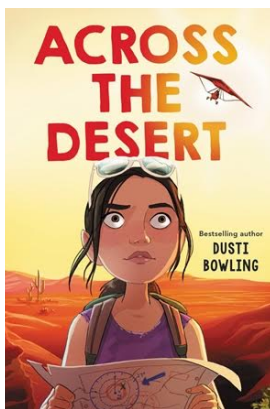


Name _____

Date _____



Across the Desert

by Dusti Bowling



Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Twelve-year-old Jolene spends every day she can at the library watching her favorite livestream: The Desert Aviator, where twelve-year-old 'Addie Earhart' shares her adventures flying an ultralight plane over the desert. While watching this daring girl fly through the sky, Jolene can dream of what it would be like to fly with her, far away from her own troubled home life where her mother struggles with a narcotic addiction. And Addie, who is grieving the loss of her father, finds solace in her online conversations with Jolene, her biggest—and only—fan.

Then, one day, it all goes wrong: Addie's engine abruptly stops, and Jolene watches in helpless horror as the ultralight plummets to the ground and the video goes dark. Jolene knows that Addie won't survive long in the extreme summer desert heat. With no one to turn to for help and armed with only a hand-drawn map and a stolen cell phone, it's up to Jolene to find a way to save the Desert Aviator. Packed with adventure and heart, *Across the Desert* speaks to the resilience, hope, and strength within each of us.

Who Wrote It?

DUSTI BOWLING grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona, where, as her family will tell you, she always had her nose in a book. She released her first middle grade novel in 2017 and hasn't stopped writing since.

Dusti's books have won all sorts of amazing awards! And the best part is she keeps coming out with new books all the time. Currently, she is up to 7!!

Dusti currently lives in Eagar, Arizona with her husband, three daughters, several tarantulas, some guinea pigs, a gopher snake named Burrito, and a



cockatiel named Gandalf the Grey. Yes, her real name is Dusti and yes she really does have all of those pets! You can learn more about Dusti and her books at www.dustibowling.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.2

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK





Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.