

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website **www.lfpl.org**. A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog by typing **Book Discussion Kit Young Adult** at the title prompt.



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A Reader's Guide to
Young Adult Book
Discussion Kit
**American Born
Chinese**
By Gene Luen Yang

Xtreme Reads
Xtreme Reads
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**Young Adult Book
Discussion Kits**



All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. When his family moves to a new neighborhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese-American student at his school. Jocks and bullies pick on him constantly, and he has hardly any friends. Then, to make matters worse, he falls in love with an all-American girl...

Born to rule over all the monkeys in the world, the story of the Monkey King is one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables. Adored by his subjects, master of the arts of kung-fu, he is the most powerful monkey on earth. But the Monkey King doesn't want to be a monkey. He wants to be hailed as a god...

Chin-Kee is the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, and he's ruining his cousin Danny's life. Danny's a basketball player, a popular kid at school, but every year Chin-Kee comes to visit, and every year Danny has to transfer to a new school to escape the shame. This year, though, things quickly go from bad to worse...

These three apparently unrelated tales come together with an unexpected twist, in a modern fable that is hilarious, poignant, and action-packed.

About the Author

Gene Yang began drawing comic books in the fifth grade. In 1997, he received the Xeric Grant, a prestigious comics industry grant, for *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*, his first comics work as an adult. He has since written and drawn a number of titles, including *Duncan's Kingdom* (with art by Derek Kirk Kim) and *The Rosary Comic Book*.

He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his lovely wife and children and teaches at a Roman Catholic high school.

Awards & Recognition

2006 National Book Award
Finalist

2007 Michael L. Printz Award
Winner

Publisher Weekly's Best Books
of 2006

What the Critics Say...

"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*

"Yang helps the humor shine by using his art to exaggerate or oppose the words, creating a synthesis that marks an accomplished graphic storyteller." *Booklist*

"Gene Luen Yang has created that rare article: a youthful tale with something new to say about American youth." *New York Times Book Review*

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it would be difficult to move to a new country and try to fit in? How did Jin try to fit in at school?

2. What is a stereotype? What stereotypes do you see used in this book, especially with the character Chin-kee?

3. Why does the Monkey King insist that all the monkeys begin wearing shoes? Do you think wearing shoes helps the Monkey King achieve what he wants?

4. Have you ever wanted to be someone else? What would you change about yourself? Also, what do you like about yourself that you wouldn't want to change?

5. What lesson does the Monkey King learn that he tries to pass onto Jin?

6. This book is a graphic novel told in comic book form. How did the pictures add to the story? Do you think this story could have been told without the pictures? Why or why not?

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Re-Gifters by Mike Carey

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say