

Sand and Snow



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Chapter One

Are We There Yet?

“Are we there yet?” asked Gus.

“Not yet,” said Dad. “We will be there soon.”

Sadie and Gus could hardly wait! Dad was taking them to see Grandma at her home in the desert. They had never been there. On the way, Sadie sketched with her colored pencils.

“What kind of tree is that, Dad?” asked Sadie, pointing out the window.



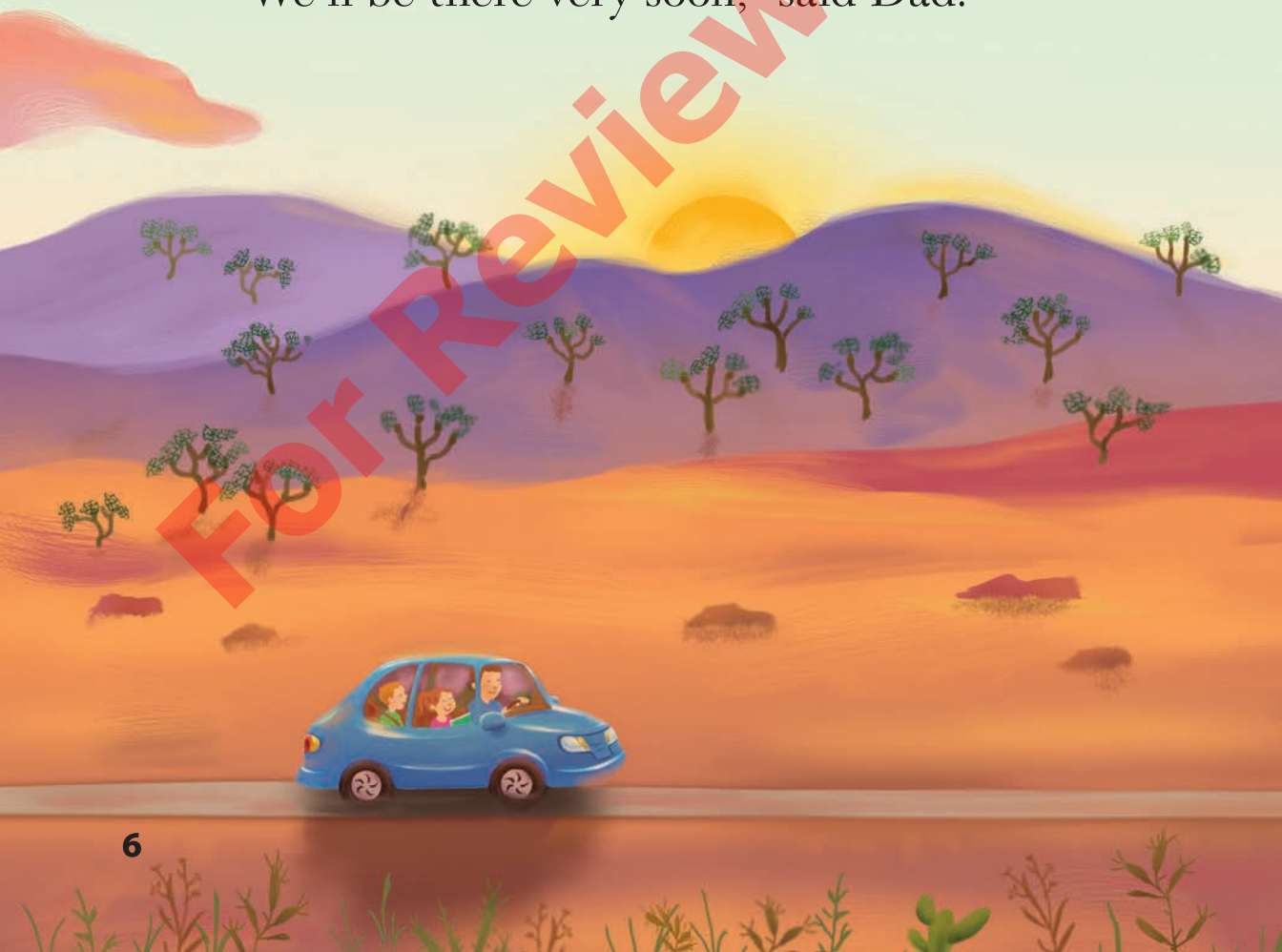
For Review Only

“That is a Joshua tree. It only grows in the Mojave Desert.”

“Look at those spiky leaves.” Sadie picked up her green and brown pencils and sketched the tree.

Then, Gus asked again, “Are we there yet?”

“We’ll be there very soon,” said Dad.

