

## **Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review**

Teacher: Amy Beal

School: OLMS

Book Title: The Running Dream

Genre: Young Adult Realistic Fiction

Author: Wendelin Van Draanen

Pages: 332

Publisher: Ember, Random House

Copyright: 2011

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and Summary Citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together—and learns to dream bigger than ever before.

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.

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.**

**Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award.** Students will examine concepts pertaining to perspective and identity. Our OLSD ELA Curriculum Map wants students to grapple with and consider multiple perspectives. Our main character must persevere after a life changing accident and determine her new normal. Students will engage in collaborative discussions and support analysis of text with strong and relevant evidence. Students will also examine word choice and literary elements.

**Include two professional review of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form). Reviews should suggest an appropriate grade-level or grade-band.

Review #1

When track star Jessica loses her leg in a school bus accident, she is devastated that she will never run again. After weaning herself off painkillers (upon which she's become dependent) and learning to walk with crutches, she returns to school at the urging of her supportive best friend. When her track coach shows her videos of amputees running on prostheses, she's riveted at the thought of reclaiming her passion—if, that is, her team can raise the \$20,000 needed to buy the leg. A tender subplot about Jessica's friendship with a girl with cerebral palsy seems scripted to underscore the message about seeing beyond disabilities ("Don't sum up the person based on what you see, or what you don't understand; get to know them," Jessica says). But Van Draanen sensitively conveys Jessica's struggles, from getting into the shower to her fear that no guys will be attracted to her. Jessica's gradual acceptance of her new life's limitations and her discovery of its unanticipated gifts should satisfy readers, who will root for her as she learns to run again. Ages 12–up.

Publisher's Weekly

Review #2

Inspirational. The pace of Van Draanen's prose matches Jessica's at her swiftest. Readers will zoom through the book just as Jessica blazes around the track. A lively and lovely story." —*Kirkus Reviews*

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: Out of My Mind

Author: Sharon Draper

Title: Anything But Typical

Author: Nora Baskin

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

References to death and disability as the main character is in a car accident that kills her young friend and causes severe injuries. Doesn't go into graphic detail.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated

Regular

At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6 X    7 X    8 X    9 X    10 X    11 X    12

**Reading Level of this Title (if applicable):**

**Suggested Professional Literacy Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults

**Signatures:**

**Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Administrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Curriculum Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_