

CLARKE

If I live to be a hundred, which it looks like I'm goin' to, I won't understand the ways of this world.

LILLIE

Grandpappy, you promised you'd let me do this. I want to see the dolls, like Dr. Clarke said I could.

CLARKE

What'd you say, Raymond? You're the father. You want this girl to be playin' with a bunch of dolls, gettin' herself all confused? And what's the meaning of it all anyway?

RAYMOND

What I understood Dr. Clarke to say is that they have an experiment they want to do, to show whether or not black girls like Lillie can tell their own color of doll when you put it all mixed in with white girl dolls.

CLARKE

Course she can tell! How could she not be able to tell! I never thought I'd live to see this. Should a stayed up there in Nicodemus, every one of us. I shoulda kept your pappy up there, then he shoulda raised you up there, and you shoulda raised Lillie up there. Right there in Nicodemus. Where we could live in peace and make up our own rules for how to school our children.

RAYMOND

But you came to Topeka. I had nothing to do about that. You did that long before I ever arrived on this earth. You saying that now I should pack up the family and move back up there?

CLARKE

Tell me this. Why does the government want Lillie to be in a different school? A school with a whole lot of white children who don't even want her there? Does that make any sense?

LILLIE

Grandpappy, why did you go to Nicodemus in the first place? Why didn't you just stay in Kentucky?

CLARKE

I was a little boy. My daddy didn't give me any choice in the matter.