Name:
EL2221 – Vibert
American Born Chinese Webquest Assignment

A Webquest is a moderated, curated, or guided research assignment. In a Webquest such as this one you go through my website and use the website to conduct informal research about the book we are reading. This allows us to gather external information at our own pace, much like a research assignment, yet less formal, as well as to gain a much richer understanding of the book.

Directions: Use the webquest, its prompts, and its resources, in order to answer the questions below. Please answer in complete sentences and in 3-7 sentences per question. Answer the more important questions in a longer form.

Questions

Section One – Introduction to the Text
1. What is a graphic novel and how do you read one? How is a graphic novel different from a comic?
2. What does this book look like it's about?
3. Who is the Monkey King?

Section Two - Chinatown and the sense of ethnic community
1. What are your impressions of San Francisco's Chinatown? How might life in the mostly-white suburbs of North California differ? I'm thinking here about physical features, social life, and what it's like to grow up in as a young Chinese-American kid. Can you compare Jin's life in San Francisco to one that he might live in the suburbs?

Section Three – Stereotypes
1. What is Kevin mad about and what is he laughing about? Give some examples of the stereotypes he discusses. What evidence does he offer to combat stereotypes?
2. How have earlier Asian-American stereotypes about "coolies" been moved to what the NBC article calls "another arena?" What is this new location/form?
3. How have popular culture puns, images, and Chinese references that are part of Linsanity taken a nasty turn?

Section Four – Stereotypes Part Two
1. What large issue about ethnic stereotyping does the Saturday Night Live skit subtly highlight?
2. What elements of rural Chinese life are emphasized and twisted in the racist cartoons I've included?

Section Five – Chin-Kee and Popular Culture
1. What is odd or wrong about the portrayal of the character Lon Duk Dong?
2. Why is Adrian Tomine so mad?