



Student Leadership

This summer, students in Student Leadership will complete a summer reading assignment based on excerpts from the book *Mango Elephants in the Sun: How life in an African village let me be in my own skin*, by Susanna Herrera.

1) READ the chapters in the packet you were given. If you lose this packet, you will be responsible for buying, borrowing, or checking out the book and reading chapters 7, 27, 29, and 41.

2) WRITE and REFLECT on the following questions.

7. I AM BEING: *Examining the Leadership of Men and Women*

Clearly this section is about cultural differences, but consider the differences between the sexes. How Lydie and the girls handle the situations that arise in the classroom versus the boys. Considering the different ways in which men and women react to different situations, do they have different management styles? In what ways do you think men and women manage differently?

27. FABRIC OF MY FAMILY: *Examining Leaders of Different Cultures*

On page 114, the author writes "I came to Africa searching for a people I could belong to and a family I could call my own. But my white skin prevents me from getting closer..." Can an individual become a leader in a culture different than their own or are cultures predisposed to prefer leaders similar to themselves? What difficulties must individuals overcome if they want to be a leader in a culture different than their own?

29. DEAR MOM, MARCH 1993: *Tools of Peer Leadership*

In what ways does the author show that she has adapted to living in Africa? What new tactics and tools has she learned to use? What new tools or tactics do you believe you'll need to learn to be an effective peer leader?

41. SOUL FAMILY: *Examining leaders of Different Cultures (Part II)*

Reflect on your answer from the chapter entitled "Fabric of My Family." Does this chapter make you want to change your answer or enhance it? Can you think of real life examples of leaders who came from within their culture to lead or came from another culture to lead?

3) GUIDELINES for your assignment

- a. Responses should be typed, 12 point font, Times New Roman, Regular Margins, 200-300 words per question. It is due the first week of class.
- b. In your reflection, support your opinion with both references to the text and with your own personal experiences.

Feel free to contact me by email with questions shendren@aacps.org