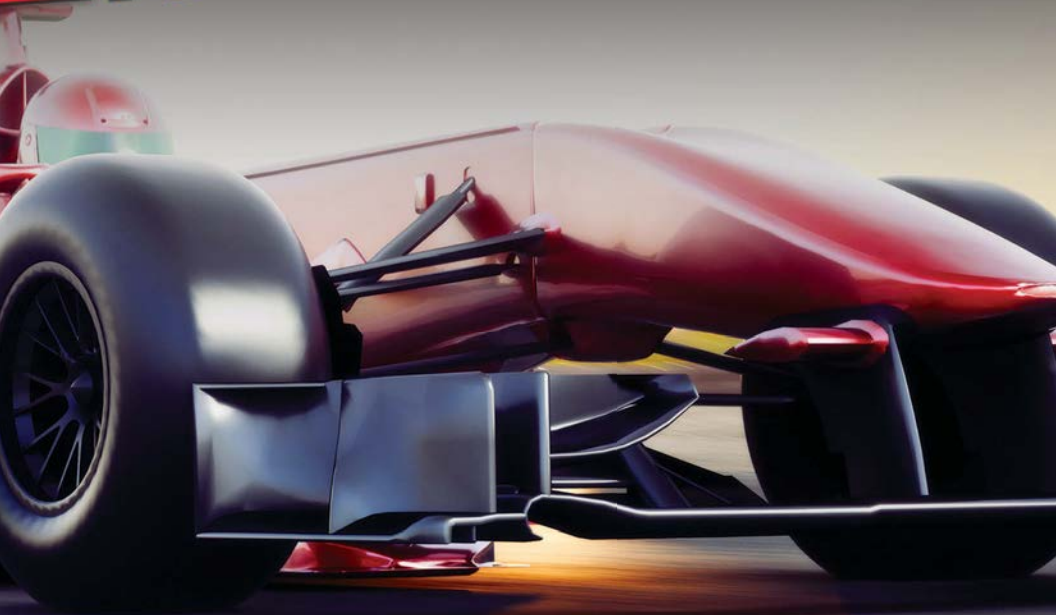


RACETRACKS



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NONFICTION

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Area 51

Bioweapons

Cannibal Animals

Cloning

Comet Catcher

Drones

Fault Lines

Gnarly Sports Injuries

Great Spies of the World

Hacked

Little Rock Nine

Medal of Honor

Military Dogs

Monsters of the Deep

Monsters on Land

Racetracks

The Science of Movies

Seven Wonders of the
Ancient World

Tuskegee Airmen

Virtual Reality

Wild Weather

Witchcraft

Wormholes

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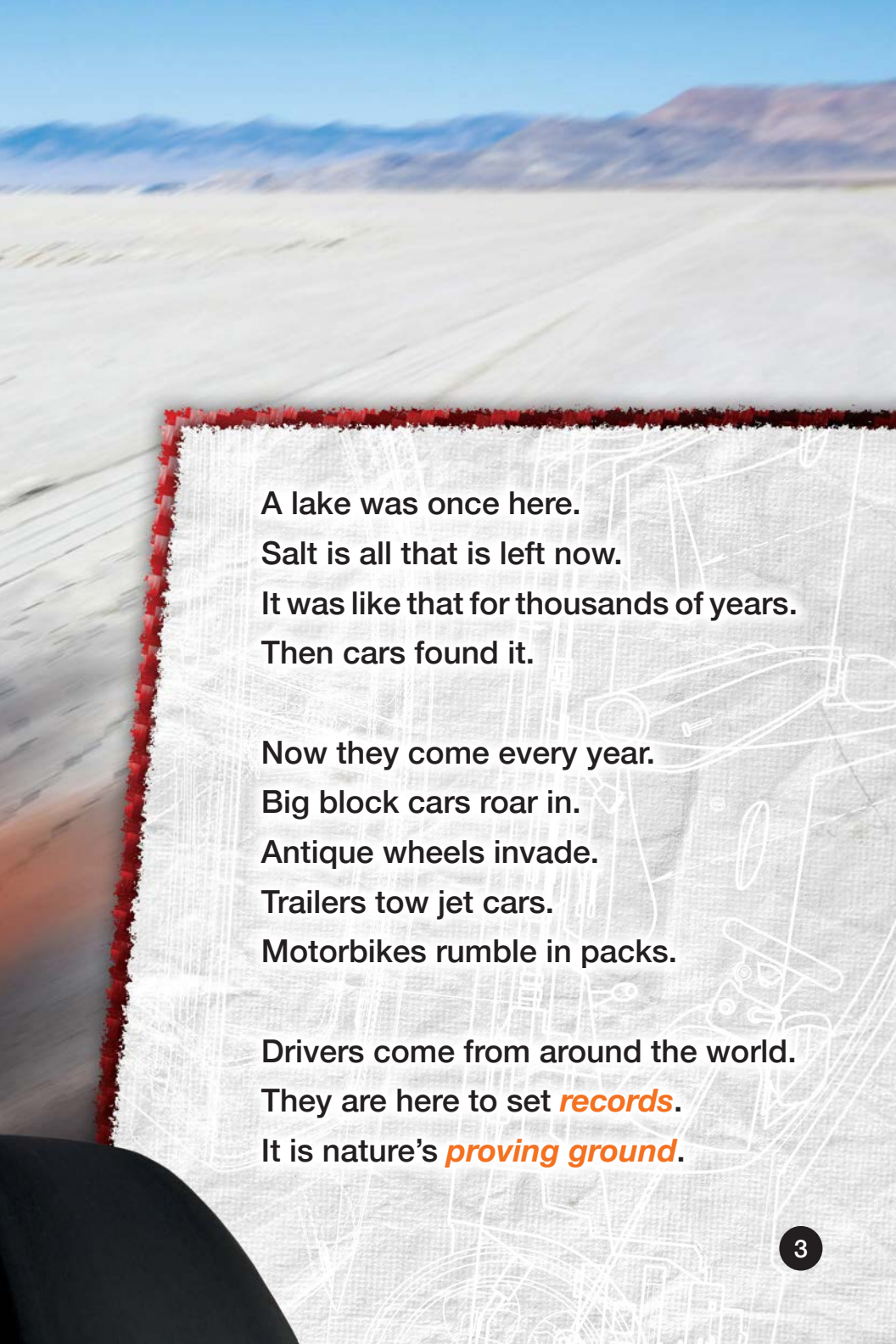
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Chapter 1

