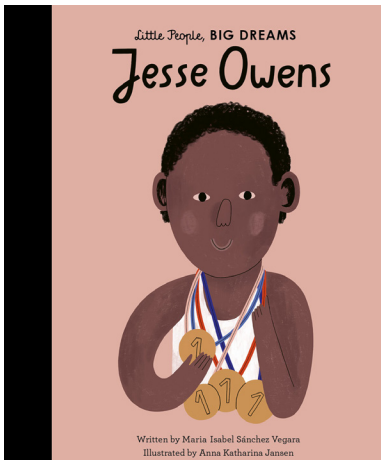


Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Jesse Owens

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Jesse Owens was born on a farm in Alabama and was the youngest of ten children. He worked hard to help support his family, but he also worked hard at practicing running. In college, he broke three track and field world records and tied for a fourth, and in the 1936 Olympics he won four gold medals. Throughout his life Jesse faced the injustices of racism, but despite this and other hardships he spent his life searching for the good in the world around him and inspiring others to do the same.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Who helped Jesse on his path to greatness?
2. What are some examples of how Jesse was treated unfairly because of his race?
3. What awards did Jesse win?
4. How did experiences with a racist society impact Jesse's life?
5. Why is Jesse a dreamer and role model for all of us?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Jesse was the youngest of ten children. Have the students share about their own families and how many children there are. Ask them their opinions on if they'd prefer to have more or fewer siblings than they currently have, or even if they'd like to have as many as Jesse!
2. When Jesse was unable to join the track team because of needing to help his family, he showed determination by still getting up early every morning to practice running (p. 4-5). Ask the students to share a time when they showed determination. What was the result of their hard work

and dedication?

3. On p. 8, we see an example of segregation when Jesse, a Black kid, had to wait to shower until his white teammates were done. Ask the students how they would feel if they were Jesse in this situation. Also discuss what Jesse's white teammates could have done to turn this racist situation into an opportunity to express allyship.

4. Jesse is described as a humble hero because he was willing to congratulate his opponents instead of just focusing on the fact that he won (p. 11). Explain to students what it means to be humble. Ask them to share a time when they were humble or perhaps witnessed humility in someone else.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Jesse was nicknamed the "Buckeye Bullet" (p. 7). Discuss alliteration with the students and have a variety of easily alliterative animal pictures available. Work together to come up with some alliterative nicknames for the animals. For example, maybe there is a lion wearing a shamrock shirt, so you can call him the "Lucky Lion," or a hippopotamus with a big smile on her face called the "Happy Hippo." Allow students who grasp the concept of alliteration to come up with their own. Students who need some support can work together or choose an already-created name and just draw the coordinating picture.

2. Jesse set three world records and tied another during one championship (p. 9). Display the illustration and point out the four statistics that are listed. Outside, tape off or draw chalk lines to represent the two distances, which are 100 yards and 220 yards. Have the students start on a starting line and run for Jesse's record-breaking times (9.4 seconds and 20.3 seconds). When you yell, "Stop!" at those time markers, have students see where they are on the line and how much farther Jesse ran in that same amount of time. Repeat the activity as necessary to see if students can increase their distance.

3. Track and Field Day: With the support of the gym teacher, set up a day of track and field events outdoors. Provide gold medals for everyone at the end.

4. Even though Jesse faced racism and injustice, he inspired others to find the good (p. 16). Set up a "Find the Good" classroom bulletin board where students can document one another's good deeds that they witness. They can draw pictures or simply write about the good that they found.

