STEP 3
READING ON YOUR OWN

STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

Eat My Dust!

Henry Ford's First Race

by Monica Kulling
illustrated by Richard Walz

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fascinating world of non-fiction! Here you will find natural science, biography, history, sports . . . and more.

STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS include a huge selection of high-interest topics to engage young readers. No child can resist finding out about such topics as:

- Animals, both fuzzy and fierce
- Brave, bold, and brainy people
- Wild weather, such as twisters
- Life in the time of ice mummies or the Age of Dinosaurs
- Supersized trucks that leap into the air

Why should children read non-fiction? The benefits are enormous. First, children build their vocabularies, encountering words that may not come up in ordinary conversation but are needed to increase reading comprehension.

Second, non-fiction introduces children to a writing style that supports learning. When explaining new concepts, non-fiction writers often compare one thing with another. Comparisons make learning easy and fun.

Third, children build their store of background information. Context helps readers make important content connections, whether they are reading about history, biography, or natural science.

Last but not least, non-fiction books raise questions and motivate children to find answers.

The Common Core State Standards call on us to prepare children for college and careers by teaching them to read, write, and discuss non-fiction. **STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** can help children meet this goal while enjoying informative, age-appropriate books.

Happy reading!

Myra Zarnowski

Myra Zarnowski
Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Queens College, City University of New York

Look for an F&P Text Level on the back of every book.

Learning to Read, Step by Step!

Ready to Read Preschool–Kindergarten
• big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues
For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.

Reading with Help Preschool–Grade 1
• basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories
For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.

Reading on Your Own Grades 1–3
• engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics
For children who are ready to read on their own.

Reading Paragraphs Grades 2–3
• challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories
For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.

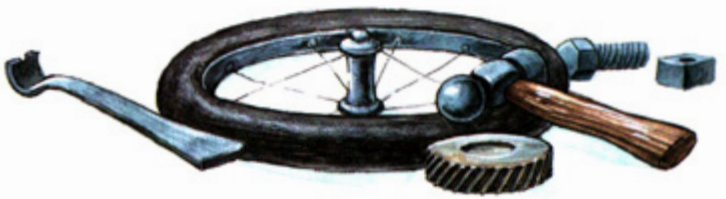
Ready for Chapters Grades 2–4
• chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art
For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides; children will progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading. The F&P Text Level on the back cover serves as another tool to help you choose the right book for your child.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

For my brother Michael, charmed by cars, and for Shana Corey, charming editor
—M.K.

For two of the most interesting and likable people I know—my brothers, Bill and John
—R.W.



With special thanks to Mark Patrick, Curator of the National Automotive History Collection of the Detroit Public Library, for his time and expertise in reviewing this book.

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Random House Children's Books supports the First Amendment and celebrates the right to read.

STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

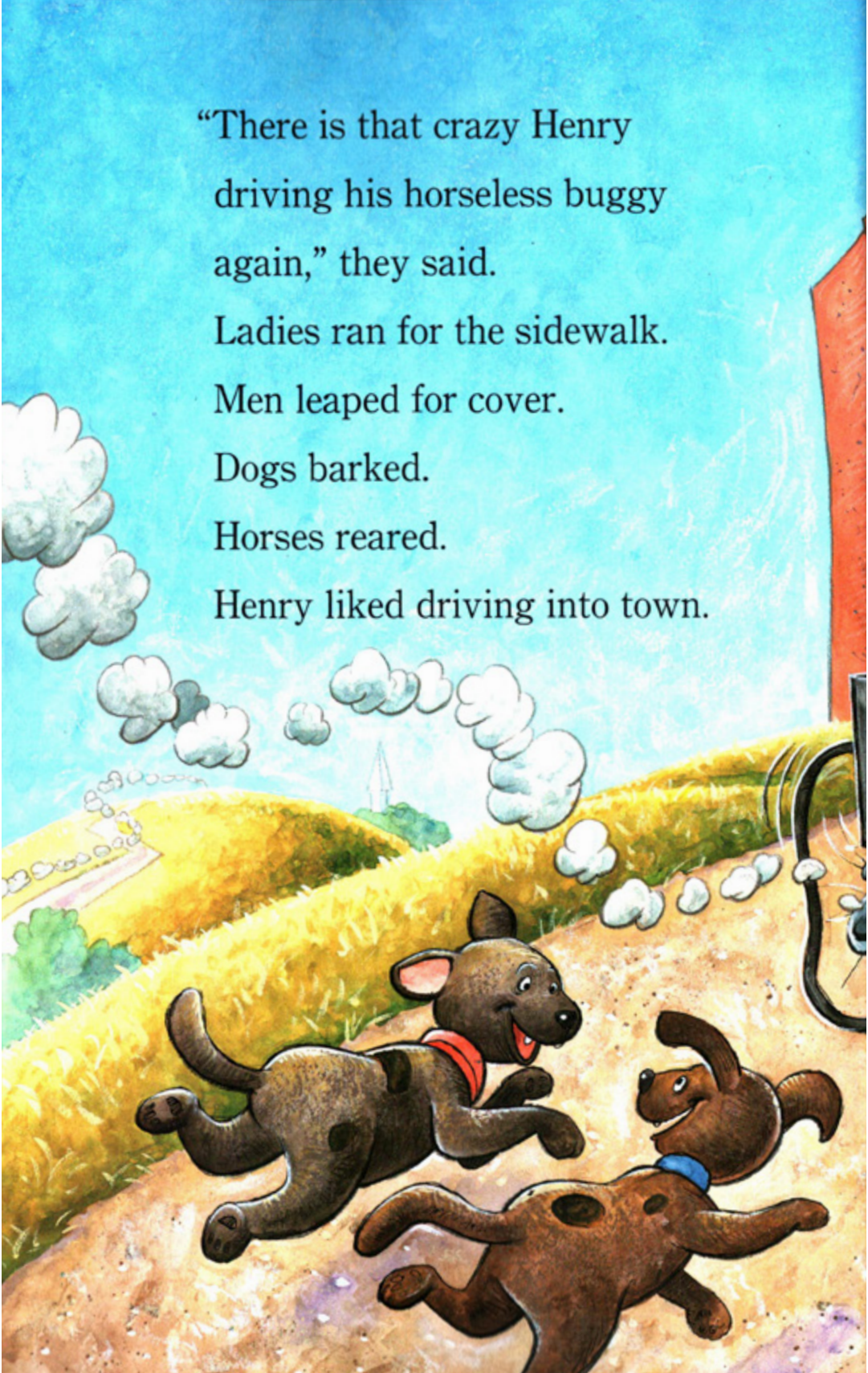
Eat My Dust!

Henry Ford's First Race

by Monica Kulling
illustrated by Richard Walz

Random House New York

Henry Ford liked to drive.
He liked to drive into town.
People got excited
when they saw him.

