In Term 1 we will be studying the text *Growing up Asian in Australia* by Alice Pung. This book is a collection of 50 short stories. We will be reading selected stories and exploring what they reveal about issues of identity and belonging in Australia.

You are required to complete all tasks in this booklet. Ms Wong will specify due dates. Your work will be marked and will contribute towards your Interim grade. Marks will be deducted for late submission of tasks (10% per day).
Task 1 (20 marks):

Read ‘The Relative Advantages of Learning my Language’ by Amy Choi and complete the following tasks.

1. Who are the main characters in this story? (2 marks)

2. The story starts with an anecdote. What is an anecdote and why would Choi choose to start her story with one? (3 marks)

3. Summarise the story in no more than 100 words. (5 marks)
4. In the second paragraph what reason does Amy Choi give for losing her language skills? (2 marks)

5. Find a quote in the second paragraph that demonstrates 16 year old Choi’s attitude towards learning Chinese and copy it below. (1 mark)

6. Why would Choi’s Grandfather want her to listen to his poems? (2 marks)

7. What regrets, if any, does Choi have? (2 marks)

8. Does Choi now believe speaking Chinese is important? Why? (3 marks)

Task 2 (20 marks):

Read ‘The Beat of a Different Drum’ by Simon Tong and complete the following questions.

1. Find FIVE words in this short story that you are unfamiliar with. Write the words and definitions in the table below. (5 marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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2. Find a quote from page 42 that demonstrates that Simon didn’t understand colloquial Australian language? (look up the word colloquial if you are unsure of its’ meaning). (2 marks)

3. The following extract is from Simon Tong’s ‘The Beat of a Different Drum’, a story from the collection Growing up Asian in Australia edited by Alice Pung. In this story Tong discusses the shock of moving to Australia from Hong Kong at the age of 14 and finding himself without the means to express himself properly in a new language – English. To a boy who loves books and words as he does, this is especially difficult.

I loved the pictures of dinosaurs and animals in the science books my uncle sent me from Taiwan, but I liked the pleasure of words even more. The rhythm of a mellifluous poem was honey on my tongue, the shape of a well-balanced duilian made me grin and grin. I won the school’s essay competition every year; teachers marvelled at my vocabulary, rich and sophisticated for my age. I fantasised about growing up to become a writer.

... My mother decided it was prudent for us to join the new wave of diaspora and we fled to Australia ...

The sum total of what I knew about Australia came to three things: it had an opera house, kangaroos and Australians spoke the dreaded English ...

My first day at school in Australia was stinking hot, the only kind of weather this desiccated country seemed to have... I was on a different planet. Even the thick air, superheated, utterly bereft of moisture (but so clean!), felt alien on my skin ...

Robbed of speech again, but this time both inside and outside the classroom, I was stripped of my dignity and personality as well. I didn’t have the words to object, to defend myself, to argue, to cajole or control. My ethnicity made me conspicuous, but my reticence made me invisible ...

I discovered that soap operas were excellent learning aids: their plots universal and repetitive, the histrionic acting transparent; I could concentrate on the colloquial dialogues ...

My relationship with English became a lot friendlier once I started to learn not just its grammar and vocabulary, but also to listen to its music.
a) Simon Tong has an obvious passion for language. Circle FOUR words or phrases in the extract that suggest this. (2 marks)

b) When Tong tells readers about the three images he knows about Australia, what does that tell Australians about their image abroad? What kind of image do you think Australians have overseas now? Where have your ideas and impressions come from? (3 marks)

c) Re-read the paragraph that recounts Tong’s first day at school. What factors contribute to his sense of alienation (not belonging)? (2 marks)

d) Tong says he felt conspicuous (like he stood out) – why? He also says he felt invisible – why? (2 marks)

e) Why does Tong find watching soap operas helpful in learning ‘colloquial dialogues’? (2 marks)

f) Why do you think music helped Tong’s relationship with English to become much friendlier? (2 marks)

Task 3 (20 marks):

Read ‘Take Me Away, Please’ by Lily Chan and complete the following task.

a) Develop a sequence chart that identifies the 8 most important events in this story (use sequence chart on next page) (10 marks)
b) Using this sequence chart you are to develop an EIGHT FRAME cartoon (pictures and text) that recounts this story (use grid below). You are being marked on your ideas NOT your drawing ability (stick figures are fine!) (10 marks)
Read ‘Wei-Lei and Me’ by Aditi Gouvernal and complete the task.

1. The story is set in the early 1980s in Canberra and focuses on the Primary School yard experiences of an unnamed Indian girl and a young Chinese boy named Wei Lei. Why do you think Gouvernal (the author) has chosen not to give the central character a name? (2 marks)

2. How important are the ‘names’ of other characters in this story? Explain using examples from the story. (3 marks)

3. You are to assume the role of EITHER the Indian girl as a young adult (you will need to provide your character with an appropriate name) or Wei Lei as a young adult. You are to write a letter in the space below and over page (using correct letter format) to Barry West addressing the issue of his school yard bullying and its impact on you as both a child and a young adult (400 words approx). Your letter should reflect your understanding of the story and its main themes (15 marks).
### Task 5 (20 marks):

Read ‘Perfect Chinese Children’ by Vanessa Woods and complete the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘Perfect Chinese Children’ is a story about...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Woods’ cultural background is...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa's mother expects her children to...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa realises her mother loves her when...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This story is important because...</td>
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</tbody>
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