

american born chinese analysis

American Born Chinese Analysis: Unpacking Identity, Family, and Myth in Yang's Graphic Novel

Introduction:

Gene Luen Yang's groundbreaking graphic novel, *American Born Chinese*, isn't just a coming-of-age story; it's a poignant and often hilarious exploration of identity, assimilation, cultural heritage, and the enduring power of myth. This in-depth analysis dives deep into the complexities of Yang's masterpiece, examining its interwoven narratives, powerful symbolism, and lasting impact on readers. We'll explore the themes of identity crisis, the pressure to conform, the challenges of intergenerational relationships, and the transformative power of self-acceptance. This post offers a comprehensive guide for students, readers, and anyone interested in gaining a richer understanding of this award-winning graphic novel.

I. The Intertwined Narratives: A Masterclass in Storytelling

American Born Chinese masterfully weaves together three seemingly disparate narratives: the struggles of Jin Wang, a Chinese-American teenager navigating the complexities of high school; the epic journey of the Monkey King, a figure from Chinese mythology; and the story of Chin-Kee, a stereotypical and offensive caricature of an Asian character. Yang's genius lies in his ability to seamlessly connect these narratives, revealing their underlying thematic connections and highlighting the insidious nature of stereotypes. Jin's journey to self-acceptance mirrors the Monkey King's quest for recognition and power, while Chin-Kee serves as a powerful symbol of the harmful consequences of reductive representations. Analyzing these interconnected stories reveals the multifaceted nature of Asian-American identity and the constant negotiation between assimilation and cultural preservation.

II. Jin Wang's Journey: A Coming-of-Age Story Redefined

Jin Wang's narrative forms the emotional core of the graphic novel. His struggles to fit in at school, his complicated relationship with his parents, and his internal conflict between embracing his Chinese heritage and conforming to American societal norms resonate deeply with readers. Jin's experience of microaggressions, the pressure to assimilate, and his yearning for belonging highlight the challenges faced by many Asian-Americans. His eventual self-acceptance, symbolized by his embracing of his Chinese identity, offers a powerful message of hope and resilience. Analyzing Jin's character arc reveals the transformative power of self-love and the importance of celebrating one's unique heritage.

III. The Monkey King: Myth, Power, and the Pursuit of Identity

The Monkey King's story, drawn directly from Chinese mythology, provides a rich allegorical layer to the narrative. His relentless pursuit of power and

recognition mirrors Jin Wang's own desire for acceptance and belonging. The Monkey King's journey is fraught with challenges and betrayals, reflecting the obstacles faced by marginalized communities in their pursuit of equality and recognition. His eventual transformation, fueled by self-awareness and acceptance, underscores the importance of humility and understanding in achieving true power and fulfillment. Examining the Monkey King's narrative reveals the enduring relevance of ancient myths in understanding contemporary struggles with identity and social justice.

IV. Chin-Kee: The Power of Stereotypes and the Fight Against Representation

Chin-Kee's character, while initially presented as a comedic relief, functions as a powerful critique of harmful stereotypes. His exaggerated features and over-the-top behavior serve as a stark reminder of the damaging effects of reductive representations. By exposing the absurdity and offensiveness of Chin-Kee, Yang forces readers to confront the insidious nature of stereotypes and their impact on individuals and communities. The shocking revelation of Chin-Kee's true identity underscores the importance of challenging stereotypes and fighting for accurate and nuanced representation.

V. Family Dynamics and Intergenerational Trauma

American Born Chinese also delves into the complexities of family relationships, particularly the intergenerational trauma experienced by many immigrant families. Jin Wang's relationship with his parents highlights the communication barriers and cultural misunderstandings that often arise between first-generation immigrants and their American-born children. Analyzing these relationships reveals the challenges of bridging cultural divides and the importance of open communication and mutual understanding. The novel ultimately emphasizes the importance of family connection and the need for empathy and forgiveness.

VI. Symbolism and Visual Storytelling

Yang's masterful use of visual storytelling enhances the thematic depth of the graphic novel. The distinct artistic styles employed for each narrative—realistic for Jin Wang's story, traditional Chinese ink painting for the Monkey King's, and exaggerated caricature for Chin-Kee's—reinforce the thematic distinctions while also highlighting the interconnectedness of the narratives. The use of color, panel layouts, and visual metaphors contributes significantly to the overall impact and meaning of the story. Analyzing these visual elements provides further insights into the nuances of Yang's storytelling.

VII. Conclusion: A Legacy of Understanding and Acceptance

American Born Chinese transcends its coming-of-age narrative to offer a powerful commentary on identity, culture, and the enduring impact of stereotypes. By weaving together seemingly disparate narratives, Yang creates a compelling and nuanced exploration of the Asian-American experience. The graphic novel's lasting impact lies in its ability to promote understanding, empathy, and self-acceptance among readers. It serves as a call for more accurate and nuanced representations of Asian-Americans in media and a testament to the transformative power of storytelling.

