*The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica is a runner. She lives, eats, breathes and sleeps running. It is such a huge part of her life that when a terrible bus crash causes her to lose one of her legs, she does not know how she will go on. All of her track friends don’t know what to say around her, Kaylee, her sister, treats her like a leper and her parents treat her as if she’s a porcelain doll. Even her math teacher treats her oddly, sitting her in the back of their classroom with Rosa, a girl with Cerebral Palsy. This, however, turns out to be Jessica’s saving grace, because in meeting and befriending Rosa, she finds her strength to move on. With the help of her friends and schoolmates, Jessica receives the money to buy a running prosthetic and pursue her love of running again. This time, though, Jessica decides to put in her all and take Rosa on the journey with her.

*~ Booktalk by Jennifer Torkkola*