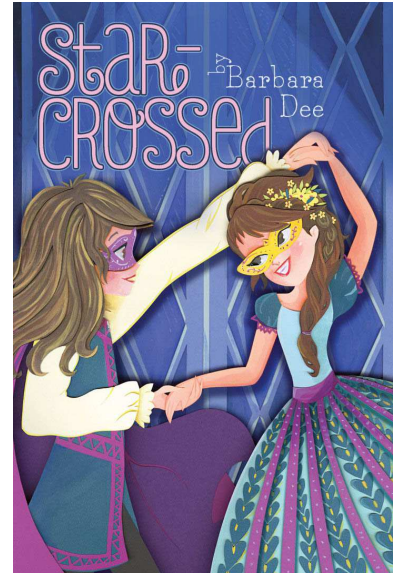


STAR-CROSSED

By Barbara Dee

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Mattie is chosen to play Romeo opposite her crush in the eighth grade production of Shakespeare's most beloved play in this *Romeo and Juliet* inspired novel.



FOR BOOK CLUBS

- Many of Shakespeare's comedies end with a dance. After the "big, messy" dance of celebration at the end of STAR-CROSSED, what do you think will happen? What will happen when Mattie talks to her mom about Gemma? When she talks to her dad?
- Liam criticizes Romeo for not confiding his feelings about Juliet to his friends. Do you think Mattie was right to keep her feelings secret from Lucy? Tessa? What about the other kids at school? Do you agree with Mattie's worry that even when kids claim to be tolerant, "knowing that an actual girl in middle school had a crush on another actual girl" would cause teasing, or worse?
- Look at the people who support Mattie--Lucy, Tessa, Cara, Mr. Torres. How do they support her? Who else might in the future?
- Reading and performing *Romeo and Juliet* helps Mattie find the words for her own feelings. What book (or song, or movie, or work of art) has done the same for you?