Thesis: The idea of "transform" is conveyed throughout the graphic novel to indicate Jin Wang's adolescent development and his ethnic identity formation. In this development process, 'transform' is an implication of the re-imagine of self-identification and stereotypes internal. "Transform" used in this novel indicates the process of adolescent development and ethnicity formation is not easy and even painful.

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.