

***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen**

English Language Arts, 7th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Sixteen-year-old Jessica lives to run but when a tragic accident results in her leg being amputated below the knee, her running dreams are shattered. During her recovery she gets to know Rosa—a girl with cerebral palsy whom she had previously ignored. Rosa helps Jessica believe in a future with unexpected opportunities. With the support of her coach, friends, family and community, Jessica starts to wonder if it is possible not only to walk again, but to run.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Humans Impacting the World**
 - Essential Question: “How do humans impact the world?”

- **Unit 2: Issues & Explorations of the World**
 - Essential Question: “What issues are important to an individual and how do we gather the resources needed for exploration?”

- **Unit 3: Advocating Issues**
 - Essential Question: “How do people persuade and understand each other?”

- **Unit 4: Stories & the Human Spirit**
 - Essential Question: “How do different authors tell stories and portray the human spirit?”

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from a text RL.7.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text: provide an objective summary of the text RL.7.2
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g. how setting shapes the characters or plot). RL.7.3

- Explain how the author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the point of view of different characters or narrators in a text RL.7.6
- Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history RL.7.9
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when reading to aid comprehension. RL.7.10
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on Grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibility from a range of strategies RL.7.11
- RL.7.9 Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.
- W.7.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- W.7.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.