**Introduction: AIDS is a Kinship Disease - Supporting Materials**

Discussion Questions:

1. In McGrath's opening story "A Story about Joala", do you think the humorous and lighthearted details add to the story or draw away from the seriousness of the subject matter?
2. How effectively did the authors implement the integration between the first story by McGrath "A Story about *Joala*" and the rest of the chapter? In what ways did these different modes of writing enrich or detract from your reading of the Introduction?
3. Why was HIV able to spread so rapidly in Lesotho? Do you think structures or cultural practices are most to blame?
4. If HIV is primarily spread through heterosexual sex, why is orphanhood a useful lens from which to examine Lesotho's AIDS epidemic?
5. What does Block mean when she argues that AIDS is a kinship disease?
6. Do you think Block's relationship to MCS was beneficial? In what ways might it compromise the data?
7. Should white scholars conduct research in Lesotho? Do you think Block adequately addresses racial, power and wealth disparities in the Introduction of the book?
8. What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of Block's fieldwork methods?
9. Do you think there might be any drawbacks between Block's collaboration with her husband McGrath?

Activity:
Draw a concept map of AIDS in Lesotho - what factors allowed it to spread and what kinds of impacts does it have on Basotho people? How do different factors intersect and interact? Depict this visually on a large sheet of paper with markers. Have students brainstorm possible factors and interactions and depict them in relationship to each other. The discussions they have in deciding what their concept map will look like will be very instructive. Depending on time and the size of your class, you could have them present their maps (and explain their decision making) to the class, or turn them in to you for credit. This activity could take up to 30 minutes.