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Sky's limit

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SKY'S LIMIT

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This narrative was authored by undergraduate students enrolled in Professor Eckelmann Berghel's HIST 3920: United States Race and Childhood course in 2018 Spring at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Title: Sky's Limit

(Illustration: a light-skinned black girl with brown curly hair and green eyes in blue overalls with a white short-sleeve undershirt barefoot licking an ice cream cone sitting down looking at the sky)

Page 1

**Text: My name is Sky and I just turned five.
I live in a little blue house with my mommy and daddy.**

(Illustration: Sky is standing in a yard, with a white picket fence. The front door of the house is open and the parents are walking into the house but not enough to show specific features or color)

Page 2

**Text: There are many things that I like to do.
On hot sunny days I like to swim in the creek,
on rainy days I like to play with my dolls,
and every day I love to ride my bike.**

(Illustration: 3 figures of Sky doing her favorite activities; riding her bike, swimming in the creek, and playing with her dolls; in each activity she is depicted in a cloud-like area)

Page 3

Text: But my favorite thing to do is go to the ice cream shop with Daddy!

(Illustration: Sky is embracing her dad in a hug; first time the reader gets to see the white father)

Page 4

**Text: On these special days, Mommy helps me put on a pretty dress.
She pulls back my hair and brushes it really tight.**

**I wish I could wear my overalls and let my hair run free
But Daddy insists I dress like a princess**

(Illustration: 2 figures of Sky and her mother; one image shows them picking out her dress in the closet and the other image is Sky standing on a little step stool in the bathroom getting her hair brushed by her mom; first time the reader gets to see the black mother)

Page 5

Text: On the way into town, we cross the train tracks... walk over the bridge.... and pass the library.

(Illustration: Sky and her dad are doing the activities in the words; the train has 2 cars white and black; the library has two doors at the entrance)

Page 6

Text: When we get close to the shop, I always run to the door but I know to wait for him before I go inside. While I wait, I gaze through the window at all the flavors thinking about what I should get even though I always get strawberry.

(Illustration: Sky looking into the window of the shop and her dad is glaring at the whites only sign above the door. They are holding hands; Sky's face is full of joy and excitement but the dad looks a little skeptical)

Page 7

Text: After we get our ice cream, we always go sit in the corner booth. I am always curious why we sit in the same seat, but Daddy always reminds me that this booth is our special spot.

(Illustration: Sitting in the corner booth eating their ice cream...She is facing the store while the dad is looking toward the back. The guy who works at the ice cream store is looking at them hesitantly)

Page 8

Text: After a few bites, I spilled my ice cream all over my pretty dress. While daddy went to get me napkins, I began to realize that the other kids had different styles of hair and skin color than me. None of their mommies looked like my mommy either...

(Illustration: Shows Sky from behind with the whole store in the background with drips of ice cream falling off her dress and some of the ice cream on the floor. You see the dad walking to get napkins and that there are multiple families that are white.)

Page 9

**Text: When Daddy got back to our booth with napkins,
I asked him why I never see my friends from school here.
And why Mommy never comes with us.**

Daddy gave me a little smile as he reached for my hand and said, “I’ll tell you on the walk home.”

(Illustration: Sky and her dad walk out of the store. Whites only sign is in sight)

Page 10

Text: On the walk home, Daddy explained that some people in our country don’t like other people based on how they look. He told me that was the reason I go to an all-black school and why Mommy cannot join us for ice cream.

(Illustration: It shows Sky remembering a memory of her in the playground with her friends jumping rope at school with other black girls. While in the present, Sky and her dad are walking down the street past other kids who have their mom and dad out with them)

Page 11

Text: When we got home I ran to Mommy and jumped into her arms. “Daddy said you can’t come get ice cream with us because the way you look.”

(Illustration: Sky runs to her mother's embrace in tears; mom is also teary-eyed)

Page 12

Text: Mommy held me tight, and told me “It will all be okay and one day we can hopefully be able to all go together. Things won’t always be the same as they are now.”

(Illustration: Sky's mom holding her while she cries; mom is trying to force a smile, have the dad sitting close by listening too)

Page 13

(Illustration of whites only sign coming down in ice cream shop window)