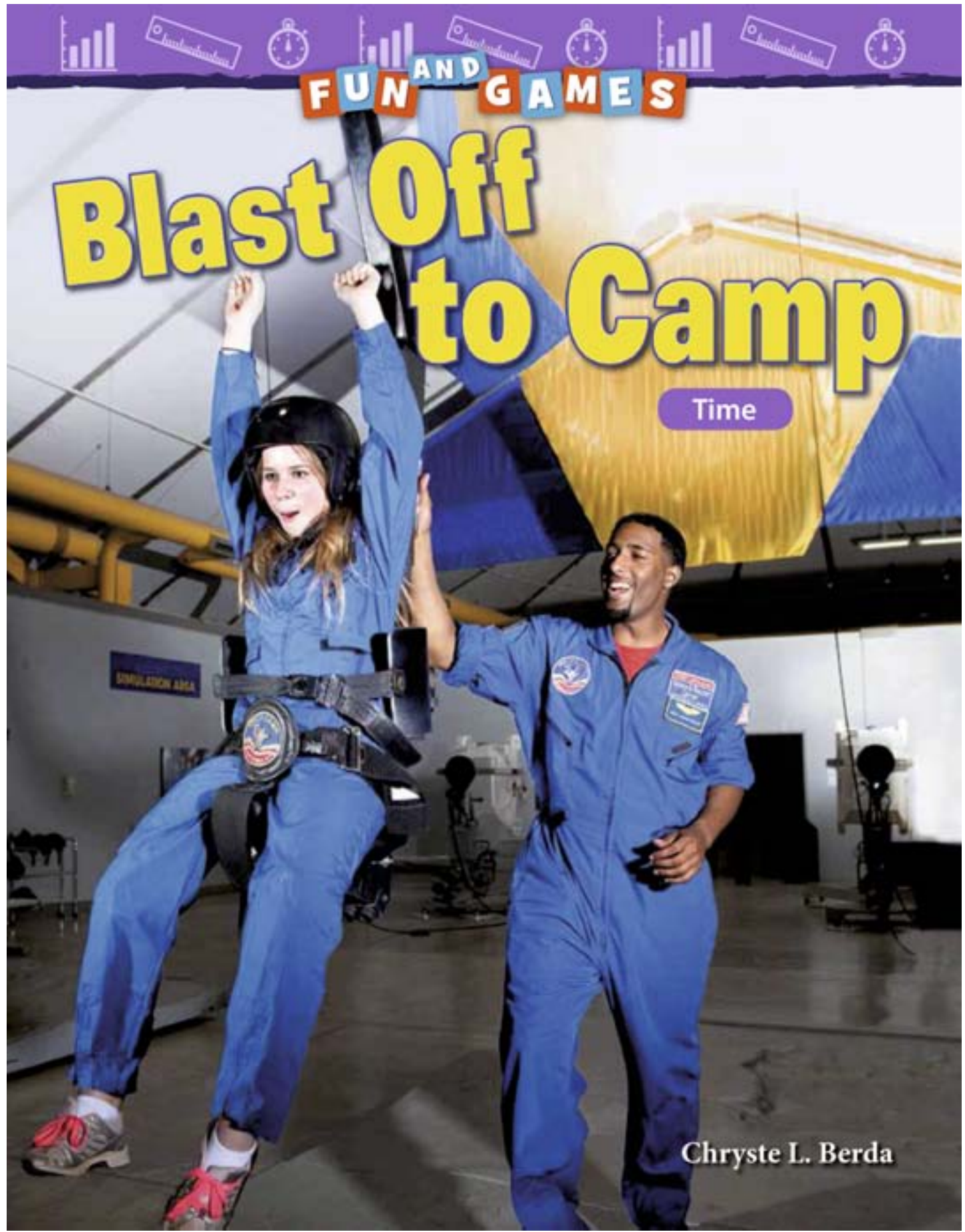




FUN AND GAMES

# Blast Off to Camp

Time



SIMULATION AREA

Chryste L. Berda

## Consultant

**Leslie A. Kelly, M.A.**  
Curriculum Director  
Columbus City Schools, OH

### Publishing Credits

Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*  
Conni Medina, M.A.Ed., *Managing Editor*  
Dona Herweck Rice, *Series Developer*  
Emily R. Smith, M.A.Ed., *Series Developer*  
Diana Kenney, M.A.Ed., NBCT, *Content Director*  
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# A Hero's Welcome

I cross my fingers and almost forget to breathe. The announcer leans in close to the microphone. He clears his throat before speaking.

“The winner of this year’s Future Scientist **Competition** is...Isabella!” He says it loudly, but I cannot hear him. My ears are ringing.

I feel like I am floating, but I am walking. And then, I am on the stage. I won first place! My family cheers from the side of the stage. My friends scream and clap. But I do not notice a thing. I just won a dream trip to Space Camp®!

A crowd waits to hear the winner of the Future Scientist Competition.



When I get home, I am still in **awe**. I am now one step closer to my dream of being an astronaut. But I am nervous for that next step.

To get to camp, I have to fly on an airplane by myself. I have never left my home state of Oregon. I have never been away from my parents for so long. Soon, I will leave for Alabama for a week. My mom tells me I am brave and gives me her watch. “Time will fly by!” she tells me as she puts the watch on my wrist. But I am not sure that I am ready for this.



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