VIII. Detailed Outline of American Born Chinese Analysis:

Title: A Deep Dive into Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese

I. Introduction: A brief overview of the graphic novel and its significance.

II. Main Chapters:

The Intertwined Narratives: Examining the three distinct yet interconnected stories and their thematic links.

Jin Wang's Identity Crisis: Analyzing Jin's struggles with assimilation and self-acceptance.

The Monkey King's Allegory: Exploring the parallels between the Monkey King's journey and Jin Wang's experiences.

Chin-Kee as a Symbol of Stereotyping: Deconstructing the character and its function within the narrative.

Family Dynamics and Cultural Conflicts: Analyzing the generational differences and communication barriers within Jin's family.

Symbolism and Visual Storytelling: Examining Yang's masterful use of visual elements to enhance the thematic depth.

The Power of Myth and Modernity: Exploring the intersection of ancient Chinese mythology and contemporary issues of identity.

Conclusion: Summarizing the central themes and the lasting impact of the graphic novel.

IX. FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of American Born Chinese? The central theme explores the complexities of Asian-American identity, the pressures of assimilation, and the importance of self-acceptance.
1. How are the three narratives interconnected? The narratives mirror each other thematically, with Jin's personal journey paralleling the Monkey King's epic quest and Chin-Kee serving as a symbol of harmful stereotypes.
1. What is the significance of Chin-Kee's character? Chin-Kee represents the damaging effects of reductive stereotypes and serves as a powerful critique of harmful representations in media.
1. How does the graphic novel portray family relationships? The novel explores the challenges of intergenerational communication and the complexities of family dynamics within immigrant families.
1. What is the role of mythology in the story? The Monkey King's story provides an allegorical layer, highlighting the parallels between

ancient myths and contemporary struggles with identity and belonging.

1. How does Yang use visual storytelling? Yang employs distinct artistic styles for each narrative, utilizing color, panel layouts, and visual metaphors to enhance the thematic depth.
1. What is the message of the novel? The novel ultimately advocates for self-acceptance, the rejection of harmful stereotypes, and the celebration of diverse cultural heritage.
1. Why is American Born Chinese considered significant? It's groundbreaking for its honest and nuanced portrayal of the Asian-American experience and its use of graphic novel format to explore complex social and cultural themes.
1. What age group is this book suitable for? While accessible to younger readers, its complex themes make it appropriate and engaging for older teens and adults as well.

X. Related Articles:

1. The Representation of Asian Americans in Graphic Novels: A comparative analysis of how different graphic novels depict the Asian American experience.
1. Gene Luen Yang's Impact on Young Adult Literature: An exploration of Yang's contributions to the YA genre and his influence on other authors.
1. The Use of Myth in Contemporary Graphic Novels: An examination of how contemporary graphic novels use mythology to explore modern themes.
1. Stereotypes and Representation in Popular Culture: A broader look at the use of stereotypes and their impact on various minority groups.

1. Intergenerational Trauma in Immigrant Families: An analysis of the challenges faced by immigrant families and the transmission of trauma across generations.
1. The Power of Visual Storytelling in Graphic Novels: A discussion on the techniques and impact of visual storytelling in graphic novels.
1. Coming-of-Age Stories in the 21st Century: An overview of contemporary coming-of-age narratives and their exploration of modern identity.
1. A Critical Analysis of the Monkey King Myth: A deeper dive into the symbolism and cultural significance of the Monkey King legend.
1. Teaching American Born Chinese in the Classroom: Strategies and resources for educators teaching this graphic novel in educational settings.

american born chinese analysis: American Born Chinese Gene Luen Yang, 2006-09-06 A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star 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. *American Born Chinese* is a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring and a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core Connections

american born chinese analysis: American Born Chinese Gene Luen Yang, 2006-09-05 A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star 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. *American Born Chinese* is a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring and a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core Connections

american born chinese analysis: Level Up Gene Luen Yang, 2011-06-07 Dennis, the son of Chinese immigrants, yearns to play video games like his friends and, upon his strict father's death,

becomes obsessed with them but later, realizing how his father sacrificed for him, he chooses a nobler path.

american born chinese analysis: The Joy Luck Club Amy Tan, 2006-09-21 “The Joy Luck Club is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational.” —Kevin Kwan, author of Crazy Rich Asians Amy Tan’s beloved, New York Times bestselling tale of mothers and daughters, now the focus of a new documentary Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir on Netflix Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who’s saying the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable. Forty years later the stories and history continue. With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

american born chinese analysis: A Study Guide for Gene Yang's "American Born Chinese" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-07-12 A Study Guide for Gene Yang's American Born Chinese, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

american born chinese analysis: Dragon Hoops Gene Luen Yang, 2020-03-17 In his latest graphic novel, Dragon Hoops, New York Times bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches. Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn’t get sports. As a kid, his friends called him “Stick” and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it’s all anyone can talk about. The men’s varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that’s been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he’s seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn’t know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons’s lives, but his own life as well.

