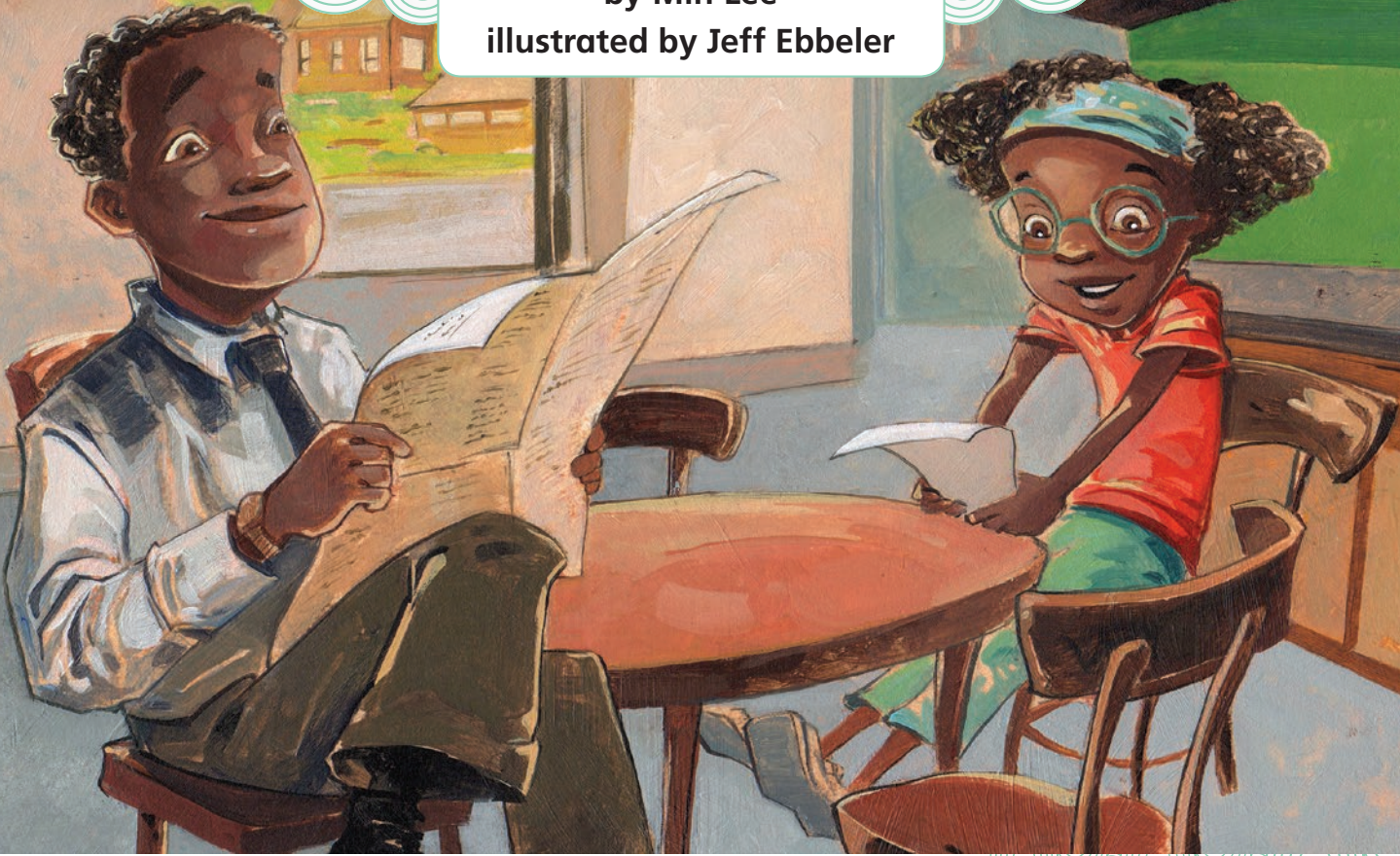


My Rafting Trip

by Min Lee

illustrated by Jeff Ebbeler



"Yay! Jade sent me a **letter**!" I cried.

I smiled and quickly began to read the **paper** in my hand.

"Dad! It says Jade, her mom, and her dad are staying in a cabin next week," I said. "She asks if we can come and stay with them."

"I know," Dad said with a grin. "I spoke to her **father** the other day. I can hardly wait for that fresh mountain air!"

I read the rest of the letter.

"The cabin is so remote!" Jade wrote. "We spotted a big, furry bear far off one day."

"Yikes," I thought. "I had better not see bears. That might scare me."

"But that was just one time," Jade added. "Bears are rare in this state."

I felt a bit better after reading that.





"Dad, Mom, and I have planned a bunch of fun things," Jade wrote. "We will go hiking up a mountain. At the top, you can see for miles and miles. It is a pretty spot for picnics! At night, we can lie under the night sky and stare up at the stars. But the best thing we have planned is a rafting trip. An expert named Mack will take us down the river in a big raft."



My father and I drove to the cabin a week later. That first day, we hiked and swam. I slept like a log that night!

The next day, we went rafting. Mack gave us life vests to wear and shared helpful safety tips. Then I stepped in the raft.

"Be careful," Mack said, but the raft lurched, and I fell in it. Jade and I laughed.

The river did not run that fast. For the first mile or so, I barely got wet. Then we hit a small spot of rapids, and the raft picked up speed. Water soaked us. My hair was dripping! But I did not care. It felt great!

The river turned and then it got fairly slow, but we did not have much time to relax. We quickly came to more rapids. We had a blast!





After the rafting trip, we returned to the cabin.

"We can make a fire," Jade said.

We set up chairs while her dad twisted up sheets of paper and placed them in the fire pit. "These will help the fire get started," he said.

When a big fire was blazing, we roasted hot dogs over it and sang campfire songs. It felt so nice to be warm and dry. It was just great to be together!