

Carole Boston Weatherford is a *New York Times*-bestselling children's book author of more than thirty books, including the award-winning titles *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, *Becoming Billie Holiday*, and *Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane*. Her latest releases are *First Pooch: The Obamas Pick a Pet* and *Oprah: The Little Speaker*. She is a professor at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina.

Tuskegee: Takeoff

The sky's no limit
if you've flown
on your own power
in countless dreams;
not if you've launched
a kite on a spring breeze;
not if you've watched
crop dusters buzzing
over rows of cotton;
not if you've raised
homing pigeons
on Harlem rooftops.
not if you've gazed
at stars and known
God meant for you to soar.