american born chinese analysis: The Shadow Hero Gene Luen Yang, 2014-07-15 In the comics boom of the 1940s, a legend was born: the Green Turtle. He solved crimes and fought injustice just like the other comics characters. But this mysterious masked crusader was hiding something more than your run-of-the-mill secret identity... The Green Turtle was the first Asian American super hero. The comic had a short run before lapsing into obscurity, but the acclaimed author of American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang, has finally revived this character in Shadow Hero, a new graphic novel that creates an origin story for the Green Turtle. With artwork by Sonny Liew, this gorgeous, funny comics adventure for teens is a new spin on the long, rich tradition of American comics lore.

american born chinese analysis: Typical American Gish Jen, 2014-11-11 This “irresistible novel” of Chinese immigrants navigating the American dream is “startling [and] heartrending, without ever losing its comic touch” (Entertainment Weekly). Gish Jen reinvents the American immigrant story through the Chang family, who first come to the United States with no intention of staying. But when the Communists assume control of China in 1949, Ralph Chang, his sister

Theresa, and his wife Helen find themselves in a crisis, struggling to cling to their old-world ideas of themselves. But soon they begin to dream the American dream of self-invention. They transform, poignantly and ironically, from people who disparage all that is “typical American” to people who aspire to the American ideal. With droll humor and a deep empathy for her characters, Gish Jen creates a superbly engrossing story that sparkles with wit while challenging the reader to reconsider what it means to be a typical American. “No paraphrase could capture the intelligence of Gish Jen’s prose, its epigrammatic sweep and swiftness The author just keeps coming at you line after stunning line.” —The New York Times Book Review

american born chinese analysis: The Fortunes Peter Ho Davies, 2016-09-06 An NPR Best Book of the Year: “The most honest, unflinching, cathartically biting novel I’ve read about the Chinese American experience.” —Celeste Ng, #1 New York Times–bestselling author of *Our Missing Hearts* Winner, Anisfield-Wolf Book Award * Winner, Chautauqua Prize *Finalist, Dayton Literary Peace Prize * A New York Times Notable Book * A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year Sly, funny, intelligent, and artfully structured, *The Fortunes* recasts American history through the lives of Chinese Americans and reimagines the multigenerational novel through the fractures of immigrant family experience. Inhabiting four lives—a railroad baron’s valet who unwittingly ignites an explosion in Chinese labor; Hollywood’s first Chinese movie star; a hate-crime victim whose death mobilizes the Asian American community; and a biracial writer visiting China for an adoption—this novel captures and capsizes over a century of our history, showing that even as family bonds are denied and broken, a community can survive—as much through love as blood. “Intense and dreamlike . . . filled with quiet resonances across time.” —The New Yorker “Riveting and luminous . . . Like the best books, this one haunts the reader well after the end.” —Jesmyn Ward, National Book Award-winning author of *Sing, Unburied, Sing* “A moving, often funny, and deeply provocative novel about the lives of four very different Chinese Americans as they encounter the myriad opportunities and clear limits of American life . . . gorgeously told.” —Chang-rae Lee, *Buzzfeed* “A poignant, cascading four-part novel . . . Outstanding.” —David Mitchell, *The Guardian*

american born chinese analysis: The King's Touch Tom Sleigh, 2022-02-01 A profound encounter with the hyperreality of our time of global upheaval, violence, and pandemic. Tom Sleigh’s poems are skeptical of the inevitability of our fate, but in this brilliant new collection, they are charged with a powerful sense of premonition, as if the future is unfolding before us, demanding something greater than the self. Justice is a prevailing force, even while the poems are fully cognizant of the refugee crisis, war, famine, and the brutal reality of a crowded hospital morgue. *The King’s Touch* collides the world of fact and the world of mystery with a resolutely secular register. The title poem refers to the once-held belief that the king, as a divine representative, is imbued with the power of healing touch. Sleigh turns this encounter between illness and human contact toward his own chronic blood disease and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its mounting death tolls. One poem asks, “isn’t it true that no matter how long you / wear them, masks don’t grieve, only faces do?” In this essential new work, Sleigh shows how the language of poetry itself can revive and recuperate a sense of a future under the conditions of violence, social unrest, and global anxiety about the fate of the planet.

american born chinese analysis: The Children of Chinatown Wendy Rouse, 2009-10-01 Revealing the untold stories of a pioneer generation of young Chinese Americans, this book places the children and families of early Chinatown in the middle of efforts to combat American policies of exclusion and segregation. Wendy Jorae challenges long-held notions of early Chinatown as a bachelor community by showing that families--and particularly children--played important roles in its daily life. She explores the wide-ranging images of Chinatown's youth created by competing interests with their own agendas--from anti-immigrant depictions of Chinese children as filthy and culturally inferior to exotic and Orientalized images that catered to the tourist's ideal of Chinatown. All of these representations, Jorae notes, tended to further isolate Chinatown at a time when American-born Chinese children were attempting to define themselves as Chinese American. Facing barriers of immigration exclusion, cultural dislocation, child labor, segregated schooling, crime, and

violence, Chinese American children attempted to build a world for themselves on the margins of two cultures. Their story is part of the larger American story of the struggle to overcome racism and realize the ideal of equality.

