

Questions for exploring Identity in *American Born Chinese*

After reading *American Born Chinese* explore these questions in preparation for a narrative about a time when you felt alienated.

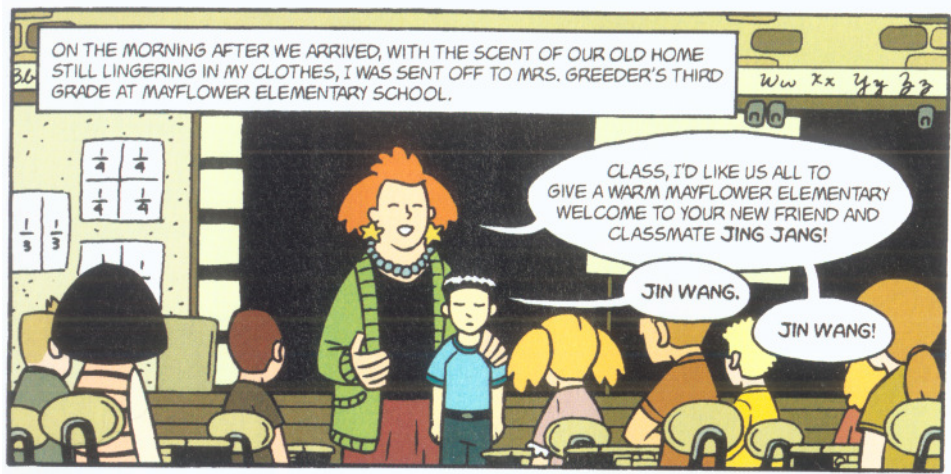


Figure 1. Welcome to Suburbia! (Yang ABC 30).



Figure 2. Chinese people don't eat dogs, at least not in America (Yang ABC 31).

1. What are some of the stereotypes presented in *American Born Chinese*?
2. What are some of Jin Wang's struggles with identity?
3. How does your ethnicity shape your identity?

4. How do your parents shape your identity? What expectations do they expect you to fulfill?

5. What emotions are exhibited by each of *ABC*'s characters? How are they representative of that character?

6. Yang uses humor to poke fun at stereotypes. Have you or anyone you know had an experience that was funny to others but not to you? If possible, explain.

7. Why do you think the author uses a television show to tell the story of "Chin-Kee"?

8. Do you ever "pose" as someone else? Who and why?

9. What is your true identity?

10. What is your perception of people labeled "American born Chinese"?

11. The transformer toy in *American Born Chinese* represents the many alterations or transformations the characters go through in order to fit into American society. How do the characters "transform" themselves? How do you transform yourself to fit into the American mainstream?

12. If you had to predict Jin Wang's future, what do you think lies in store for him? Will he remain true to himself?