



American Born

Chinese

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About the Novel

3 separate stories which come together:

1. A coming-of-age story about a Chinese-American boy named Jin who moves to a suburban town in the States and his daily struggles in school with discrimination
2. The Chinese legend on *Sun Wukong* (Monkey King) who wants to be respected as a God but is looked down upon for being a monkey
3. A story which outlines the relationship between Danny and his cousin Chin Kee, who is a stereotypical caricature of a Chinese person



About the Novel Cont.

- ▣ *Age range:* Junior years (Grade 8-9)
- ▣ Awareness of identity coming into fruition (further detail later)
- ▣ Good time for students to engage in discussions around identity
- ▣ Good introduction to graphic novels
 - Helps develop visual literacy

Awards



2007
Michael L.
Printz
Award



2007
Eisner
Award



Publishers
Weekly
Comic of
the Year



San Francisco
Chronicle
Book of
the Year



Booklist
Top Ten
for Youth



Time
Top Ten
Comic of
the Year



NPR
Holiday
Pick



Amazon.com
Best of the
Year



2007
Best Book:
Chinese
American
Librarians Asso.



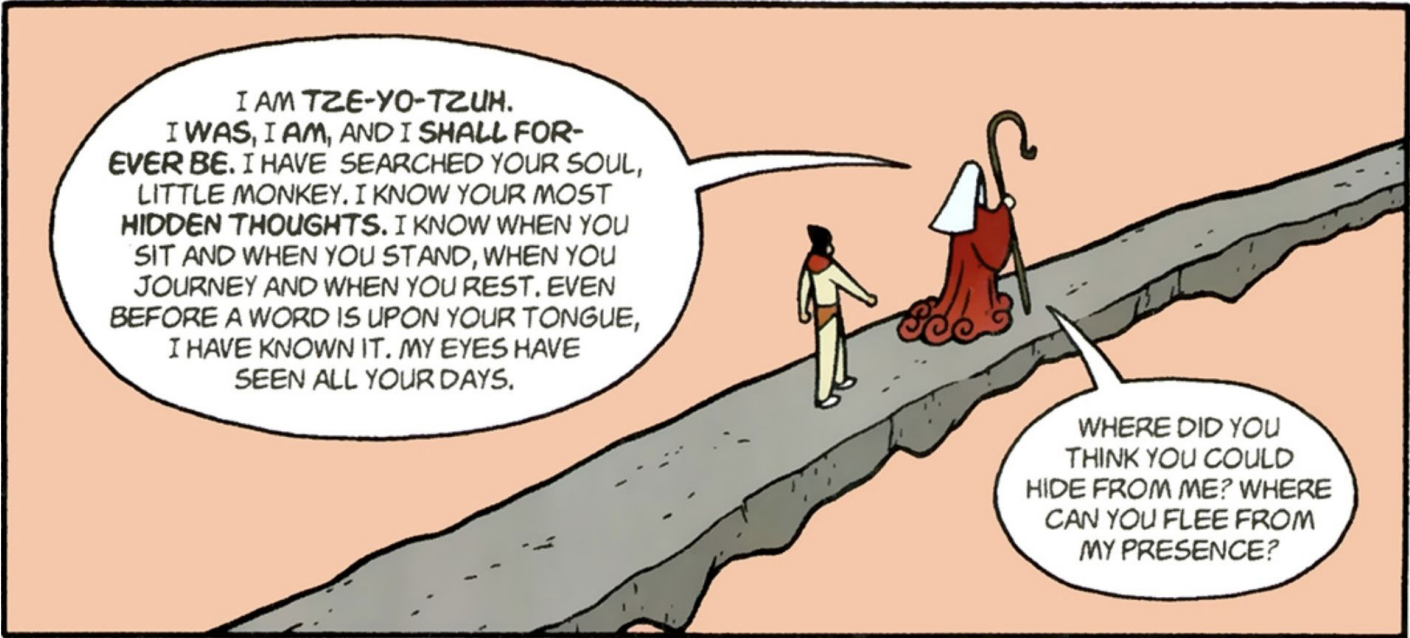
2007
Harvey
Award

Prominent Themes



- ▣ Shame
- ▣ Weaving story and cultural myth
- ▣ Identity, acceptance, and community
- ▣ Transformation (Versions of reality)
- ▣ Discrimination and stereotyping

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I AM TZE-YO-TZUH.
I WAS, I AM, AND I SHALL FOR-
EVER BE. I HAVE SEARCHED YOUR SOUL,
LITTLE MONKEY. I KNOW YOUR MOST
HIDDEN THOUGHTS. I KNOW WHEN YOU
SIT AND WHEN YOU STAND, WHEN YOU
JOURNEY AND WHEN YOU REST. EVEN
BEFORE A WORD IS UPON YOUR TONGUE,
I HAVE KNOWN IT. MY EYES HAVE
SEEN ALL YOUR DAYS.

WHERE DID YOU
THINK YOU COULD
HIDE FROM ME? WHERE
CAN YOU FLEE FROM
MY PRESENCE?

