

After what felt like forever,
they finally arrived in Branson, Missouri.
The hotel never looked so good.

John was reading. Jennifer was still narrating.
Dana was glaring at Dede as if she had ruined her life.

And Dede?
She dragged herself from the van
like a weary explorer.
“We made it,” she groaned.



♥ A Note to Grown-Ups ♥

Stuck in the Middle, Sort of: Dede's Road Trip Chaos follows Deidre "Dede" Stewart, a spirited middle child navigating life between older and younger siblings. Through everyday adventures and family chaos, Dede learns to claim her space and find her joy, even when she feels unseen.

♥ Themes to Talk About ♥



Birth Order and Identity

Children often experience family roles differently. This story helps open up conversations about how every child, oldest, youngest, or in-between, brings something special to the family.



Sibling Relationships

Laughter, rivalry, and teamwork it is all here! Dede's interactions with her siblings are great springboards for talking about empathy, fairness, and fun.



Finding Your Voice

Dede reminds readers that being seen starts with being yourself. Let this story inspire conversations about confidence and self-expression.



Joy in Small Moments

From music from the 8-track to cannonballs in the pool, this story celebrates everyday joy. Ask your child what little moments bring them the most joy.

Questions to Ask Your Child:

- Have you ever felt like Dede stuck in the middle, sort of?
- What makes each person in our family special?
- How can we make sure everyone feels seen and heard?

