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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Gene Luen Yang is the author and illustrator of *American Born Chinese* as well as the several other books. He wears many hats, filling not only these roles, but the jobs of educator and comic education promoter as well.

[Click for a PDF of this page.](#)

[Connect to Yang's blog.](#)

[Connect to Yang's Twitter.](#)

**Learn how he develops his stories and connect to him in real-time to get updates on new work.**

## SOME BASIC INFORMATION

## SHORT BIO

Yang began publishing his comics under his Humble Comics in 1996. 10 years later, he released his most popular work (*American Born Chinese*) through First Second Books. The book was the first graphic novel to ever be nominated for a National Book Award.

Currently Yang is working for Dark Horse Comics as a writer for comic continuation for the popular *Avatar: The Last Airbender* series and has recently published his two-volume graphic novel *Boxers & Saints*.

Yang is also teaching at Hamline University for their MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults.

## COMPLETE WORKS

In reverse chronological order.  
Click each title for a summary.

- [Boxers & Saints](#)
- [Avatar: The Last Airbender](#) comics
- [Level Up](#)
- [Prime Baby](#)
- [The Eternal Smile](#)
- [American Born Chinese](#)
- [The Rosary Comic Book](#)
- [Animal Crackers](#)
- [Nursey Rhyme Comics](#)
- [Strange Tales ii](#)
- [Shattered](#)
- [Secret Identities](#)
- [Up All Night](#)

## AWARDS



- Nominated for National Book Award (*American Born Chinese*)
- Printz Award (*American Born Chinese*)
- Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album – New (*American Born Chinese*)
- Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album – New (*The Eternal Smile*)
- Xeric Grant (for writing *Gordan Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*)

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## WHAT YANG HAS TO SAY ABOUT HIS WORK AND GRAPHIC NOVELS?

He has a lot to say! Many of Yang's personal beliefs in being a writer, an artist, and an educator are greatly connected to his work and promoting the graphic novel as an educational benefit to the classroom.

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## **CHARLOTTE ZOLOTROW LECTURE, 2011**

Breakdown of content:

- [0:00 to 6:30](#) - Introduction
- [6:30 to 9:00](#) - Presentation Intro. /  
New Projects
- [9:00 to 10:50](#) - Harmony / Comics
- [10:50 to 11:45](#) - Definition of Self
- [11:45 to 18:14](#) - Writes & Draws
- [18:14 to 31:10](#) - Asian & American
- [32:10 to 41:30](#) - Cartoonist &  
Teacher
- [41:30 to end](#) - Wrap-Up

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## **GRAPHIC NOVELS SPEAKERS SERIES, 2009**

Breakdown of content:

- [0:00 to 1:10](#) - Introduction
- [1:10 to 5:00](#) - About Himself
- [5:00 to 26:34](#) - Why be a  
cartoonist?
- [26:34 to 27:15](#) - *American Born  
Chinese*
- [27:15 to 32:52](#) - Ch. 1 Reading
- [32:52 to 42:40](#) - Cousin Chin-Kee /  
Ch. 3 Reading
- [42:40 to end](#) - Q and A (misc.)

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## VIDEO QUESTIONS

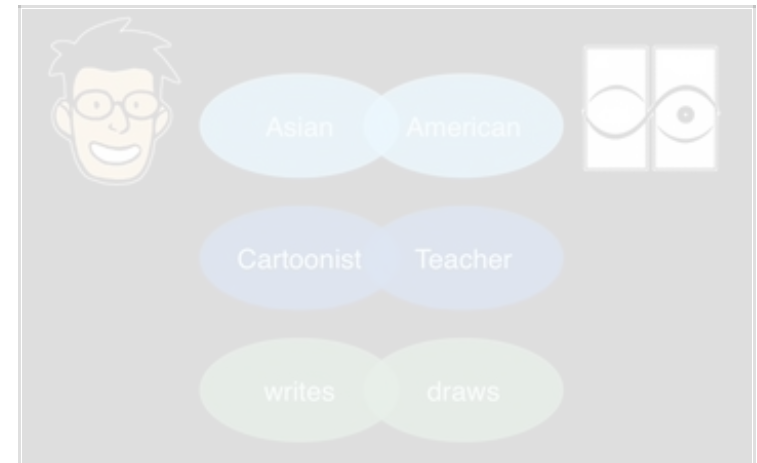
### CHARLOTTE ZOLOTROW LECTURE

1. What was Yang's purpose with this lecture?
2. Who is Scott McCloud? Why does Yang refer to McCloud throughout his presentation?
3. Do you agree with Yang's statements about the separate values of words and pictures in Western and Eastern countries? If you agree with his statements, do you think that this may be changing with comics and graphic novels? Explain. Do you personally value one (word or pictures) over the other?
4. In what ways does Yang say that comics and graphic novels can be beneficial in the classroom?

### GRAPHIC NOVELS SPEAKERS SERIES

1. What was Yang's purpose with this lecture?
2. How does being a cartoonist compare to other careers? Compared to animators?
3. What did you think when listening to Yang read from *American Born Chinese*? Does hearing the text aloud affect how you comprehend the story?
4. Do you agree with Yang's remarks with Cousin Chin-Kee? Why do you think people are so perplexed or fascinated with his character?
5. What question would you have asked Yang during the Q and A? What audience comments and questions were interesting to you?

**ASK YOURSELF:** In his Charlotte Zolotrow speech, Yang describes himself as "Chinese and American," a "cartoonist and a teacher," and someone who "writes and draws." He says that these are areas in his life that contradict but that have been brought together by his passions and interests (specifically with comics). **What parts of your life contradict but work in harmony like those described by Yang?** Write out your answers in the same way they appear on the right. Jot down a few reasons about why and how these things define you.



## WORKS CITED

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