

American Born Chinese: Study Guide Questions Chapters 1-3

Directions: Answer each question in complete sentences. Use **specific support from the text** when you draft each response. Most of your responses should be multiple sentences.

CHAPTER 1

1. What are the psychological transformations ¹the Monkey King experiences in the first chapter?

In the beginning, the Monkey King is powerful. He takes pride in his mastery of the 4 disciplines of Kung foo (10-11) and thinks he belongs with the Gods (13). When he gets to the dinner party, his self-concept changes. He is rejected which turns to anger and shame (15-19). He uses violence but doesn't feel better about himself. By the end of the chapter, he is determined to change what he is to fit in with the Gods who shamed him (20).

CHAPTER 2

1. What is the message of the parable²? What is its relevance to *American Born Chinese*? (pg.s 23 - 24)

People alter things that are important to them based on where they live. In the parable, the locations, market, cemetery, and university changed the way the boy used and valued the sticks (23-24).

2. What is the significance of the conversation with the herbalist? His response? Her "warning?" How does this work as a foreshadowing device? (pg.s 27 - 28)

3. What do we learn about Jin's new life in comparison to his life in San Francisco's Chinatown? (pg.s 30 - 31)

4. The kids who call Jin "bucktooth" is drawn with buck teeth himself. What purpose does this serve? (pg. 33)

5. What happens that makes Jin want to beat up Wei-Chen? (pg. 36)

¹ Mental and-or emotional change

² a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson

CHAPTER 3

1. What does the use of the clap clap clap and ha ha ha mean to you? Why does the author do this? What about the title, "Everyone Ruvs Chin-Kee?"

2. What stereotypes are exploited in this section? Make a list of them. Be sure to note stereotypes for both Chin-Kee and Danny.