



2017

Criss Cross

Kristie Hinckley

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Book Review

Title: Criss Cross

Author: Lynne Rae Perkins

Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

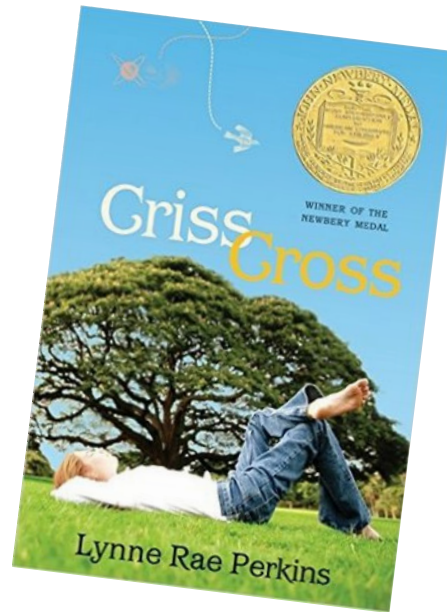
Publication Year: 2005

ISBN: 9780060092726

Number of Pages: 337

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent



Review

Criss Cross is the story of several young teenagers whose paths cross over the course of a few months. Hector, Phil, Debbie, and Lenny are neighbors who like listening to their favorite radio show together. Debbie meets Peter through a housekeeping job. Hector meets Meadow and Russell in a group guitar lesson. This group of teenagers learn about friendship, growing up, and love while breaking the rules, saving lives, and finding themselves at the same time. Criss Cross focuses on the small moments that make up the people we become.

The descriptive language, similes, metaphors, and figurative language that Lynne Rae Perkins uses in Criss Cross makes each character come alive for the reader. Every new chapter is the chance to step into a different character's shoes. For example, Hector talks about how Russell's thoughts were probably "wandering through his head like lurching strangers on a moving train." This Newbery Award book may be difficult for readers who prefer storytelling and plot over prose, but its simple message and insight to young adulthood will be appreciated by a more subtle audience.