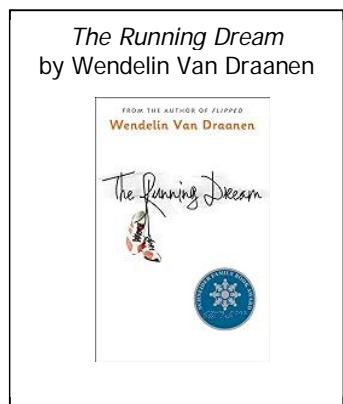


Dear Incoming Freshman,

The English Department welcomes you to Assumption! We believe that reading over the summer is an effective way to maintain your reading and thinking skills so that you are well prepared for the upcoming school year. In addition, we hope that our summer reading program fosters a desire to read, develops your reading comprehension and vocabulary, and promotes intellectual growth through exposure to other cultures and perspectives.

We have selected the following book for next year's freshmen to read before the beginning of school in August:



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

"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. Who cares about walking when you live to run?"

As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her." - Amazon.com

You will need to have your own copy of the book so that you may fully participate in class discussions. When you come to school in the fall, your teacher will incorporate your summer reading novel into your freshman class through a **reading quiz/test, class discussion, and a creative response**. We encourage you to read the book near the end of the summer, so it is fresh in your memory.

Active Reading Helpful Tips:

All students are encouraged to take notes on the book. Taking notes not only will help you interact more closely with the text, but it will allow you to remember the novel when we discuss it in August. **It will be helpful if you have some notes to look back on to help you prepare.**

Your notes could include the following:

1. **Summarize:** Some of the chapters of the novel are shorter, so consider summarizing every 20 or so pages to help you remember what happened.
2. **Character notes:** *As you read*, you might underline/highlight any descriptions or details that provide information about characters to help you remember important details about them.
3. **Questions:** *As you read*, write any questions you have in the margins.
4. **Reader Response:** After you've read, consider these questions about the novel and connecting it to your life.
 - Do you think that physical or mental healing is more difficult? Which was more difficult for Jessica?
 - How do you cope when you feel over-whelmed or sad? How does Jessica cope?
 - How does Jessica work to achieve her goals? How do other characters help her to achieve them?
 - How easy is it to avoid people who are different? What led Jessica to get to know Rosa in a new way?

We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

The Freshman English Teachers