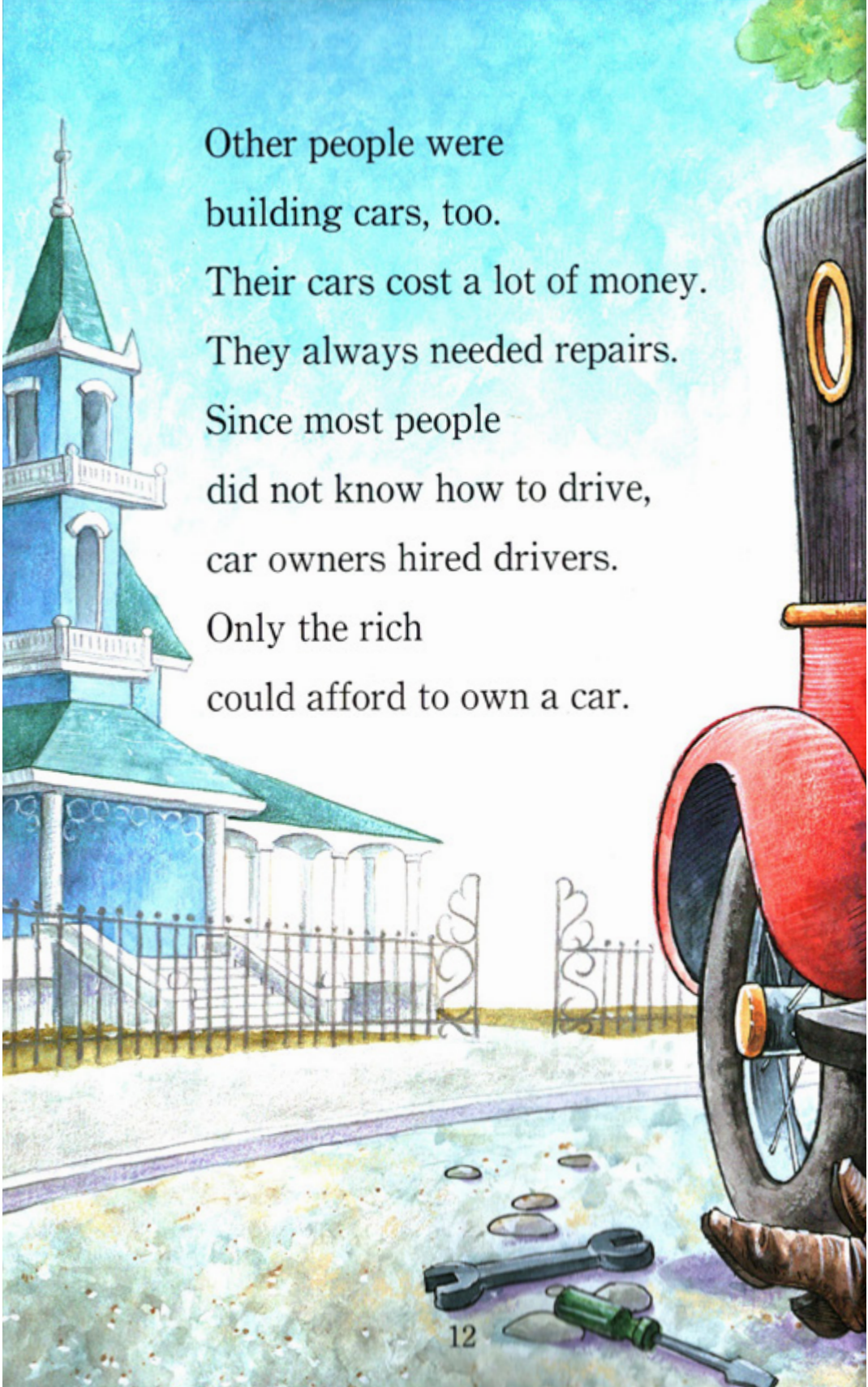


"There is that crazy Henry
driving his horseless buggy
again," they said.
Ladies ran for the sidewalk.
Men leaped for cover.
Dogs barked.
Horses reared.
Henry liked driving into town.