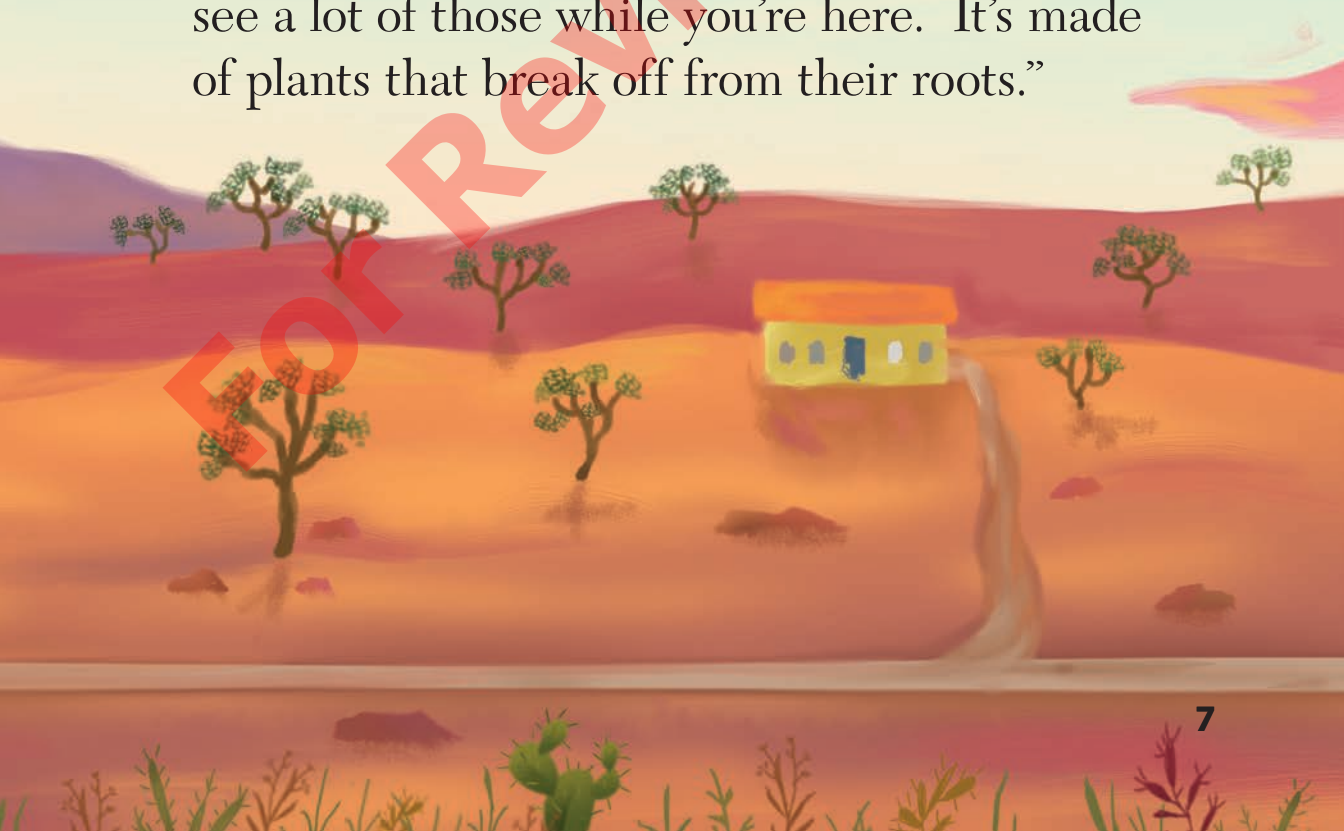


By the time they got to Grandma's house, the sun was setting.

"Look at those colors!" said Sadie as they got out of the car. "That is the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen. I'm going to draw that tomorrow."

Just then, a large brown ball of branches rolled past them.

"That's a tumbleweed," said Dad. "You'll see a lot of those while you're here. It's made of plants that break off from their roots."





Grandma was waiting at the door with a huge smile on her face.

“I’m so glad you’re here!” she said.
“Come inside.”

Just then, they saw a small bird flick its feathery tail.

“That’s a roadrunner,” said Gus. “They live here in the desert. They eat lizards, bugs, and scorpions!”

“That’s right, Gus. We are likely to see more of them tomorrow,” said Grandma.

Gus and Sadie talked to her about school and their friends. After a long day in the car, they were getting sleepy.

“What do you want to do tomorrow?” asked Grandma.

“I want to go on a hike to draw some desert animals,” said Sadie.

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Sadie and Gus go to visit Grandma at her home in the Mojave Desert. They are excited to explore a new place. But the next day, they wake up to a big surprise!

Reading Levels
Guided Reading: L
DRA Level: 24
Lexile® Level: 540L

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