american born chinese analysis: *The Accidental Asian* Eric Liu, 1999-09-07 Beyond black and white, native and alien, lies a vast and fertile field of human experience. It is here that Eric Liu, former speechwriter for President Clinton and noted political commentator, invites us to explore. In these compellingly candid essays, Liu reflects on his life as a second-generation Chinese American and reveals the shifting frames of ethnic identity. Finding himself unable to read a Chinese memorial book about his father's life, he looks critically at the cost of his own assimilation. But he casts an equally questioning eye on the effort to sustain vast racial categories like "Asian American." And as he surveys the rising anxiety about China's influence, Liu illuminates the space that Asians have always occupied in the American imagination. Reminiscent of the work of James Baldwin and its unwavering honesty, *The Accidental Asian* introduces a powerful and elegant voice into the discussion of what it means to be an American.

american born chinese analysis: *The Woman Warrior* Maxine Hong Kingston, 2010-09-01 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • An exhilarating blend of autobiography and mythology, of world and self, of hot rage and cool analysis. First published in 1976, it has become a classic in its innovative portrayal of multiple and intersecting identities—immigrant, female, Chinese, American. • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER "A classic, for a reason." —Celeste Ng, bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Our Missing Hearts*, via Twitter As a girl, Kingston lives in two confounding worlds: the California to which her parents have immigrated and the China of her mother's "talk stories." The fierce and wily women warriors of her mother's tales clash jarringly with the harsh reality of female oppression out of which they come. Kingston's sense of self emerges in the mystifying gaps in these stories, which she learns to fill with stories of her own. A warrior of words, she forges fractured myths and memories into an incandescent whole, achieving a new understanding of her family's past and her own present.

american born chinese analysis: *Amanda Paradise* Caconrad, 2021 A new collection of poetry by CAConrad--

american born chinese analysis: *The Last Kings of Shanghai* Jonathan Kaufman, 2021-06-01 In vivid detail... examines the little-known history of two extraordinary dynasties.--The Boston Globe Not just a brilliant, well-researched, and highly readable book about China's past, it also reveals the contingencies and ironic twists of fate in China's modern history.--LA Review of Books An epic, multigenerational story of two rival dynasties who flourished in Shanghai and Hong Kong as twentieth-century China surged into the modern era, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist The Sassoons and the Kadoories stood astride Chinese business and politics for more than one hundred seventy-five years, profiting from the Opium Wars; surviving Japanese occupation; courting Chiang Kai-shek; and nearly losing everything as the Communists swept into power. Jonathan Kaufman tells the remarkable history of how these families ignited an economic boom and opened China to the world, but remained blind to the country's deep inequality and to the political turmoil on their doorsteps. In a story stretching from Baghdad to Hong Kong to Shanghai to London, Kaufman enters the lives and minds of these ambitious men and women to forge a tale of opium smuggling, family rivalry, political intrigue, and survival.

american born chinese analysis: *Little Annie's Ramble* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1853

american born chinese analysis: *Trying to Find Chinatown* David Henry Hwang, 1999-12-01 Throughout his career, David Henry Hwang has explored the complexities of forging Eastern and Western cultures in a contemporary America. Over the past twenty years, his extraordinary body of work has been marked by a deep desire to reaffirm the common humanity in all of us. This volume collects a generous selection of Mr. Hwang's plays, including *FOB*, *The Dance and the Railroad*, *Family Devotions*, *The Sound of a Voice*, *The House of Sleeping Beauties*, *The Voyage*, *Bondage*, and *Trying to Find Chinatown*.

american born chinese analysis: *Be Prepared* Vera Brosgol, 2018-04-24 Beautifully drawn,

brutally funny, brilliantly honest. Vera is such a good cartoonist I almost can't stand it." —Raina Telgemeier, author of *Smile In Be Prepared*, all Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the cool girl drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

american born chinese analysis: *Silent Dancing* Judith Ortiz Cofer, 1991-01-01 *Silent Dancing* is a personal narrative made up of Judith Ortiz Cofer's recollections of the bilingual-bicultural childhood which forged her personality as a writer and artist. The daughter of a Navy man, Ortiz Cofer was born in Puerto Rico and spent her childhood shuttling between the small island of her birth and New Jersey. In fluid, clear, incisive prose, as well as in the poems she includes to highlight the major themes, Ortiz Cofer has added an important chapter to autobiography, Hispanic American Creativity and women's literature. *Silent Dancing* has been awarded the 1991 PEN/Martha Albrand Special Citation for Nonfiction and has been selected for The New York Public Library's 1991 Best Books for the Teen Age.

