

Name:

Day One

Growing Up on the South Side

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Former First Lady Michelle Obama grew up on the South Side of Chicago. Read silently.

Michelle Obama was born Michelle Robinson. Michelle’s parents stressed education, and she did well in school. Michelle attended Harvard Law School. She went on to be a lawyer, author, and First Lady of the United States.

Michelle’s family lived on the South Side of Chicago, which includes multiple neighborhoods. Michelle and her brother, Craig, slept in the living room of their small home. She remembers seeing many neighbors move out over time. She felt that they “were running from us.” Michelle saw her neighborhood in the South Side decline.

Most residents of the South Side are African American. This comes from segregation and “white flight.” Chicago was very segregated for many decades. African Americans could only live in about half of the neighborhoods. Later, Black people began moving into all-White neighborhoods. Many White people then moved to the suburbs. This is known as “white flight.”

For many decades, though, the South Side was an area of opportunity for African Americans. There were industrial plants offering thousands of good jobs. When these plants shut down in the 60s and 70s, it hurt the area. Middle class people left to find better jobs. Many businesses shut down. Schools, parks, and neighborhoods suffered.

Parts of the South Side are plagued by gang shootings. However, many people hope to change this. Activists like Michelle Obama are speaking up for the South Side. They are calling for new investment in the area. They hope to bring more jobs and resources to the South Side.

Source: “Michelle Obama on White Flight in Chicago: ‘Y’all Were Running From Us,’” *The Washington Post*, October 20, 2019.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did the South Side area decline over time?

What part of Chicago did Michelle (Robinson) Obama grow up in?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Michelle Obama / was born Michelle Robinson. // Michelle’s parents stressed education, / and she did well in school. // Michelle attended Harvard Law School. // She went on to be a lawyer, / author, / and First Lady of the United States. //

Michelle’s family lived on the South Side of Chicago, / which includes multiple neighborhoods. // Michelle and her brother, / Craig, / slept in the living room / of their small home. // She remembers seeing many neighbors / move out over time. // She felt that they “were running from us.” // Michelle saw her neighborhood / in the South Side / decline. //

Most residents of the South Side / are African American. // This comes from segregation / and “white flight.” // Chicago was very segregated / for many decades. // African Americans could only live / in about half of the neighborhoods. // Later, / Black people began moving into all-White neighborhoods. // Many White people / then moved to the suburbs. // This is known as “white flight.” //

For many decades, / though, / the South Side was an area of opportunity / for African Americans. // There were industrial plants / offering thousands of good jobs. // When these plants shut down / in the 60s and 70s, / it hurt the area. // Middle class people left / to find better jobs. // Many businesses shut down. // Schools, / parks, / and neighborhoods / suffered.

Parts of the South Side / are plagued by gang shootings. // However, / many people hope to change this. // Activists like Michelle Obama / are speaking up for the South Side. // They are calling for new investment / in the area. // They hope to bring more jobs and resources / to the South Side. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.