



# A Conversation with Songju Ma Daemicke

Author of  
*A Case of Sense*

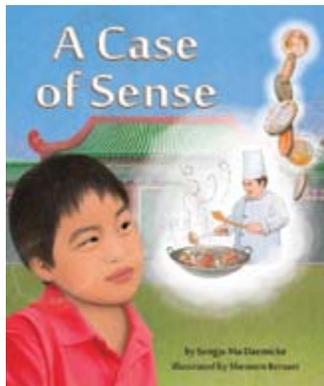
*What was your incentive to write this particular book?*

Like all parents over time, I have had to try to answer all sorts of curious questions based in nature and science from my three daughters, such as: “How do fish sleep in the water?”, “Why is the sky blue?”, and “Why can I see people on TV?” Sometimes I had to do some research before I could answer my daughters’ queries. I often wished there was a book series that directly explained some of these general science concepts. My husband, Dale, suggested one day that I try to write a series of stories myself. I got excited by this idea and responded, “I will name the series *The Curious Mind*.”

Not long afterward I discovered the “For Creative Minds” section, which I consider wonderful. They are not only educational, but very interesting too. We read all the books we could find in our library. It occurred to me, however, that there were many other scientific subjects that could be covered. I started to think about to write one myself. This story then came to mind.

*Were there any funny circumstances while writing your book?*

My family often comments and laughs as to a very funny phrase we all see almost daily on a picture window at a local Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches shop in downtown Glenview. The establishment offers “Free Smells” in large colorful letters. This humorous advertising gimmick inspired me to rekindle the ideas used in my story.

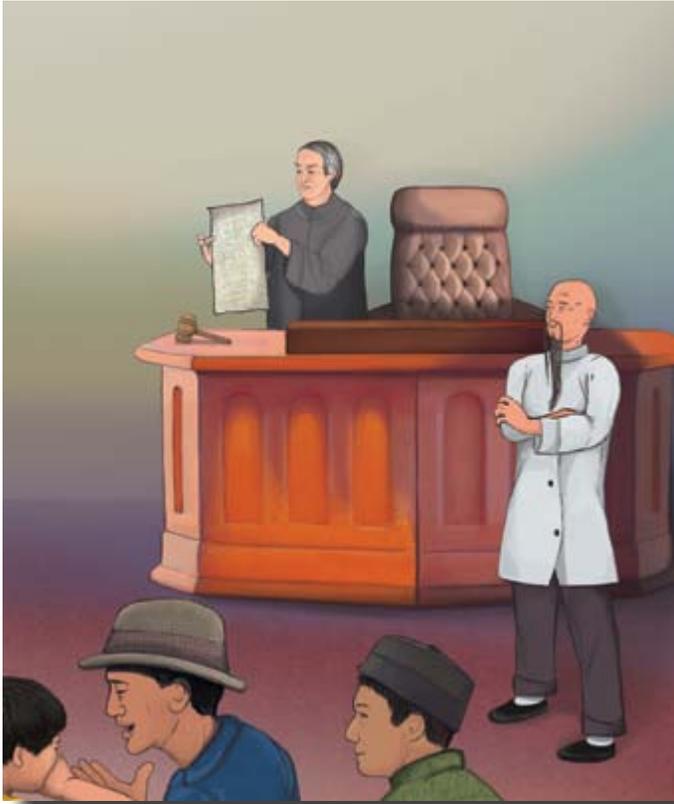


*When did you become interested in writing?*

I enjoyed reading classic and epic poetry while young and throughout my youth. I became interested in writing myself a few years ago. I realized that I could write stories as interesting as the ones we were getting from the library. I enrolled in some local library-sponsored writing classes and was further stimulated by all the writers I met. We all seemed to share a love of writing.

## *When are you most creative?*

At night I sometimes have a hard time falling asleep, while relaxing in bed and allowing my mind to wander, a lot of ideas make their way into my thoughts. I try to write them down to explore later.



## *What is most rewarding about writing children's books?*

I was happy with the end result of this story. I feel I have successfully introduced some interesting scientific concepts into a fun story that young children can enjoy. The logic used by the judge at the end illustrates some interesting scientific concepts while also being fun. I think children also will enjoy that the bully of the story gets his deserved comeuppance at the end.

## *Do you have any advice for parents about reading?*

I strongly feel that reading with your children

and making the experience a fun one is the best way to stimulate them to read more, explore more, and learn more. I try to mix up our family reading by directing my girls to get at least one non-fiction book each time we visit the library. I don't want them to only read fictionalized things that are escapist or fun.

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