

## Press Kit for Benson Shum, Children's Book Author & Illustrator – January, 2024

This Press kit for Benson Shum contains the following items:

- High resolution headshot
- High resolution book covers
- Author Biography
- Book info
- Contact info

If additional materials are needed, please contact me at [Benson.shum@gmail.com](mailto:Benson.shum@gmail.com)

### Author Biography:

Benson Shum is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. He uses watercolor and ink to create his illustrations. His books, *Anzu the Great Listener* and *Anzu the Great Kaiju* were selected as Kid's Indie Next List Recommend by the American Booksellers Association (ABA) and awarded for Outstanding Achievement in Social Emotional Literature (SEL) by the Children's Literature Council of Southern California (CLCSC).

Aside from writing and illustrating, Benson is also an Animator at the Walt Disney Animation Studios, where he was a part of such films as *Frozen*, *Big Hero 6*, *Zootopia*, *Moana*, *Frozen 2*, *Encanto* and *Wish*. Originally from Vancouver, BC, Benson now lives in sunny southern California.

### Book Info:

#### MOONCAKE MEANS FAMILY

*Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with this sweet story of food and family! In this story designed to engage early readers, charming characters combine with simple text, lively illustrations, and laugh-out-loud humor to help boost kids' confidence and create lifelong readers!*

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Early Reader

Hardcover & Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House (July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

ISBN-13: 978-0593658840 (Hardcover), 978-0593658833 (Paperback)

#### IMAGINE YOU AND ME

*This gentle story —with a surprise twist!— celebrates the beauty and magic of adventures with friends, both imaginary and real.*

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Picture Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Dial Books/Penguin Random House (January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024)

ISBN-13: 978-0593617069

"This gentle, matter-of-fact tale will appeal to children longing to make new friends but a bit uncertain about doing so . . . A thoughtful look at making new friends." —*Kirkus*

### **FIRST NIGHT OF HOWLERGARTEN**

***First-day-of-school jitters take on a whole new meaning at howlergarten, where future werewolves prepare for their big transformation!***

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Picture Book

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House (August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

ISBN-13: 978-0593521274

"A feel-good story of solidarity and acceptance, this first day (or night) of school story offers the lesson that things are not always as they appear."

—*School Library Journal*

"A playful, funny, and heartfelt tale to soothe the back-to-school blues." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Readers drawn in by the supernatural elements at play will stick around for a feel-good story line that involves very human concerns."

" —*Publishers Weekly*

"[A]n empathetic telling of first-day jitters with a diverse cast of young werewolves...reinforces the axiom to accept and celebrate differences." —*The Bulletin of Center for Children's Books (BCCB)*

### **CINDY AND PANDA**

***For fans of Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers comes a perfectly baked story about the messy delight of baking and making new friends.***

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Picture Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books/HarperCollins (May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

ISBN-13: 978-0063248182

"A simple tale of friendship that's as sweet as pie."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Child baker Cindy likes "to do things her own way," but friendship encourages her to embrace flexibility in this winsome tale. Sweet, lively, *Calvin and Hobbes*-like exuberance in Shum's watercolor and ink scenes. A pie recipe concludes"

—*Publisher's Weekly*

### **ANZU THE GREAT LISTENER**

***In this follow-up to Anzu the Great Kaiju, created by Walt Disney Studios animator Benson Shum, we follow sweet and well-intentioned Anzu as he learns a valuable lesson about patience and empathy in the face of sadness—perfect for fans of The Rabbit Listened.***

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Picture Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan (Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

ISBN-13: 978-1250776136

*Selected as Kid's Indie Next List recommend Jan/Feb 2023 —American Booksellers Association (ABA)*

*"A serene tone and simply delivered lesson. . . A gentle suggestion that help should always be accompanied by respect. —Kirkus Reviews*

*"A beautiful, simple story about listening, feelings, healing, and empathy." —Booklist*

### **ANZU THE GREAT KAIJU**

***All great Kaiju are born with a superpower to strike fear in the heart of the city. But Anzu is different. Instead of mayhem, he likes May flower. Instead of striking fear, he prefers to be sincere. Can Anzu find a way to make his family proud and stay true to his kind self?***

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Picture Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan (Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

ISBN-13: 978-1250776129

*Selected as Kid's Indie Next List recommend 2022 —American Booksellers Association (ABA)*

*Selected for 2023 Little Maverick Graphic Reading list —Texas Library Association*

*Selected as 2022 Best Book for Kids and Teen —Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC)*

*Outstanding Achievement in Social Emotional Literature (SEL) Award – Children's Literature Council of Southern California (CLCSC)*

★ *"It's a pleasure to see the monster myth once again turned on its head. Spoiler alert: Goofy, loving monster makes good on his proclivities for joy, and wins his parents' approval along the way. It's a triumph, all right." — School Library Journal, starred review*

## ALEX'S GOOD FORTUNE

*Celebrate Chinese New Year with this sweet story of friendship and family!*

*In this story designed to engage early readers, charming characters combine with simple text, lively illustrations, and laugh-out-loud humor to help boost kids' confidence and create lifelong readers!*

Written & Illustrated by Benson Shum

Genre: Early Reader

Hardcover & Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House (December 29th, 2020)

ISBN-13: 978-0593222942 (Hardcover), 978-0593222935 (Paperback)

*Selected for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, 2022 & 2023*

*"Shum leads readers through the children's day, teaching cultural outsiders about traditions and symbolism, and sharing familiar details with cultural insiders. Alex's good fortune is that she gets to share this joyful day with Ethan, and vice versa" —Booklist*

### Contact Info:

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