american born chinese analysis: *The Kitchen God's Wife* Amy Tan, 2006-09-21 Remarkable...mesmerizing...compelling.... An entire world unfolds in Tolstoyan tide of event and detail....Give yourself over to the world Ms. Tan creates for you. —The New York Times Book Review Winnie and Helen have kept each other's worst secrets for more than fifty years. Now, because she believes she is dying, Helen wants to expose everything. And Winnie angrily determines that she must be the one to tell her daughter, Pearl, about the past—including the terrible truth even Helen does not know. And so begins Winnie's story of her life on a small island outside Shanghai in the 1920s, and other places in China during World War II, and traces the happy and desperate events that led to Winnie's coming to America in 1949. *The Kitchen God's Wife* is a beautiful book (Los Angeles Times) from the bestselling author of novels like *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, and the memoir, *Where the Past Begins*.

american born chinese analysis: *Fighting Is Like a Wife* Eloisa Amezcua, 2022-04-12 In *Fighting Is Like a Wife*, Eloisa Amezcua uses striking visual poems to reconstruct the love story—and the tragedy—of two-time world boxing champion "Schoolboy" Bobby Chacon and his first wife, Valorie Ginn. Bobby took to fighting the way a surfer takes to water: the waves and crests, the highs and the pummeling lows. Valorie, as girlfriend, then wife, then mother of their children, was proud of Bobby and how he found a way out of the harsh world they were born into. But the brain-sloshing blows, the women, and the alcohol began to take their toll, and soon Bobby couldn't hear her anymore. With her fate affixed to Bobby's, and Bobby's to the ring, Valorie sought her own way out of this dilemma. Using haunting, visceral language to evoke the emotion of the fight, and incorporating direct quotations from sports commentators and Bobby himself, *Fighting Is Like a Wife* reveals how boxing, like love and poetry, can be brutal, vulnerable, and surprising.

american born chinese analysis: *Bone* Fae Myenne Ng, 2015-11-03 This emotional story about family and community follows a young woman living in San Francisco's Chinatown as she navigates lingering conflicts and secrets after her sister's death. We were a family of three girls. By Chinese standards, that wasn't lucky. In Chinatown, everyone knew our story. Outsiders jerked their chins, looked at us, shook their heads. We heard things. In this profoundly moving novel, Fae Myenne Ng takes readers into the hidden heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, to the world of one family's honor, their secrets, and the lost bones of a paper father. Two generations of the Leong family live in an uneasy tension as they try to fathom the source of a brave young girl's sorrow. Oldest daughter Leila tells the story: of her sister Ona, who has ended her young, conflicted life by jumping from the roof of a Chinatown housing project; of her mother Mah, a seamstress in a garment shop run by a Chinese Elvis; of Leon, her father, a merchant seaman who ships out frequently; and the family's youngest, Nina, who has escaped to New York by working as a flight attendant. With Ona and Nina gone, it is up to Leila to lay the bones of the family's collective guilt to

rest, and find some way to hope again. Fae Myenne Ng's luminous debut explores what it means to be a stranger in one's own family, a foreigner in one's own neighborhood—and whether it's possible to love a place that may never feel quite like home.

american born chinese analysis: *The Chinese in America* Iris Chang, 2004-03-30 A quintessentially American story chronicling Chinese American achievement in the face of institutionalized racism by the New York Times bestselling author of *The Rape of Nanking* In an epic story that spans 150 years and continues to the present day, Iris Chang tells of a people's search for a better life—the determination of the Chinese to forge an identity and a destiny in a strange land and, often against great obstacles, to find success. She chronicles the many accomplishments in America of Chinese immigrants and their descendents: building the infrastructure of their adopted country, fighting racist and exclusionary laws and anti-Asian violence, contributing to major scientific and technological advances, expanding the literary canon, and influencing the way we think about racial and ethnic groups. Interweaving political, social, economic, and cultural history, as well as the stories of individuals, Chang offers a bracing view not only of what it means to be Chinese American, but also of what it is to be American.

american born chinese analysis: *Chinese Cinderella* Adeline Yen Mah, 2009-05-06 More than 800,000 copies in print! From the author of critically acclaimed and bestselling memoir *Falling Leaves*, this is a poignant and moving true account of her childhood, growing up as an unloved daughter in 1940s China. A Chinese proverb says, Falling leaves return to their roots. In her own courageous voice, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled with gifts and attention. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. Like the classic Cinderella story, this powerful memoir is a moving story of resilience and hope. Includes an Author's Note, a 6-page photo insert, a historical note, and the Chinese text of the original Chinese Cinderella. A PW BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR AN ALA-YALSA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS "One of the most inspiring books I have ever read." -The Guardian

american born chinese analysis: *Fifth Chinese Daughter* Jade Snow Wong, 2019-11-21 Jade Snow Wong's autobiography portrays her coming-of-age in San Francisco's Chinatown, offering a rich depiction of her immigrant family and her strict upbringing, as well as her rebellion against family and societal expectations for a Chinese woman. Originally published in 1950, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* was one of the most widely read works by an Asian American author in the twentieth century. The US State Department even sent its charismatic young author on a four-month speaking tour throughout Asia. Cited as an influence by prominent Chinese American writers such as Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* is a foundational work in Asian American literature. It was written at a time when few portraits of Asian American life were available, and no similar works were as popular and broadly appealing. This new edition includes the original illustrations by Kathryn Uhl and features an introduction by Leslie Bow, who critically examines the changing reception and enduring legacy of the book and offers insight into Wong's life as an artist and an ambassador of Chinese American culture.

