

Summer Reading – Upcoming 8th graders

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

Lexile Level: 650L

AR Level: 4.1 grade equivalent

AR points: 9 points

Short Synopsis: Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together—and learns to dream bigger than ever before.

As you read the book, *The Running Dream*, keep a journal and write a summary of each Part. Each summary should include the main characters in the chapter, the setting and the plot. Be prepared to take an AR test on this book within the first couple of weeks of school. The AR test will be one of your first assessment grades in 8th grade. If you pass the AR test with a 70% or higher, *The Running Dream* will count as your first AR book for the 1st nine weeks.

Directions: Answer each question using a WELL-WRITTEN COMPLETE sentence. Please be thorough and use specific text evidence with your answers to receive full credit.

Questions:

1. What was the setting of the novel (time period, location, etc.)?
2. Describe the protagonist of the novel. Be specific about appearance, age, name, qualities/character traits, and challenges that she faces.
3. Who are some of the minor characters? Provide at least three. Explain their relationship to the protagonist.
4. How did the main character change/progress over the course of the novel? Why did the character change in these ways?
5. Describe the conflict or central problem of the novel. Identify one internal **and** one external conflict.
6. How were the conflicts resolved? Explain each.
7. List 5 of the **most important** events that took place in the novel in chronological order and explain why they were important to the novel's overall plot.
8. What was the climax of the novel?
9. Compare and contrast Jessica's attitude towards her disability in Part Four with her attitude towards her disability in Part One.
10. There are two themes conveyed in Part Four, Chapter Five: family, relationships, and growing up. Select **one** of those themes and cite two examples from the chapter that give evidence to support that theme.