



Justine Ong (SFSU 2023)

ALLEN SAY

(James Allen Koichi Moriwaki Seii)

Japanese and Korean American

Author and Illustrator

CALDECOTT MEDAL (1994) and Honor Book (1989)

Born: August 28, 1937 (Yokohama, Japan)

Allen's mother was a Japanese American raised in California. His father was a Korean orphan adopted by an English family. Allen was raised in Shanghai, China. The parents divorced when he was eight years old. Four years later, he left with his father for California. Comic books inspired Allen to draw and tell stories. He won many awards for his twenty-plus books, including the Caldecott Honor Book for illustrating *The Boy of the Three-Year Nap* (1988). In 1994, Allen's *Grandfather's Journey* (1993) became the first APIA-themed picture book to receive the Caldecott Medal.