american born chinese analysis: *A Chinaman's Chance* Eric Liu, 2014-07-08 From Tony Hsieh to Amy Chua to Jeremy Lin, Chinese Americans are now arriving at the highest levels of American business, civic life, and culture. But what makes this story of immigrant ascent unique is that Chinese Americans are emerging at just the same moment when China has emerged -- and indeed may displace America -- at the center of the global scene. What does it mean to be Chinese American in this moment? And how does exploring that question alter our notions of just what an American is and will be? In many ways, Chinese Americans today are exemplars of the American Dream: during a crowded century and a half, this community has gone from indentured servitude,

second-class status and outright exclusion to economic and social integration and achievement. But this narrative obscures too much: the Chinese Americans still left behind, the erosion of the American Dream in general, the emergence -- perhaps -- of a Chinese Dream, and how other Americans will look at their countrymen of Chinese descent if China and America ever become adversaries. As Chinese Americans reconcile competing beliefs about what constitutes success, virtue, power, and purpose, they hold a mirror up to their country in a time of deep flux. In searching, often personal essays that range from the meaning of Confucius to the role of Chinese Americans in shaping how we read the Constitution to why he hates the hyphen in Chinese-American, Eric Liu pieces together a sense of the Chinese American identity in these auspicious years for both countries. He considers his own public career in American media and government; his daughter's efforts to hold and release aspects of her Chinese inheritance; and the still-recent history that made anyone Chinese in America seem foreign and disloyal until proven otherwise. Provocative, often playful but always thoughtful, Liu breaks down his vast subject into bite-sized chunks, along the way providing insights into universal matters: identity, nationalism, family, and more.

american born chinese analysis: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* Jamie Ford, 2009-01-27 Sentimental, heartfelt....the exploration of Henry's changing relationship with his family and with Keiko will keep most readers turning pages...A timely debut that not only reminds readers of a shameful episode in American history, but cautions us to examine the present and take heed we don't repeat those injustices.-- Kirkus Reviews "A tender and satisfying novel set in a time and a place lost forever, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* gives us a glimpse of the damage that is caused by war--not the sweeping damage of the battlefield, but the cold, cruel damage to the hearts and humanity of individual people. Especially relevant in today's world, this is a beautifully written book that will make you think. And, more importantly, it will make you feel. -- Garth Stein, New York Times bestselling author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain* "Jamie Ford's first novel explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in the Seattle area during World War II, and the depths and longing of deep-heart love. An impressive, bitter, and sweet debut." -- Lisa See, bestselling author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* In the opening pages of Jamie Ford's stunning debut novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Henry Lee comes upon a crowd gathered outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has made an incredible discovery: the belongings of Japanese families, left when they were rounded up and sent to internment camps during World War II. As Henry looks on, the owner opens a Japanese parasol. This simple act takes old Henry Lee back to the 1940s, at the height of the war, when young Henry's world is a jumble of confusion and excitement, and to his father, who is obsessed with the war in China and having Henry grow up American. While "scholarshipping" at the exclusive Rainier Elementary, where the white kids ignore him, Henry meets Keiko Okabe, a young Japanese American student. Amid the chaos of blackouts, curfews, and FBI raids, Henry and Keiko forge a bond of friendship--and innocent love--that transcends the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors. And after Keiko and her family are swept up in the evacuations to the internment camps, she and Henry are left only with the hope that the war will end, and that their promise to each other will be kept. Forty years later, Henry Lee is certain that the parasol belonged to Keiko. In the hotel's dark dusty basement he begins looking for signs of the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot begin to measure. Now a widower, Henry is still trying to find his voice--words that might explain the actions of his nationalistic father; words that might bridge the gap between him and his modern, Chinese American son; words that might help him confront the choices he made many years ago. Set during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* is an extraordinary story of commitment and enduring hope. In Henry and Keiko, Jamie Ford has created an unforgettable duo whose story teaches us of the power of forgiveness and the human heart. BONUS: This edition contains a *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* discussion guide and an excerpt from Jamie

Ford's Love and Other Consolation Prizes.