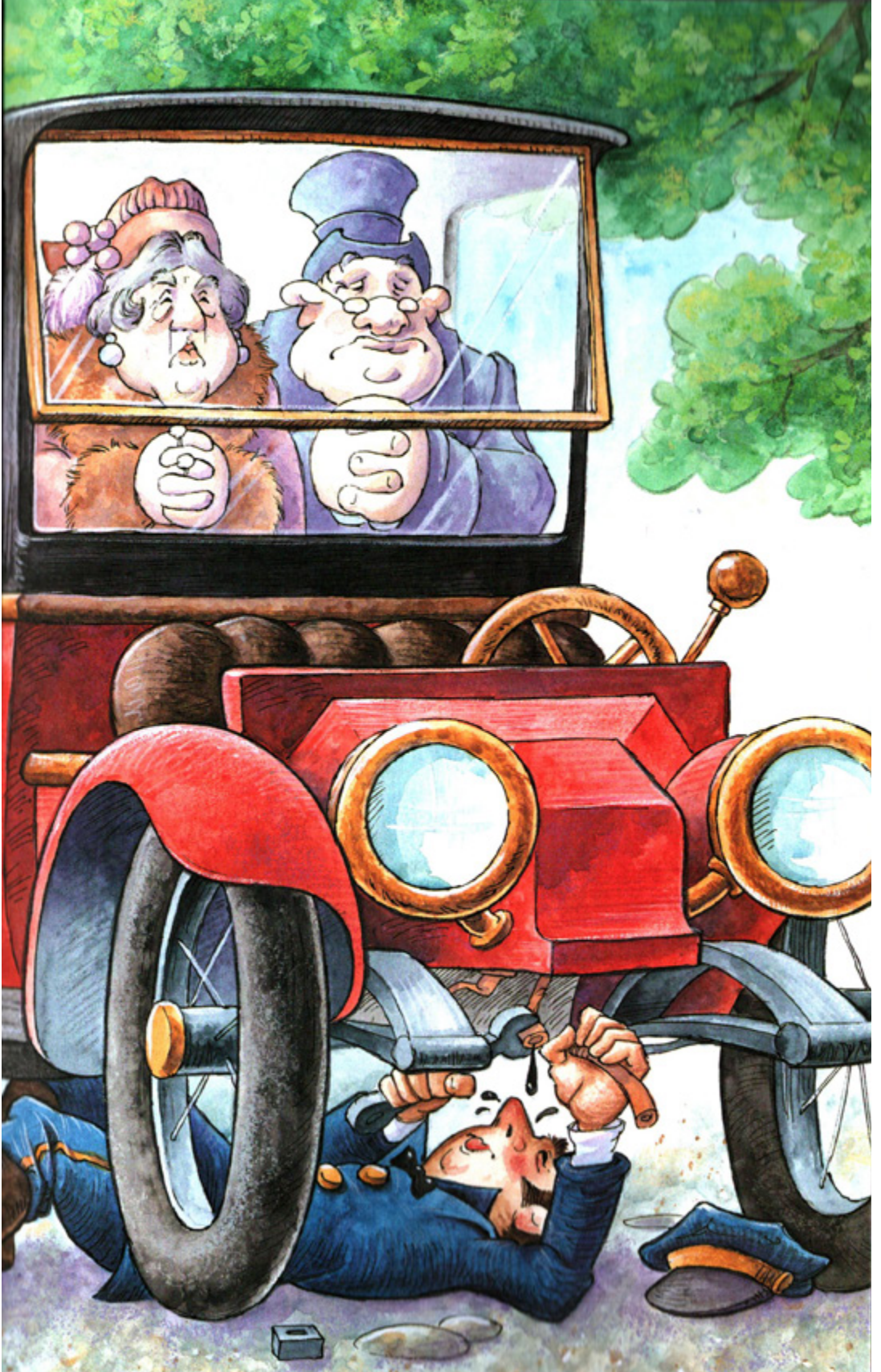
Henry had built
his car by himself.
It ran on gas.
It did not have brakes.
Henry stopped his car
by turning off the engine.
Then he jumped out.

Henry tied his car to a post—
just like a horse—
so it would not roll away.

Everyone wished
Henry would go back
to driving a horse and buggy.
But Henry loved cars.
He loved driving them.
And he loved building them.



Other people were
building cars, too.
Their cars cost a lot of money.
They always needed repairs.
Since most people
did not know how to drive,
car owners hired drivers.
Only the rich
could afford to own a car.



STEP INTO READING®

Henry Ford likes to drive. He even builds his own car. But will he win the big race?

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