



***AMERICAN BORN CHINESE* by Gene Luen Yang**

First Second, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2006

ISBN: 9781250811899 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 12-18

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**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

A tour-de-force by *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.

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**REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

"The art blends the clean lines of anime with a bold American palette. Yang is equally adept at depicting a high school cafeteria and the Monkey King's fantastical realm." —*New York Times*

"...brilliantly written and designed, sophisticated and wise." —*The Miami Herald*

"...one of the most powerful and entertaining works of literature to be published this year..." — *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Yang's crisp line drawings, linear panel arrangement, and muted colors provide a strong visual complement to the textual narrative. Like Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Laurence Yep's *Dragonwings*, this novel explores the impact of the American dream on those outside the dominant culture in a finely wrought story that is an effective combination of humor and drama." —*School Library Journal*

"The stories have a simple, engaging sweep to them, but their weighty subjects—shame, racism, and friendship—receive thoughtful, powerful examination." —*Booklist*

"This much-anticipated, affecting story about growing up different is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood: it's a fable for every kid born into a body and a life they wished they could escape." —*Publisher's Weekly*

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“Compositions are tidy and the palette is softly muted, so that even the strongest colors in the action scenes never reach the intensity of a visual assault. Kids fighting an uphill battle to convince parents and teachers of the literary merit of graphic novels will do well to share this title.” —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

“The artwork is clean and distinctive, with varying panel styles and inking that is visually appealing. The Cousin Chin-Kee story line is extremely hyperbolic and at times difficult to read, as it embraces the most extreme negative Chinese stereotypes, but it displays some of the difficulties in perception faced by young Chinese Americans. This graphic novel could be especially cathartic for teens and adults of Asian descent, but people of any ethnicity would find themselves reflected in the universal themes of self-acceptance, peer pressure, and racial tensions.”  
—VOYA

“A National Book Award finalist and ALA's Printz Award winner, this fable stars the mythological Monkey King, realistic youngster Jin Wang of Taiwanese parentage, and TV sitcom teen Danny... Finally, the three stories suddenly merge, to center on Jin coming to terms with his minority experience and moving beyond his own fear and hostility. Coalescence comes almost too quickly, but the trivision approach and treatment are unique and moving.” —*Library Journal*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Michael L. Printz Award - Medal
- National Book Awards Finalist
- Chinese American Librarians Association Best Book Award
- Eisner Award Winner
- Harvey Award
- CYBIL Award
- NYPL Books for the Teen Age
- Reuben Award Winner
- *School Library* Best Books of the Year
- ALA Best Books for Young Adults
- Amazon.com Best Graphic Novel of the Year
- Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year
- *Booklist* Editors' Choice
- *Booklist* Top 10 Graphic Novel for Youth
- *Library Media* Editor's Choice
- *Publisher's Weekly* Comics Week Best Comic of the Year
- *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year
- YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens
- YALSA-College Bound /Lifelong Learners
- A *TIME Magazine* Best YA Book of All Time

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Entertainment Weekly Interview with Gene Luen Yang](#)
- [School Library Journal “Graphic Novels Portray Bicultural America”](#)
- [Mackin Interview with Gene Luen Yang](#)

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- [Share a video of Gene Luen Yang](#)
- [WBUR Interview with Gene Luen Yang](#)
- [TED Radio Hour Interview with Gene Luen Yang](#)
- [Video – Why Gene Luen Yang Loves Libraries](#)

**\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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