american born chinese analysis: The Hundred Secret Senses Amy Tan, 1995-10-17 The Hundred Secret Senses is an exultant novel about China and America, love and loyalty, the identities we invent and the true selves we discover along the way. Olivia Laguni is half-Chinese, but typically American in her uneasiness with her patchwork family. And no one in Olivia's family is more embarrassing to her than her half-sister, Kwan Li. For Kwan speaks mangled English, is cheerfully deaf to Olivia's sarcasm, and sees the dead with her yin eyes. Even as Olivia details the particulars of her decades-long grudge against her sister (who, among other things, is a source of infuriatingly good advice), Kwan Li is telling her own story, one that sweeps us into the splendor, squalor, and violence of Manchu China. And out of the friction between her narrators, Amy Tan creates a work that illuminates both the present and the past sweetly, sadly, hilariously, with searing and vivid prose. Truly magical...unforgettable...this novel...shimmer[s] with meaning.--San Diego Tribune The Hundred Secret Senses doesn't simply return to a world but burrows more deeply into it, following new trails to fresh revelations.--Newsweek

american born chinese analysis: Escape to Gold Mountain David H. T. Wong, 2012 An epic graphic novel about the experience of Chinese immigrants in North America over the past 150 years.

american born chinese analysis: Little Soldiers Lenora Chu, 2017-09-19 New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice; Real Simple Best of the Month; Library Journal Editors' Pick In the spirit of Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother, Bringing up B  b  , and The Smartest Kids in the World, a hard-hitting exploration of China's widely acclaimed yet insular education system that raises important questions for the future of American parenting and education When students in Shanghai rose to the top of international rankings in 2009, Americans feared that they were being out-educated by the rising super power. An American journalist of Chinese descent raising a young family in Shanghai, Lenora Chu noticed how well-behaved Chinese children were compared to her boisterous toddler. How did the Chinese create their academic super-achievers? Would their little boy benefit from Chinese school? Chu and her husband decided to enroll three-year-old Rainer in China's state-run public school system. The results were positive—her son quickly settled down, became fluent in Mandarin, and enjoyed his friends—but she also began to notice troubling new behaviors. Wondering what was happening behind closed classroom doors, she embarked on an exploratory journey, interviewing Chinese parents, teachers, and education professors, and following students at all stages of their education. What she discovered is a military-like education system driven by high-stakes testing, with teachers posting rankings in public, using bribes to reward students who comply, and shaming to isolate those who do not. At the same time, she uncovered a years-long desire by government to alleviate its students' crushing academic burden and make education friendlier for all. The more she learns, the more she wonders: Are Chinese children—and her son—paying too high a price for their obedience and the promise of future academic prowess? Is there a way to appropriate the excellence of the system but dispense with the bad? What, if anything, could Westerners learn from China's education journey? Chu's eye-opening investigation challenges our assumptions and asks us to consider the true value and purpose of education.

american born chinese analysis: China Men Maxine Hong Kingston, 1989-04-23 The author chronicles the lives of three generations of Chinese men in America, woven from memory, myth and fact. Here's a storyteller's tale of what they endured in a strange new land.

american born chinese analysis: Baotown Anyi Wang, 1989

american born chinese analysis: Dragonwings Laurence Yep, 1993 THE STORY: At the turn of the century, a young boy living in China with his mother, travels to San Francisco, California, Land of the Golden Mountain, to be with his father, Windrider, a kite maker who immigrated there a few years earlier to take

american born chinese analysis: Girl in Translation Jean Kwok, 2010 Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by a first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty. A first novel.

american born chinese analysis: The Question of Hu Jonathan D. Spence, 2011-05-04 This lively and elegant book by the acclaimed historian Jonathan D. Spence reconstructs an extraordinary episode in the early intercourse between Europe and China. It is the story of John Hu, a lowly but devout Chinese Catholic, who in 1722 accompanied a Jesuit missionary on a journey to France--a journey that ended with Hu's confinement in a lunatic asylum. At once a triumph of historical detective work and a gripping narrative, *The Question of Hu* deftly probes the collision of two cultures, with their different definitions of faith, madness, and moral obligation.

american born chinese analysis: A Thousand Years of Good Prayers Yiyun Li, 2007-12-18 Brilliant and original, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* introduces a remarkable new writer whose breathtaking stories are set in China and among Chinese Americans in the United States. In this rich, astonishing collection, Yiyun Li illuminates how mythology, politics, history, and culture intersect with personality to create fate. From the bustling heart of Beijing, to a fast-food restaurant in Chicago, to the barren expanse of Inner Mongolia, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* reveals worlds both foreign and familiar, with heartbreaking honesty and in beautiful prose. "Immortality," winner of *The Paris Review's* Plimpton Prize for new writers, tells the story of a young man who bears a striking resemblance to a dictator and so finds a calling to immortality. In "The Princess of Nebraska," a man and a woman who were both in love with a young actor in China meet again in America and try to reconcile the lost love with their new lives. "After a Life" illuminates the vagaries of marriage, parenthood, and gender, unfolding the story of a couple who keep a daughter hidden from the world. And in "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers," in which a man visits America for the first time to see his recently divorced daughter, only to discover that all is not as it seems, Li boldly explores the effects of communism on language, faith, and an entire people, underlining transformation in its many meanings and incarnations. These and other daring stories form a mesmerizing tapestry of revelatory fiction by an unforgettable writer.

