



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

CHERRY MO

Chinese American

Author and Illustrator

CALDECOTT Honor Book (2025)

Born: date unknown (Hong Kong)

Cherry grew up in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States at age ten. She was a very shy girl. Cherry's parents supported her for six years to take a break from pursuing art to figure out her path in life. To help get her first book deal, Cherry joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, took a children's book course from Children's Book Academy, and signed up with an agent. She then published her debut picture book titled *Home in a Lunchbox* (2024). It is based on her own experience of moving from Hong Kong to America as a child. The book earned the Caldecott Honor Book in 2025. Cherry hopes her stories will bring a sense of comfort and belonging to young readers.