

Hassan's Personal Response Outline:

FORMAT 1 - INTEGRATED EVIDENCE

TOPIC: How can not knowing oneself result in issues?

Introductory Paragraph

- General statement about life

It isn't easy being a teenager - there is a lot of pressure to act and dress a certain way.

- Brief mention of how the topic applies to your chosen text and personal experience

Not knowing who you are and what can happen when you don't is a major theme in American Born Chinese and is something I have witnessed with a friend.

- Thesis statement (one sentence that states your answer to the question; subject + opinion)

Not knowing who you are can create a lot of different issues for a person.

Commented [KC1]: Your thesis is on the right track!

Body Paragraph 1

- Topic sentence: first idea to support your thesis statement

You have to accept that you cannot change who you are.

Supporting Detail #1: specific support from **text** (graphic novel or novel); provide context for your quotation or detail and explain why it is significant to the thesis

- *In the graphic novel, both Jin and the Monkey King are unhappy with themselves. They won't change back to normal to normal (Jin's hair, Monkey's height), even though "normal" for them would be good.*
- *"The form you have taken is not truly your own. Return to your true form and you shall be freed" (p. 145).*

Commented [KC2]: This is a great quotation, Hassan! Be sure to explain why it is significant and how it connects to the thesis.

Supporting Detail #2: specific support from **your personal experience or observation**; provide context for your evidence and explain why it is significant to the thesis

- *I had a friend who dressed Goth*
- *got a lot of negative reactions*

- *looked different but couldn't act different (still the same person, no matter how hard she tried not to be)*

- Concluding sentence: summarize idea in this paragraph and mention topic of next paragraph

You can't change who you are and when you try, you cause problems for yourself.

Commented [KC3]: This is a good example, but just like with the quotation, you need to explain how this relates to the topic.

Body Paragraph 2

- Topic sentence: first idea to support your thesis statement

Personal problems always arise when you aren't sure about who you are.

- Supporting Detail #1: specific support from *text* (graphic novel or novel); provide context for your quotation or detail and explain why it is significant to the thesis
 - *Anxiety, low self-esteem, and inability to grow*
 - *"It gets so bad by the end of the school year that I have to switch schools." p. 127*
Jin/Danny anxious about being Chinese.
 - *Dishonesty & isolation- -being dishonest with yourself and friends may push them away.*
Could be lonely.
 - *"I have enough friends." Jin lies to Wei Chen at first, to seem cooler than him. P. 38*
Good thing Jin liked robots when he was little or Jin might have no friends.
- Supporting Detail #2: specific support from *your personal experience or observation*; provide context for your evidence and explain why it is significant to the thesis
 - *Friend felt unconfident, overlooked, and was teased*
 - *Changed her style to Goth, because she thought she would feel better*
 - *It didn't work*

- Concluding sentence: summarize idea in this paragraph and mention topic of next paragraph

Not being happy with who you are doesn't just cause personal problems; it can make relationships with other people hard, too.

Commented [KC4]: Watch out for generalization, Hassan. Avoid words like "always" and "never."

Commented [KC5]: Really good transition sentence here!

Body Paragraph 3

- Topic sentence: first idea to support your thesis statement

Not knowing who you are can cause problems in your relationships with friends and family.

- Supporting Detail #1: specific support from *text* (graphic novel or novel); provide context for your quotation or detail and explain why it is significant to the thesis
- *Jin/Danny is embarrassed by Cousin Chinkee*
- *"I'm sick of you ruining my life, Chin-Kee! I want you to pack up and go back to where you came from!" (p. 223)*
- *Jin calls Wei Chen a racist name, offending Wei Chen, not knowing he should also be offended (p. 191)*
- Supporting Detail #2: specific support from *your personal experience or observation*; provide context for your evidence and explain why it is significant to the thesis
- *Goth friend attracted a bad crowd—parents worried about her, and were stricter—caused arguments*
- *Old friends didn't like new "fake" friends = tension*
- Concluding sentence: summarize idea in this paragraph and mention topic of next paragraph

Commented [KC6]: Teacher Comment: Cousin Chin-Kee is actually a metaphor for Jin's idea of the meaning of being Chinese. When he was little, he realized that he was different because of his teacher's introduction of him to the class. The reaction of some of his classmates was very negative, but Jin assumes it is true, and no one tells him otherwise. As Jin grows up, Chin-Kee becomes a character composed of all the negative stereotypes Jin has ever heard about Chinese people. He avoids being recognized as Chinese, believing his life will be easier

Concluding Paragraph

We need positive relationships in life to grow and stay healthy, and we need healthy positive outlooks. That is why we need to know ourselves, and like who we are. Don't deny it or pretend to be someone you're not or bad things happen.

Commented [KC7]: This is a good summary of your main points, Hassan. Now, finish your conclusion by stating the reason this discussion is significant. To say, "Bad things happen" may not be sufficient. Can you phrase this more specifically? Individuals need to know themselves, but why is this a good thing? How are people rewarded?