As they munched their way through their ice creams, Rick finally found out what had happened at the meeting. Slowly, the children started to talk all about the last badge that they needed to get to become a Trekker. It was the climber’s badge.

“It’s a really hard badge to get. One of the hardest,” moaned Ned.

“We’ve all been practising on the climbing wall for weeks but none of us can do it: it’s too high,” Nawal said, shaking
her head and wiping away all the ice cream from around her mouth.

“All the Badgers have to go to Clip and Climb on Sunday to try to get our climber’s badge, but if we can’t get to the top of the climbing wall…” – Lilly dropped her head – “we can’t be a Trekker,” she said.

“Well, now that we know what you need to do, we can help you,” said Ned’s dad.

“We can take you to the Clip and Climb centre tomorrow and we could all have a go together,” smiled Rick.

Ned’s dad shook his head. “Sorry, I’ll only be able to watch: I’m not very good with heights, Rick,” he sighed.

Nawal’s mum shook her head too.

“i’d love to have a go,” she smiled, “but I’ve only just had the plaster taken off my broken arm, so it really wouldn’t be safe.” That left Rick.

“I’m really sorry; I’m afraid it can’t be me either,” he sighed. “I go back to college tomorrow.”

Seeing the disappointed look on the children’s faces, Rick reminded them that there were lots of other adults who could take them instead. But who?

Lilly’s mum would be busy all weekend with her little visitor (the one who was meant to be a big surprise for Lilly).

Lilly’s dad was busy getting ready for the local Garden Growers show and really wanted to win a gold trophy this year, so he wouldn’t have much time to help out either.
Ned and Nawal’s family were all busy too.

“We’ll sort something out,” smiled Rick, but he wasn’t quite sure who else he could ask for help.

Just at that moment, the café door burst open and a large group of children appeared, all laughing and enjoying themselves. They had sweatshirts on with badges down the sleeves just like Lilly, but their sweatshirts were a different colour. Their sweatshirts were purple!

These children weren’t Badgers, they were Trekkers! Ned, Nawal and Lilly all looked across at the group, who were all proudly showing off their golden yellow climber’s badges at the top of the sleeve on their purple sweatshirts.

Rick could see the tears starting to appear in Lilly’s eyes
again and decided that it was time to leave. The children all tried hard to give a big smile as they waved to the Trekkers, staring at their golden climber’s badges as they passed them and went outside. They all really wished it could be them proudly showing off their climber’s badges, but it wasn’t to be, not this time.

The car journey home was very quiet. Rick tried his best to make Lilly smile, but nothing was working. Then it happened… just as Rick was about to park the car in front of their house, Lilly leapt from her seat. “SKY!” she screamed, “SKY! SKY! SKY!” and she smiled the biggest smile that Rick had seen all week.