

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Running Dream by Wendelin VanDraanen



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

## What's It About?

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.

## Who Wrote It?

I was born on January 6th to Dutch immigrants (Peter & Mieske Van Draanen) in Chicago, IL. When I was very young, my family moved to California, where I still reside. I grew up with two brothers and a sister. We did a lot of camping and backpacking as a family, and also as Scouts, where we learned useful survival skills and also to appreciate nature. I taught computer science and math at the high school level for 15 years. I began writing because I went through some awful times and learned



that writing can help you sort out your troubles and find focus. To learn more about Wendelin, read her memoir: Hope in the Mail or in the interview at the end of this video.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 650L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.