SCRIPT FOR SKYPE WITH GENE YANG

INTRODUCTION:
EMCEES – HAILEY FB AND MILTON

Hailey BF: Good afternoon. My name is Hailey.

Milton: And I’m Milton. We’d like to welcome everyone to our seventh annual USM 8th grade English online conference with Gene Yang, the author of American Born Chinese.

Hailey BF: American Born Chinese is the winner of the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award and the first graphic novel to be nominated for the National Book Award.

Milton: Mr. Yang’s other books include The Eternal Smile, Prime Baby, and Level Up. Mr. Yang’s newest work is a pair of graphic novels about the Boxer Rebellion, called Boxers and Saints.

Hailey BF: Boxers and Saints are both finalists for the National Book Award’s Young People’s Literature award this year.

Milton: Now, Ms. Walczak will begin introducing the questions from 8th grade students.

QUESTIONS:
[Ms. Walczak will call up each student in order. Students will introduce themselves (say something like “Hi, my name is ________”) and ask their questions.]

John: Your book is dedicated in part “To Ba, for his stories of Ah-Tong, the Taiwanese village boy.” Who is Ah-Tong?

LILY AND CLAYTON, GO UP TOGETHER. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS TOGETHER AND ALLOW GENE YANG TO ANSWER THEM BOTH AT THE SAME TIME:

Lily: What was your inspiration for the Chin-Kee character and Danny’s story?
Clayton: Why is Danny and Chin-Kee’s story a sitcom?

Hira: Could you please tell us about the allusions to Pat Oliphant, John Hughes, and William Hung? What did you want readers to see and understand?

ELLA AND NAT L, GO UP TOGETHER. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS TOGETHER AND ALLOW GENE YANG TO ANSWER THEM BOTH AT THE SAME TIME:

Nat L: Is there any symbolic meaning of the clothes throughout the book?
Ella: For example, does the “Robo Happy” shirt in particular mean anything? (We all want Robo Happy t-shirts.)

Sam K: Why is the Monkey King present as a wiseman at the birth of Jesus on page 215?

Elaine: Why did you put the picture of the YouTube video at the end of the book? Is that Jin and Wei-Chen in college?
Cameron: Could you please tell us about the Chinese words in the red boxes at the top of the pages of the book? And, have you ever thought about having the book made into a movie?

Katherine: Do the characters' names mean anything? How did you choose their names?

Taha: Could you please tell us what roles Greg and Steve play in the story?

Talulah: Are Wei-Chen’s sunglasses supposed to be kind of like Jin’s curly hair and the Monkey King’s shoes?

Gianna: We look for “Words of the Wiser” in the books we read, meaning we look for older or somehow wiser characters giving advice to a younger character. Who has been a “wiser” or a “great sage” in your life?

Wes: How long does it take to draw a page?

Liam: How did you get involved with Avatar: The Last Airbender?

Jonah: Could you please tell us about your new books, Boxers and Saints? And congratulations for being nominated for the National Book Award again!

Mia: What will you begin working on next?

Ben SW: What do you want readers to get out of American Born Chinese?

Marla: Are any of the characters in the book based upon real people?

Hailey S: Which was your favorite part of the book to write?

Maddie Me: If you have any thoughts on the current cultural climate in the United States for Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, would you please share them with us?

CONCLUSION:
Hailey BF: Once again we thank Gene Yang for taking the time to talk with us about his book.

Milton: We thank Mrs. Nosbusch, Mr. Villenueve, Mr. Mussoline, and Mr. York for all their help and support.

Hailey BF: We also extend our special thanks to Gene’s publisher, First Second Books, and Kate Kubert Puls, for giving us this great opportunity.