问题：

1. 作者是如何描述Jin Wang在青少年时期的成长与ethnic identity formation的过程的？

2. 作者是如何描绘这个变化过程的不易与痛苦的？

答：通过Danny 与Chin-Kee两者之间的矛盾，两者的矛盾暗示了Jin Wang在不同成长时white-American的生活习惯以及思维方式，包括对于American identity 的理想化。但与此同时也面对着自己对于Being Asian的stereotype以及担心自己会因此被视作异类。文化因素在此起了重要作用，文化因素是导致Jin wang对于Chinese Identity的认同和构建有重要影响。这一对矛盾由两方面组成，一方面是由于希望被白人同学，尤其是自己喜欢的女生接受，觉得自己被排挤异化是由于自己的中国面孔，因此形成了idealized American self以及自己对Chinese self的憎恨与恐惧，觉得是这样无法逃避的Chinese heritage使得自己的生活被毁了（对应Danny每年觉得自己生活被毁掉一次）。

3. “Transform”这个概念在文中是如何传递，反映了什么？

答：文中孙悟空能变，Transformers 能变，Wei-Chen的玩具猴子能变，自己能变成Danny，Monkey King能变成Chin-Kee, Wei-Chen也是孙悟空儿子（猴子）变的。Transform的概念贯穿novel始终，变化的过程也是成长的过程。Herbalist的老婆说要变是可以的，但是需要出卖自己的灵魂。在孙悟空、变形金刚在变的时候“more than meet the eyes”说明并不是完全就变成一辆卡车了，而是同时是卡车也同时是transformer，说明无论是这些英雄也好还是Jin Wang也好，transform并不能完全变成另一样东西，而是两者最后的一个融合，一方无法舍弃割裂另一方。这里的transform并不是真正意义上的物理变化，人也没有办法彻底变成另一个人，所以transform意味着自己的expectation和对自己的re-imagine。Re-imagine and transform their internalized stereotypes. Jin Wang变成Danny以及Monkey King变成Chin-Kee都是反映了Jin Wang对于identity自己身份时候的一个re-imagine。而最后重新变成自己，Chin-kee变成Monkey King则是暗示了又一次的re-imagine以及Jin Wang的成长、观念的变化。

Transform在文中是如何应用的，又该如何解读？

答：分成不同层面的transform，对于孙悟空跟变形金刚是一类transform，是一种能力，而且他们的transform讲述的道理是自己能够把两种/多种形态糅合在一起，说明的道理是：transform并不是完全变成另一个东西舍弃一方，而是融合。

另一方面，对于Jin Wang transform成Danny而且迫切希望成为Danny表现了在他成长过程中对于自我的一种re-imagine, 因此Jin变成Danny的过程实际上是在形成ethnic identity时而构建的idealized white American self.

而于此同时，在Jin Wang变成Danny故事线中Chin-Kee的角色同样也是一种transform。在结局揭示的是Chin-Kee是由孙悟空变的。而之所以孙悟空会在Jin的生活中变化成这样的形态，并不是孙悟空的本意（孙悟空为了唤醒Jin的中国意识）。但是在Jin的内心中，由于自己的中国面孔而一直不能很好融入美国同学的生活圈，而产生了对自己原本种族的否定，这一点在有了喜欢的女孩后更被加强了。因此形成了idealized American self以及自己对于Chinese Self的恐惧，觉得是这样无法逃避的Chinese Heritage把自己生活毁了，从而产生了Internal stereotype甚至远远强烈与在学校里收到的discrimination. Jin Wang的Transform也是文中最关键的。在Danny与Chin-Kee的一对transform背后实则是人物之间的矛盾，用了较为极端的stereotype来反映了两种思想的矛盾冲突之大，反映了development过程的不容易。而最后通过这样的打斗，两者的transform回到原来生活则是反映了Jin的又一次重新认知和最后的成长。

Thesis: The idea of "transform" is conveyed throughout the graphic novel to indicate Jin Wang's adolescent development and his ethnic identity formation, which are not easy and even painful.

