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**Chapter 3:**

I attended Cielo Vista Elementary School in Orange County California. This was a public school. The school was made up of three main buildings; the office, cafeteria/auditorium, and the library. All the classrooms were portables, holding students K-6. Since the classrooms were portables all the surroundings were outside. Once you left your classroom you went right outside and I really liked it that way, I felt “refreshed” when I left the classroom, the lunch tables were also located outside which was really nice. I felt like with everything outside it encouraged more activeness.

The classrooms were very kid friendly. They always had colorful posters, borders, and kids work displayed on all the walls. Most of my elementary teachers were women; I tend to see this a lot when entering lower grade levels. Being in the lower grade levels I did lots of hands-on activities as well as group work. We all learned together a great amount of the time and also had a lot of one on one attention with the teacher. Tests and exams were not so much written, but either verbal or crafty. I feel when I was younger it was harder to take a full on written exam and “pass” it. In the lower grade levels every week we would have music, art, etc. I really enjoyed these classes and I think it helped me a lot to figure out what I enjoyed doing in my free time.

Many of the students at my school were white; there was very little racial difference. But that didn’t stop me from being friends with everyone. At that age you don’t judge or even realize that you’re a different color from your friend, you base everything of personality.