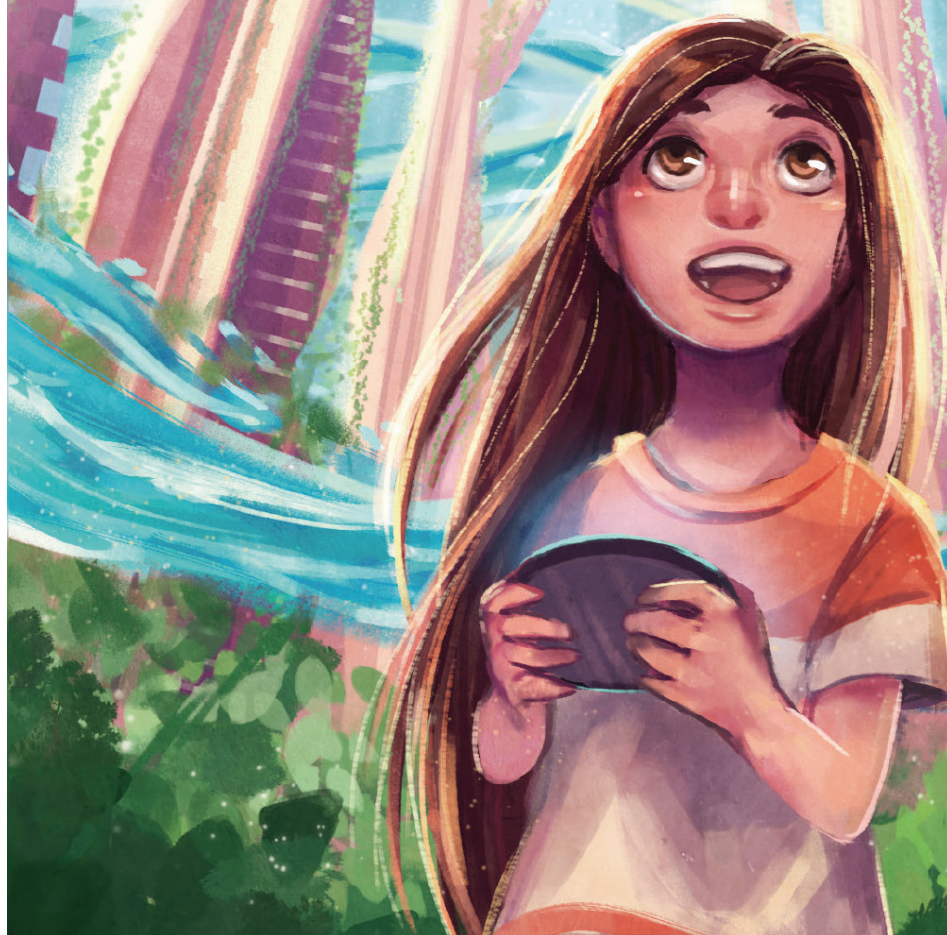


LAURA SCHAEFER

A Long Way from Home



Lerner™



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A Long Way from Home

Additional Resources

ACTIVITY #1

With a partner or on your own, design a neighborhood of the future using a combination of drawings or cartoons, descriptions, images or captions.

- What kinds of features does a neighborhood need to have to be a nice place to live?
- What are some problems of living you think people in the future will solve?
- How will they handle community transportation, waste, and energy production?
- What will the young people who live in the neighborhood of the future do for fun?

ACTIVITY #2

Write a short description or create a graphic novel chapter about what the typical school day is like for middle school students living in the year 2272.

- What kinds of things do they learn about?
- How do they spend their time?
- Do teachers run classrooms in a different way than they do now? How?
- How are school buildings the same as they are today? How are they different?

ACTIVITY #3

Make a video with a partner in which you pretend to interview someone who lives in a different era, either the past or the future. Write a short script before you begin filming this video in which you ask—and answer—what life is like at a different point in time.

ACTIVITY #4

In the book, Abby starts to feel better about her new life in Florida for a lot of reasons. One of the reasons is her new friendship with Juliana, which starts because of the program at her school that matches up new students with a mentor. Does your school have a program like this one? If not, form a small group in your class and start one. To do so, discuss how it would work and then share your ideas with your teacher.