Supporting Argument:

In this development process, 'transform' into Danny and Chin-Kee is an implication of the re-imagine of self-identification and stereotypes internal.

At the end of the novel, Chin-Kee and Danny retransform into Monkey King and Jin Wang, which implies Jin Wang finally learn to accepted and integrate those two identities.

Comparing to the Optimus Prime’s transformation, Jin Wang’s superficial understanding to the concept of “transform” is a reason of pain during his assimilated identity formation.

My understanding of "transform": Transformation is a key point repeated throughout the graphic novel. The Monkey King is able to transform into multiple objects and Optimus Prime can transform easily between a truck and a robot. However, in ABC, the leading character Jin Wang is facing a more complicated "transformation". At last, Danny and Chin-Kee are exposed to be the two extremes of Jin Wang's personas. On one hand, Jin Wang is born and bred in America, he has almost nothing different from his white American classmates in the way of living. However, his Chinese look makes him hard to be totally accepted by white American classmates. This conflict becomes even more intense after Jin Wang finds himself loves Amelia, a white American girl in his class. Eventually, the conflict between his eagerness to be accepted by white American classmates and his inevitable Chinese heritage turns into two alter egos of Jin Wang. These two alter egos have strong conflicts that represent the two extreme Jin Wang identifies himself. On one hand, his desire to fit into the white Americans lead him to transform into a white American boy Danny. In the process of his identity formation, this transformation indicates he is intended to identify himself as a white American boy. Therefore, transforming into Danny can be seen as the idealized white American self he consciously constructed. While on the other hand, his fear of his Chinese self, resulted in one of his alter-egos transform into Chin-Kee, who represents almost all uncomfortable stereotypes on Chinese in white American society. This fear originates in his adolescent development, he felt being decimated and aliened due to his Chinese appearance. This makes him afraid of a part of his Chinese self. Due to the unfamiliarity to the historical and cultural background, he turns his fear into an internal stereotype. He attributed the difficulty of fitting into white American classmates to his inevitable Chinese heritage. He even thinks it's his Chinese heritage that ruined his life.

Approach:

1. Analyze how the author uses the "transform" to indicate Jin Wang's adolescent development and ethnic identity formation.

2. Using the psychology theory of ethnic identity to analyze how and why Jin Wang develops the two alter egos. After that, analyze how these two to alter egos transform back to Jin Wang himself as a whole identity after the fight. (Also, what does the fight mean.) Finally, conclude how these transformations form Jin Wang's identity eventually.

3. Use the psychology theory of ethnic identity to analyze how Danny and Chin-Kee serve as the transform of different parts of Jin Wang's identity: the idealized white American self and the unfamiliar Chinese self. Then use the historical and social background to explain the differences, symbolic meanings, and conflicts beneath these two re-imagined characters.

4. Compare the "transform" of Jin Wang with all other "transform" in the novel. Discuss the difference between Jin Wang's transformation with Monkey King's transforming into other objects and Optimus Prime transforming between a truck and a robot. Analyze how the different understandings of "transform" lead to Jin Wang's pain during the ethnic identity formation. (My understanding: MK and OP are able to change, but they are not separating the objects they transformed from themselves. OP is not simply a robot or a truck, he embeds both forms and that makes him OP. However, Jin Wang tries to forfeit his soul to totally transform into a white American boy. This doesn't help him to understand who he is exactly.)

Present Questions:

In my understanding, Danny and Chin-Kee are two alter egos of Jin Wang. Since this understanding cannot be directly proved or conveyed by simply find out a panel and say something. Could you give me some advice on how to organize my essay to convey my thesis clearer and more convincing? On one hand, I'm trying to avoid my essay becomes just retell the story and on the other hand, I don't want my essay to over to understand what the author tried to convey.