SPEED DEMON

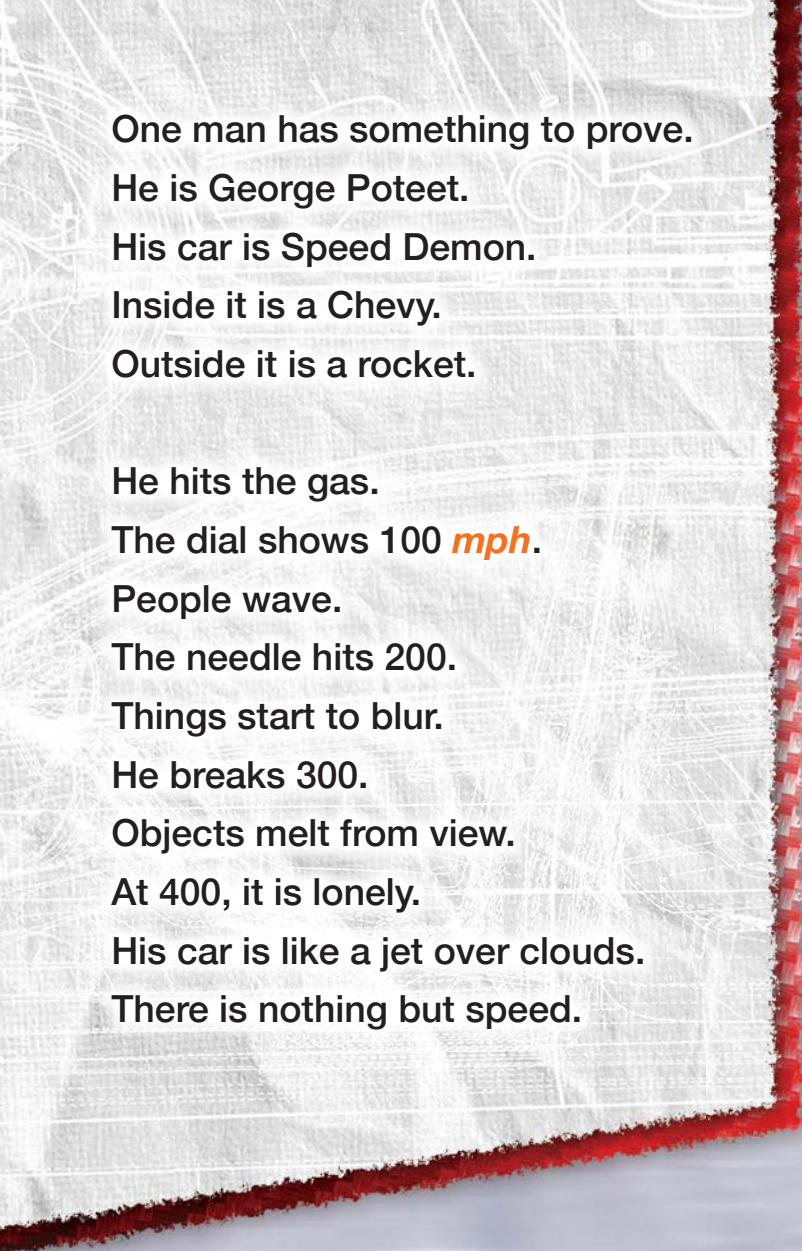
There is a place on Earth.
It looks like the moon.
The only color is white.
The land seems to go on forever.
You can see the planet curve.



A lake was once here.
Salt is all that is left now.
It was like that for thousands of years.
Then cars found it.

Now they come every year.
Big block cars roar in.
Antique wheels invade.
Trailers tow jet cars.
Motorbikes rumble in packs.

Drivers come from around the world.
They are here to set **records**.
It is nature's **proving ground**.



One man has something to prove.
He is George Poteet.
His car is Speed Demon.
Inside it is a Chevy.
Outside it is a rocket.

He hits the gas.
The dial shows 100 *mph*.
People wave.
The needle hits 200.
Things start to blur.
He breaks 300.
Objects melt from view.
At 400, it is lonely.
His car is like a jet over clouds.
There is nothing but speed.



439 mph sets a record.

Parachutes spring.

They catch the wind.

The car slows.

He drifts back to the world of people.

It is another first at the Salt Flats.

Chapter 2

SALT FLATS

This is the Bonneville Salt Flats.

It is in Utah.

Drivers come here to test their limits.

This started over 100 years ago.

Land speed records fell.



First was 300 mph.
The car was Bluebird.
It broke the record in 1935.

400 mph was next.
Spirit of America did it in 1963.
Then it topped 500.
After that, it cracked 600.

SPIRIT OF AMERICA



The Blue Flame stunned in 1970.
It went a mile at 622 mph.
That record held for years.

What makes this a great place to race?
It may be what it does not have.
There are no hills.
The land is like a giant sheet of paper.
Flats stretch 30,000 acres.

There is little *friction*.
That would slow cars.
The salt is smooth.
Wheels glide on it.

Nothing grows.
No trees or plants get in the way.
Speeds break records.





SALT