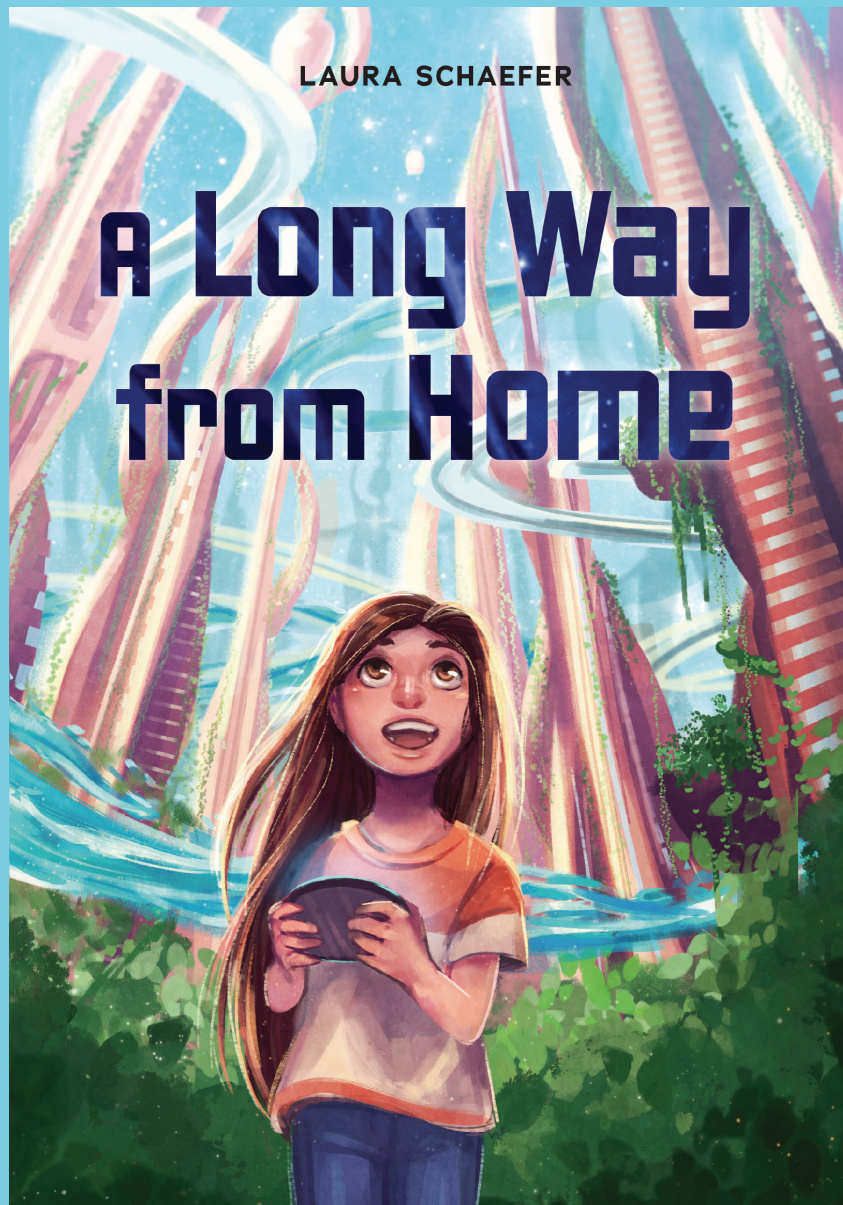
- Would student mentors need to volunteer?
- How long would new students participate?
- What are some ways a mentor can help new students feel welcome?

Discussion Questions



1. If you met two kids from the future, what questions would you have for them about their lives or about the world?
2. If time travel was possible, would you want to try it? What year would you like to visit? Why?
3. Do you think human beings will figure out a way to regularly visit the Moon or Mars in your lifetime? Do you think you'll want to go? Why or why not? What would you pack to bring with you?
4. If you visited someone your age who lived 250 years ago, back in the year 1772, what would you tell them about our lives right now? What aspects of our lives do you think they'd be most surprised by?
5. Abby isn't sure what she wants to be when she grows up. Do you have any idea about what job you'll do as an adult? Do you enjoy it when adults ask you about your own future? Why or why not?
6. "Space is hard." What are some reasons humans are challenged by space travel?
7. In the beginning of the story, Abby struggles to feel optimistic about the future. By the end of the book, her outlook changes. How do you feel, generally, about the future?
8. Have you ever had to move to a different home or a new state? What was the hardest part? What was the best part?





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LAURA SCHAEFER is the author of *The Teashop Girls*, *The Secret Ingredient*, and *Little Women: A Modern Retelling*. Born and raised in Wisconsin, Laura currently lives in Windermere, Florida, with her husband and daughter, where she enjoys visiting theme parks and watching rocket launches from her front yard. Visit her online at lauraschaeferwriter.com and twitter.com/teashopgirl.