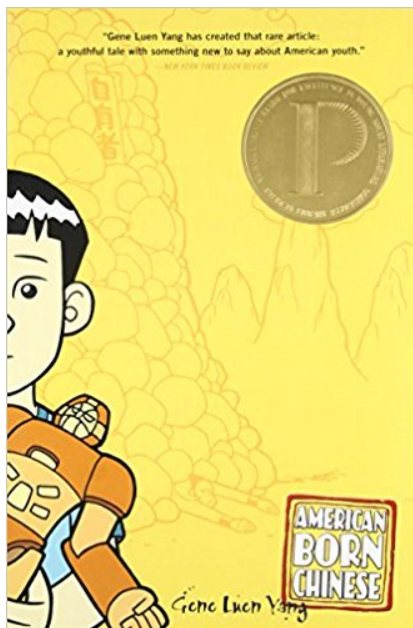


Year 3 Novels, 2018-2019

Summer Reading: Choose ONE!



American Born Chinese, by Gene Luen Yang

240 pages. Available at Amazon (\$8.98) and most major book retailers

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.

Unit connections:

Quarters 1 & 2: Culture & Belonging—Through the three stories in the novel that are woven together at the end, the characters wrestle with their own heritage and their sense of belonging in the world.

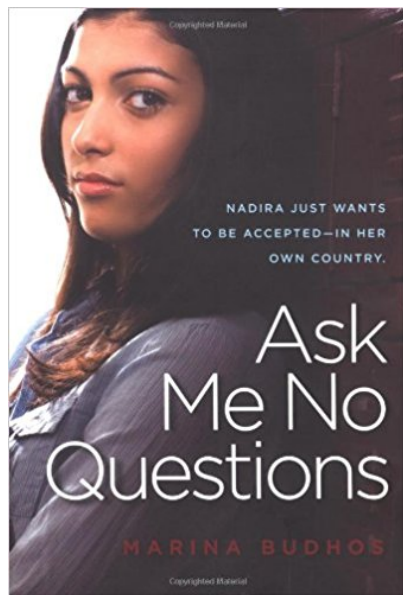
Quarter 3: Approaching Adulthood & Taking a Stand—Jin's story is one of his coming-of-age and understanding his place in the world and taking a stand against his biggest critic—himself.

Quarter 4: A Feast of Figurative Language—The nature of the graphic novel and the wording Yang uses for different characters is a critical piece of the writing and understanding author's craft.

Connected Learner Profiles: Principled, Risk-Takers, Open-Minded, Reflective, Balanced

NOTES:

- The character of Chin-Kee is a racist representation. However, this character is a vital part of Jin's journey to understand his own culture and sense of belonging.
- Because this is a **graphic novel**, a digital version of this book may not display properly.



Ask Me No Questions, by Marina Budhos

159 pages. Available at Amazon (\$9.99) and most major book retailers

"You forget. You forget you don't really exist here, that this isn't your home." Since emigrating from Bangladesh, fourteen-year-old Nadira and her family have been living in New York City on expired visas, hoping to realize their dream of becoming legal U.S. citizens. But after 9/11, everything changes. Suddenly being Muslim means you are dangerous -- a suspected terrorist. When Nadira's father is arrested and detained at the U.S.-Canadian border, Nadira and her older sister, Aisha, are told to carry on as if everything is the same. The teachers at Flushing High don't ask any questions, but Aisha falls apart. Nothing matters to her anymore -- not even college. It's up to Nadira to be the strong one and bring her family back together again.

Unit connections:

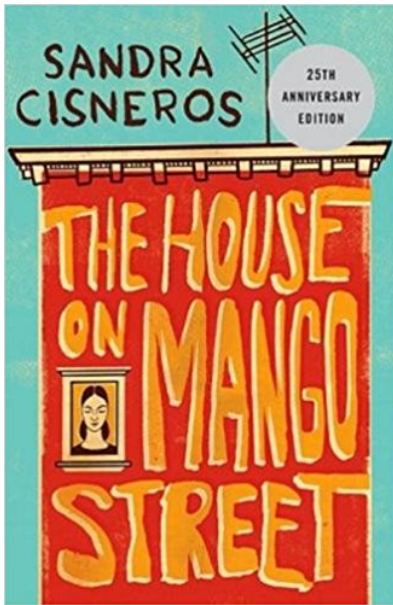
Quarters 1 & 2: Culture & Belonging—Nadira and her family struggle to find their sense of belonging in a post-9/11 U.S. as undocumented immigrants and Muslims, with dreams of becoming citizens of the only country she's ever known as home.

Quarter 3: Approaching Adulthood & Taking a Stand—The arrest of Nadira's father and the breakdown of Nadira's sister force her to grow up and lead the fight to save her family.

Quarter 4: A Feast of Figurative Language—The language used by and about characters, as well as the inclusion of some Bangladeshi or Islamic words, demonstrates how author's use language to shape characters and perspectives.

Connected Learner Profiles: Principled, Thinkers, Risk-Takers, Caring, Balanced, Communicators, Inquirers

Unit 1 Core Novel (Quarters 1 & 2)



The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros

110 pages. Available at Amazon (\$7.69), most major book retailers, and online as a free PDF

Esperanza Cordero is a young girl growing up in the Latino section of Chicago, a neighborhood that is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong—not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power and inventing for herself what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes stunning for their eloquence, the novel has entered the canon as a modern classic.

Unit connections:

Quarters 1 & 2: Culture & Belonging—The entire novel are snippets of Esperanza's life as a teenager who doesn't WANT to belong to the world in which she exists. She wrestles with her role as a teenager, as a Latina, and as a kid living in poverty.

Quarter 3: Approaching Adulthood & Taking a Stand—Esperanza is a teenager, and the novel is her coming-of-age story. We see her want to be grown and struggling with what it means to be grown.

Quarter 4: A Feast of Figurative Language—The novel is very poetically written. Figurative language abounds and will provide us with many opportunities to explore how writers use language.

Connected Learner Profiles: Principled, Thinkers, Risk-Takers, Open-Minded, Reflective, Caring, Balanced, Communicators

NOTES:

- This book is also available en español.
- Book version does not matter.
- As part of her coming-of-age, Esperanza faces a few difficult situations in the novel (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual assault), situations equitable to those in our former novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. These instances are a crucial part of her story, and they are written about in a sensitive way that does not glorify the situations but rather helps a reader gain understanding and empathy.