles Public Library**

**2025 “Mochi Madness” at the Buddhist Church of Florin**

**2024 Davis Cherry Blossom Festival**

**2024 American Library Association Annual Conference**

**2024 Tomodachi Gakko 40th summer camp**

**2024 Lincoln Library Book Festival**

Many bookstores and schools