american born chinese analysis: Anatomy of a Song Marc Myers, 2016-11-01 "A winning look at the stories behind 45 pop, punk, folk, soul and country classics" in the words of Mick Jagger, Stevie Wonder, Cyndi Lauper and more (*The Washington Post*). Every great song has a fascinating backstory. And here, writer and music historian Marc Myers brings to life five decades of music through oral histories of forty-five era-defining hits woven from interviews with the artists who created them, including such legendary tunes as the Isley Brothers' *Shout*, Led Zeppelin's *Whole Lotta Love*, Janis Joplin's *Mercedes Benz*, and R.E.M.'s *Losing My Religion*. After receiving his discharge from the army in 1968, John Fogerty did a handstand—and reworked Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to come up with *Proud Mary*. Joni Mitchell remembers living in a cave on Crete with the mean old daddy who inspired her 1971 hit *Carey*. Elvis Costello talks about writing (*The Angels Wanna Wear My*) *Red Shoes* in ten minutes on the train to Liverpool. And Mick Jagger, Jimmy Page, Rod Stewart, the Clash, Jimmy Cliff, Roger Waters, Stevie Wonder, Keith Richards, Cyndi Lauper, and many other leading artists reveal the emotions, inspirations, and techniques behind their influential works. *Anatomy of a Song* is a love letter to the songs that have defined generations of listeners and "a rich history of both the music industry and the baby boomer era" (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*).

american born chinese analysis: I'm Ok Patti Kim, 2019-10-15 "So funny and heartfelt."
—Gene Luen Yang, author of *American Born Chinese* "I love the profound honesty of *I'm Ok*."
—Newbery Medalist Linda Sue Park *Ok Lee* is determined to find the perfect get-rich-quick scheme in this funny, uplifting novel for fans of *Counting by 7s* and *Crenshaw*. *Ok Lee* knows it's his responsibility to help pay the bills. With his father gone and his mother working three jobs and still barely making ends meet, there's really no other choice. If only he could win the cash prize at the school talent contest! But he can't sing or dance, and has no magic up his sleeves, so he tries the next best thing: a hair braiding business. It's too bad the girls at school can't pay him much, and he's being befriended against his will by Mickey McDonald, an unusual girl with a larger-than-life personality. Then there's Asa Banks, the most popular boy in their grade, who's got it out for *Ok*. But when the pushy deacon at their Korean church starts wooing *Ok's* mom, it's the last straw. *Ok* has to

come up with an exit strategy—fast.

american born chinese analysis: Behave Robert M. Sapolsky, 2018-05-01 New York Times bestseller • Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize • One of the Washington Post's 10 Best Books of the Year “It’s no exaggeration to say that Behave is one of the best nonfiction books I’ve ever read.” —David P. Barash, The Wall Street Journal It has my vote for science book of the year.” —Parul Sehgal, The New York Times Immensely readable, often hilarious...Hands-down one of the best books I’ve read in years. I loved it. —Dina Temple-Raston, The Washington Post From the bestselling author of A Primate's Memoir and the forthcoming Determined: A Science of Life Without Free Will comes a landmark, genre-defining examination of human behavior and an answer to the question: Why do we do the things we do? Behave is one of the most dazzling tours d’horizon of the science of human behavior ever attempted. Moving across a range of disciplines, Sapolsky—a neuroscientist and primatologist—uncovers the hidden story of our actions. Undertaking some of our thorniest questions relating to tribalism and xenophobia, hierarchy and competition, and war and peace, Behave is a towering achievement—a majestic synthesis of cutting-edge research and a heroic exploration of why we ultimately do the things we do . . . for good and for ill.

american born chinese analysis: Exit, Pursued by a Bear E.K. Johnston, 2017-05-02 From #1 New York Times bestselling author E.K. Johnston comes a brave and unforgettable story that will inspire readers to rethink how we treat survivors. Hermione Winters is captain of her cheerleading team, and in tiny Palermo Heights, this doesn’t mean what you think it means. At PHHS, the cheerleaders don't cheer for the sports teams; they are the sports team—the pride and joy of a small town. The team's summer training camp is Hermione's last and marks the beginning of the end of...she’s not sure what. She does know this season could make her a legend. But during a camp party, someone slips something in her drink. And it all goes black. In every class, there's a star cheerleader and a pariah pregnant girl. They're never supposed to be the same person. Hermione struggles to regain the control she's always had and faces a wrenching decision about how to move on. The rape wasn't the beginning of Hermione Winter's story and she's not going to let it be the end. She won’t be anyone’s cautionary tale. This story of a cheerleader rising up after a traumatic event will give you Veronica Mars-level feels that will stay with you long after you finish.—Seventeen Magazine

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