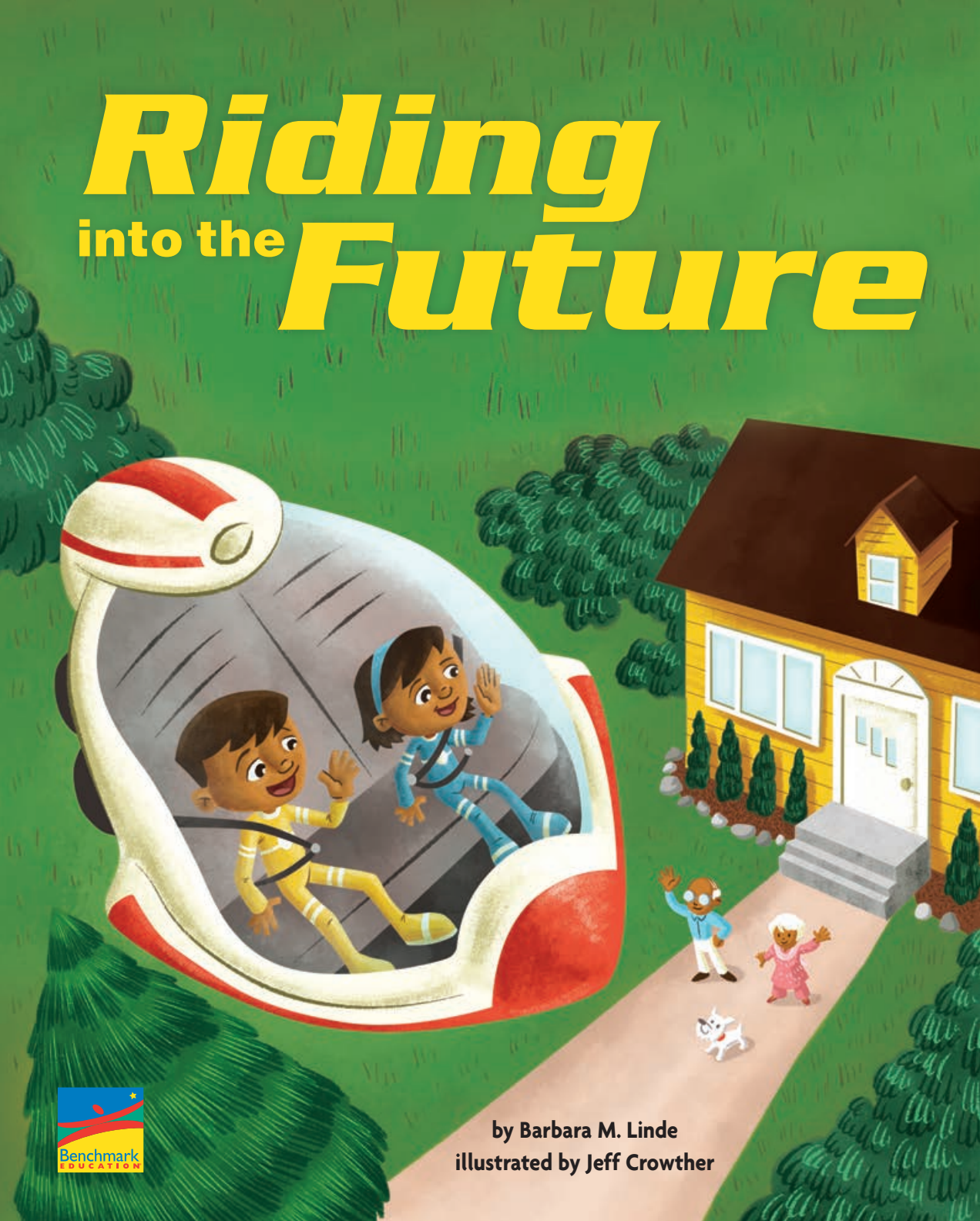
Riding into the Future



by Barbara M. Linde
illustrated by Jeff Crowther

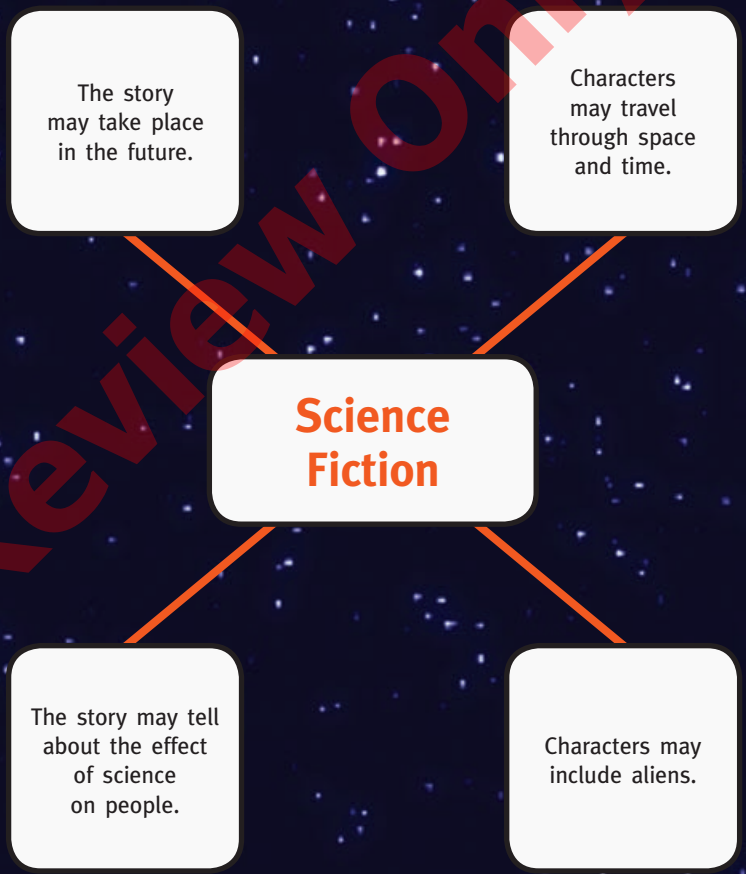
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CHAPTER 1

What If We Didn't Need to Take the Bus?

Samir and Maya were tired of taking the bus. It was full of noisy little kids. They wished they had another way to get to school.



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"I wish we could ride in an Octo-mobile instead," said Maya. "We could have a space just for us."

"With peace and quiet!" said Samir.

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Rainy days were terrible days to take the bus. It always drove through puddles, splashing Samir and Maya at the bus stop.

"What if we had a pod that attached to our front door?" asked Samir.

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"It could move at super speed through the rain," added Maya.

"We would get to school with dry clothes," said Samir.

"And dry homework!" said Maya.

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Snowy days were not much better than rainy ones. Piles of snow covered the streets. The bus driver always drove extra slowly.

"What if the bus could climb over these mountains of snow?" asked Samir.



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"The bus would be like a sled," said Maya.

"We could glide quickly over the snow," cried Samir.

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At the end of the day, Samir and Maya's stop was the last one. They felt like they were on the bus forever!

"What if we had rocket seats that got us home at top speed?" said Samir.



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"We would push a button and be there in a second. *Zoom! Zip!*" said Maya.

"That would be so much better than taking the bus," said Samir.

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