Merits and Challenges

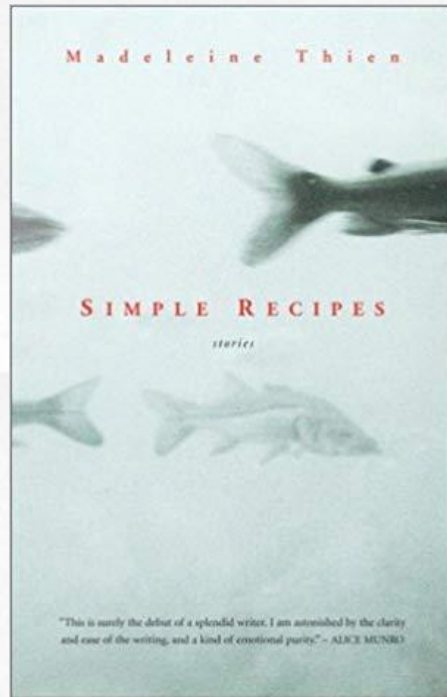
Merits

- ▣ Fosters cultural awareness
- ▣ Helps students think critically about perception and forming identity
- ▣ Humour and visuals are engaging (genre)
- ▣ Relatable for students entering high school

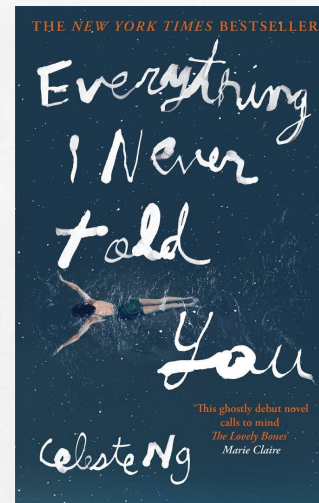
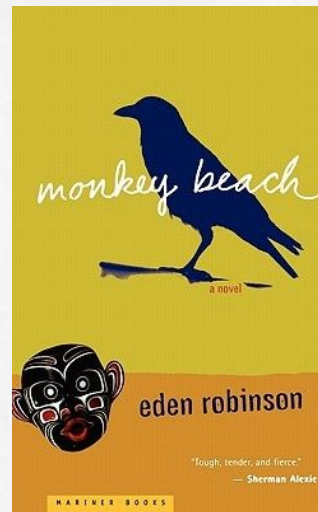
Challenges

- ▣ Many issues to unpack
- ▣ May require careful frontloading of cultural context and the genre to fully appreciate
- ▣ Stereotypes in novel may be sensitive to students
- ▣ Non-linear plot may be confusing
- ▣ May be less impactful to some demographics

Additional Resources



“Growing Up Asian-American” tag on Youtube

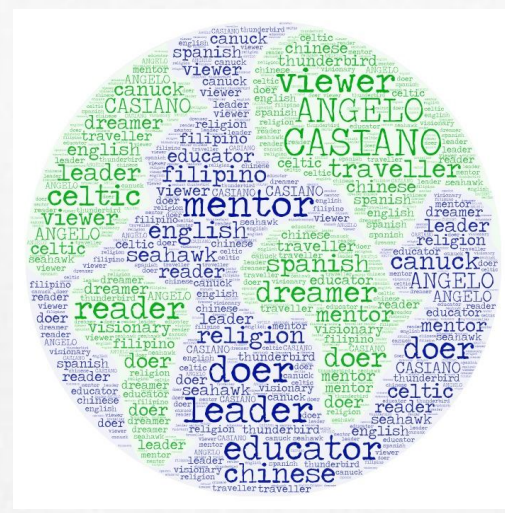
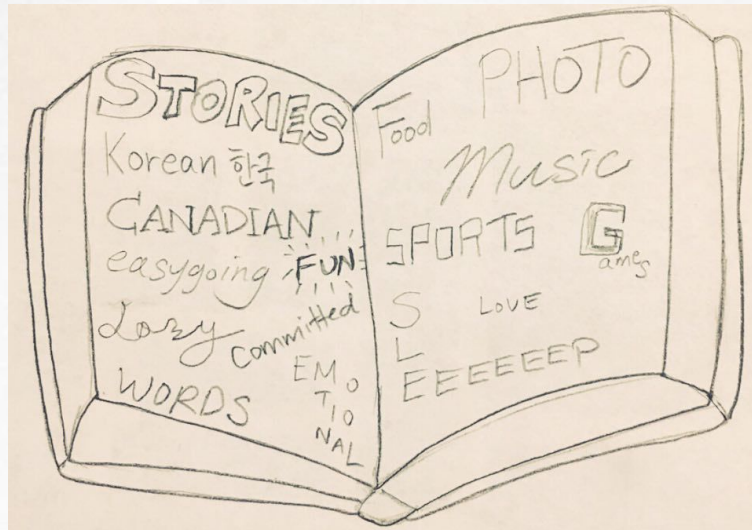




Shape of You

Thinking about identity...

Catholic Soda Drinker
 Educated Happy Joyful Educator
 Curious Educator
 Life long learner
 Gamer Son Filipino English Religion Major
 Friend Brother Singer
 Party lover of Food Reader Nerd



Thanks!



Any questions?