



## Contemporary Voices

This summer, students in Contemporary Voices 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: *Personal Identity and Self Expression***

What aspects of your identity (gender, beliefs, family, friends, age) do you feel most inhibits or shapes your willingness to speak out or be heard? Tell about a time you felt self-conscious because of some aspect of you identity.

**27. FABRIC OF MY FAMILY: *New Lenses***

There are people who make us see new possibilities in our world and potentials in ourselves. Talk about somebody who has done this for you OR a time when you were able to do this for someone else.

**29. DEAR MOM, MARCH 1993: *The power of the written word***

How does writing about an experience change the way we interpret or remember that moment? Why do you think writing has this effect?

**41. SOUL FAMILY: *Examining the effect of Diversity and Conflict***

As the human population grows, more and more diverse cultures begin to overlap and interact. Do you think this interaction of cultures is more likely to increase or decrease conflict? Do you see evidence of this in the passages you read from *Mango Elephants in the Sun*?

**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.

Enjoy your summer.

Feel free to contact me by email with questions [bdziedzic@aacps.org](mailto:bdziedzic@aacps.org)