

RACETRACKS



EMILY SCHLESINGER

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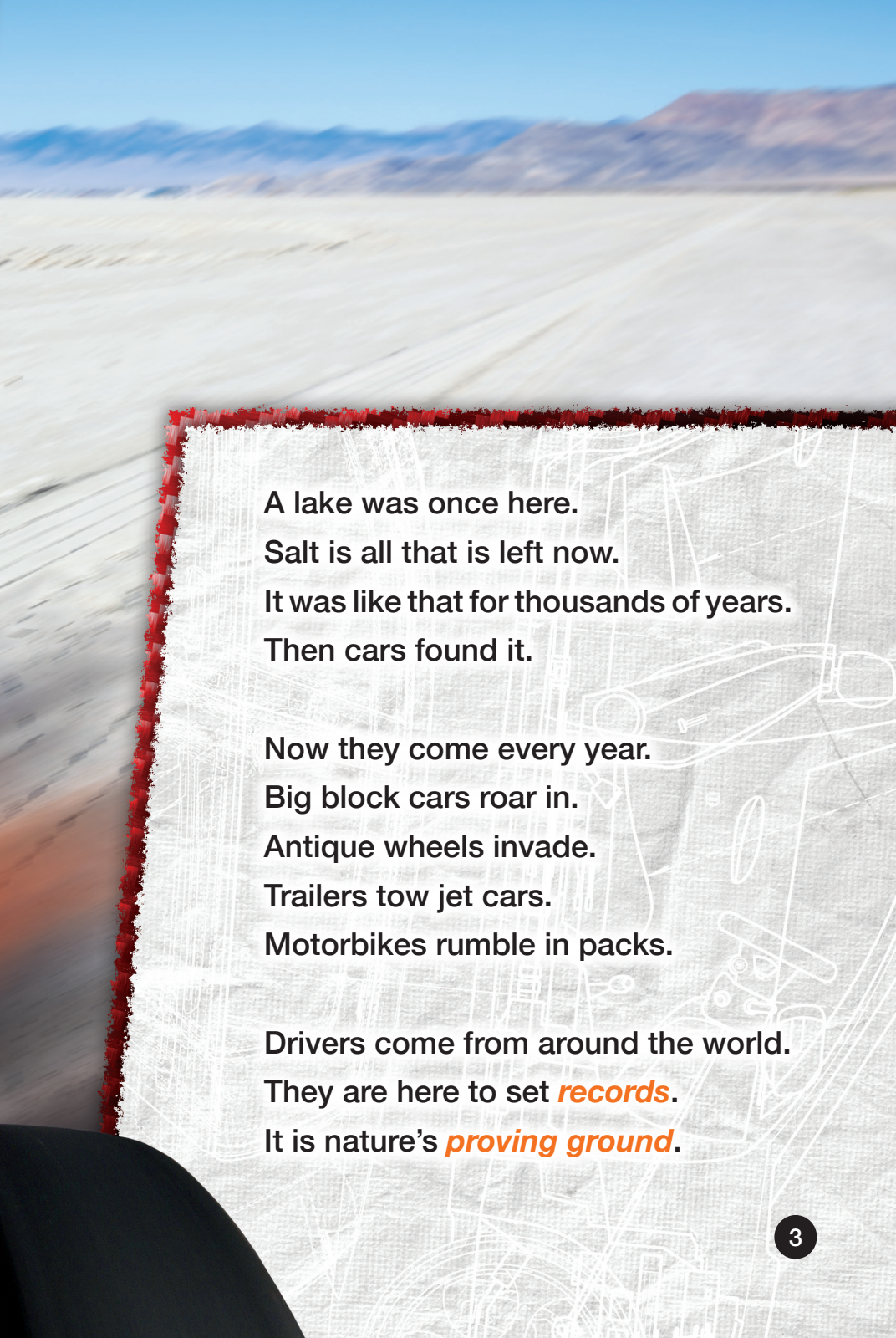
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Chapter 1

SPEED DEMON

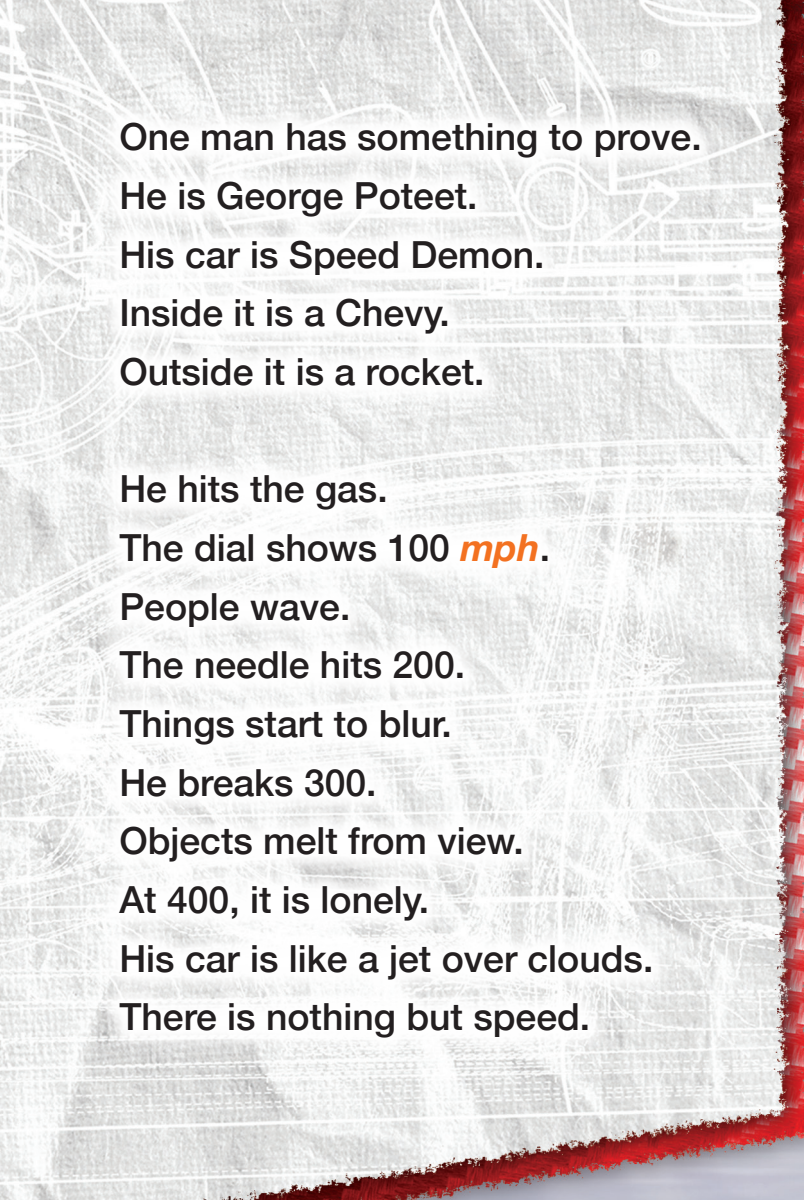
There is a place on Earth.
It looks like the moon.
The only color is white.
The land seems to go on forever.
You can see the planet curve.



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.



BLUEBIRD

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

