

Grade 7 Summer Reading

Welcome to Literature 7! For your summer assignment you will choose one of two books to read as well as read any book of your choice. The books you must choose from are *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang and *Call it Courage* by Armstrong Sperry.

After you have finished your chosen book, you are to write an essay of five paragraphs in response to the following prompt:

American Born Chinese:

In your opinion, what is the overall theme, or “message” of the novel *American Born Chinese*? How does the story of each main character contribute to this theme?

Call It Courage:

In your opinion, what is the overall theme of the novel *Call It Courage*? How does Mafatu’s journey support the theme?

To write your essay, follow these steps:

- ✓ Write an introductory paragraph summarizing the book as a whole. Conclude with a statement that explains what the theme of the story is.
- ✓ If reading *American Born Chinese*: write one paragraph for each character (Danny, Jin, and the Monkey King) explaining how the individual story relates to the overall theme.
- ✓ If reading *Call it Courage*: choose three lessons or parts of the journey and write one paragraph for each explaining how it relates to the overall theme.
- ✓ Write a conclusion that summarizes your personal thoughts and feelings about the novel.

Now you have to convince me to read your other summer reading novel! Write me a persuasive letter using a friendly letter format and tell me why I need to read your book. Your letter must tell me about your favorite part of the book using descriptive language, but remember no spoilers. Don’t give away the ending! **Your book must be an appropriate 7th grade reading level or higher.** You may email me if you are uncertain about your book choice. You must have chosen a book and emailed me, if you have questions, before Friday, **July 19th**.

Your letter and essay must both be typed in MLA format and printed out **before** the first day of school, **August 28th**. They will be collected during the period during which we meet for Literature class.

