

Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*



Chapter 1 (p. 7-20)

1. Legend had it that the Monkey King was born of _____.
2. Over what kingdom did the Monkey King rule?
3. What are the 4 major heavenly disciplines?
4. What are the 4 disciplines pre-requisites for?
(Pre-requisite = _____)
5. Why was the Monkey King not allowed at the party?
6. What does the Monkey King say to the guests at the party?

7. What does the Monkey King notice for the first time?
8. When the Monkey King stays up all night, what does he think about?
9. How would you characterize the Monkey King at the beginning of this chapter and at the end?
10. What is the message of the parable?

Chapter 2 (p. 23-40)

1. What secret does the herbalist tell Jin?
2. What do we learn about Jin's life in San Francisco compared to his life at the new school?
3. What rumor do the children spread about Jin and Suzy Nakamura?
4. What do you notice about the drawing of the boy who calls Jin "bucktooth"? Why would the author do this?



5. Who is Jin's first friend at the new school?
6. Why does Jin say, "Something made me want to beat him up"?
7. Aside from being Chinese and new students, what do Jin and Wei Chen have in common?
8. What are some of the stereotypes that emerge in this chapter?



Chapter 3 (p. 43-52)

1. How is the first page of this chapter like a television show?
2. What upsets Danny?
3. What stereotypes appear in this chapter about Danny and Chin Kee?

Chapter 4 (Monkey King) (p. 55-84)

1. What order did the Monkey issue the morning after the dinner party?
2. What are the 4 major disciplines of invulnerability?
3. What are the 4 major disciplines of bodily form?
4. What notice does the Monkey King receive from Heaven?
5. What is the Monkey King's new name?
6. In what ways has the Monkey King changed his appearance?
7. What does the Monkey King do for each king or deity who laughs at him?
8. Who is Tze-Yo-Tzuh?
9. How does the author make it seem like the Monkey King is flying off the panels of the pages?
10. Why does the Monkey King carve his name on and then urinate on one of the Five Pillars?
11. When the Monkey King returns from his travels, what does he learn?
12. What is the Monkey King's punishment for showing disrespect to Tze-Yo-Tzuh?

Chapter 5 (Jin) (p. 87-106)

1. Who is Amelia Harris?
2. What is an F.O.B.?
3. Even though Jin speaks English, in what way is Wei Chen fitting in better than Jin?
4. What do the following visual representations mean?
 - Dotted lines?
 - Jagged lines?
 - Clouds?
5. What name does Wei Chen call Jin?
6. What does Jin do to fit in better?
7. What do the blurry panels at the end of this chapter suggest about Jin's state of mind?

Chapter 6 (Chin Kee) (p. 109-130)

1. What stereotypes emerge in this chapter?
2. What does Chin Kee do to Steve's coke?

3. Why exactly does Danny receive detention?
4. How does Danny feel about Chin Kee? How do you know?
5. Why does Chin Kee come to visit Danny?
6. Why does Danny react badly when Steve offers to buy him a coke?
7. What similarities exist between Jin and Danny?

Jin



Danny



Chapter 7 (Monkey King) (p. 133-160)

1. What is special about Lai-Tsao? How does he treat people?
2. Upon what mission is Lai-Tsao sent?
3. What does legend say about the flesh of a holy man?
4. What is the only way that the Monkey King can escape his prison of rocks?
5. Why does the Monkey King finally decide to “release” himself from the rocks?
6. What symbolic gesture does the Monkey King finally make that signals his acceptance of his identity as a monkey?

Chapter 8 (Jin) (p. 163-198)

1. What do the different shapes of the word bubbles signify in the opening pages?
2. What is Jin trying to get Wei Chen to do for him?
3. How does Amelia get soap bubbles on her shoulder?

4. On page 175, why are the panels of Amelia and Wei Chen separated from the panel with the rest of the class?

5. What does Greg ask Jin to do?

6. Why does the author use lightning bolts around Jin?

7. Why is Suzy upset?

8. Why is Jin mean to Wei Chen?

9. Why does Jin dream about the herbalist's wife?

10. What does Jin "transform" into?



Chapter 9 (p. 201-233)

1. What is Chin Kee's true identity?
2. What is Danny's true identity?
3. What is Wei Chen's true identity?
4. For how many years was Wei Chen to live among mortals?
5. What was the Monkey King's real job?
6. Why does the Monkey King tell Jin, "...I would have saved myself from five hundred years' imprisonment beneath a mountain of rock had I only realized how good it is to be a monkey"? What point is the Monkey King trying to make?
7. Why does Jin keep going to the Chinese bakery?
8. How does the story end?