

English 7

Ms. Christina Puntel (cpuntel@philasd.org)

Supplies:

Binder with three sections

Paper (lined)

Pencils and pens

One ream of copy paper

Paper Towels (1 roll)

Tissues (2 boxes)

Hand sanitizer (1 bottle)



Read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang. Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with him. Jin just wants to be an "all-American" boy, because he's in love with an "all-American girl." Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He's ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven. But there's no place in heaven for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how can they possibly help each other? They're going to have to find a way—if they want fix the disasters their lives have become.

As you read the book: Imagine you are sitting down with the author, Gene Yuen Lang, and sharing your personal thoughts as you read so you are ready to write a letter to him when you finish reading the book.

After you read the book:

- Write a letter to Gene Luen Yang. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation rather than a book report or a fan letter.
- Share specific details both about the work and about your reaction to the work. Write honestly and from your own perspective.
- Do not summarize the book's plot! The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected you and why it did so. Only YOU can explain that unique relationship you experienced while reading the book.
- Think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the author's words. **Here are the questions you should answer in the letter:**

What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before?

What did you realize about yourself as a result of reading this book?

Why was this work meaningful to you?

How do you know the author's work influenced you?

- Type your letter, which must use at least 400 words and no more than 800 words.
- Make sure your letter includes a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name or signature. Please do not include a return address on your letter. Note: All letter elements are included in the total word count.

First day of school:

9/3/19 Bring the letter and your book to class. Supplies by 9/11/19. Be ready for a year of **transformation!**

*This assignment is based on the Letters about Literature Contest, sponsored by the Library of Congress. It might help you to see letters that have won in the past: <http://www.read.gov/letters/>