

Jane Cammack

Great Lives

Outstanding
People of the
English-Speaking
World

Jesse Owens
Katherine Johnson
Stephen Hawking
David Attenborough
Zaha Hadid
Bill Gates
J.K. Rowling
Meryl Streep



free Audiobook



Graded reader with activities



Jane Cammack

Great Lives

**Outstanding People
of the
English-Speaking World**

Illustrated by **Franco Rivolli**



Member of CISQ Federation



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Great Lives

Outstanding People of the English-Speaking World

This book tells the story of eight great lives from the English-Speaking world. They are eight very different people who inspire and motivate us. Henry Ford, the American car manufacturer, once said: 'Find what you are destined to do, then do it.' No dream is too big.



track 02

Society needs individuals who can have an influence on the world. The eight people in this book influence different areas of our lives and they



have succeeded despite personal challenges. They have a vision and they never give up.

They are individuals who continue through hard work and determination. There is something else that links them. These eight people found a positive direction to channel¹ their energy, and positive thinking is a powerful force.

Winston Churchill said: 'The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.'



Everybody can learn useful lessons from these eight inspirational people. For example, failure is not always a bad thing. Sometimes it gives us the chance to learn from our mistakes and improve. Obstacles can be opportunities. We must be courageous, because fear and self-doubt² can stop many of us from achieving³ our dreams. They also teach us that success is not measured by money and fame. Success means helping and trying to improve the lives of others. Bill Gates is spending billions of dollars helping global health, education and climate change. Jesse Owens encouraged young people to find friendship through sport. Meryl Streep is doing everything she can to achieve equal rights and equal pay for female actors. J.K. Rowling overcame⁴ poverty as a single mother and now helps other single parents. These eight people, these eight *Great Lives*, use their success to encourage and help other people. Inspiration makes our hearts and minds feel alive. It is a sensation we want to hold on to because it makes us feel good and positive feelings

1. **channel** : use your energy for something.

2. **self-doubt** : lack of confidence.

3. **achieving** : a successful conclusion.

4. **overcame** : defeated.

are good for our well-being. Inspiration motivates us to believe we can change the way we see our own potential and make a difference. If we are passionate about sport, then we can inspire the friends we train with and help each other. Sir David Attenborough’s message to take care of the environment inspires us to help our planet.

Life is a journey of self-discovery. We all need to find out who we are and what we are good at. And it’s important to have time for other people and the community we live in. And remember what the author C.S. Lewis said, ‘You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream’.

Success starts with You
Work hard
Learn from mistakes
Be passionate about what you’re doing
Believe in yourself
Friendship is everything
Don’t give up
Help people along the way
Keep going. You can do it.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

	T	F
1. You don’t need passion to realise your dream.	☐	☐
2. The eight people in this book have a positive attitude.	☐	☐
3. They see an obstacle as failure.	☐	☐
4. They measure success by money and fame.	☐	☐
5. Sport encourages rivalry and not friendship.	☐	☐
6. Inspiration makes us feel good.	☐	☐
7. Self-discovery is finding out who we are and what we’re good at.	☐	☐
8. It’s a good idea to give time to the communities we live in.	☐	☐

The characters



Jesse Owens



Katherine Johnson



Stephen Hawking



David Attenborough



Zaha Hadid



Bill Gates



J.K. Rowling

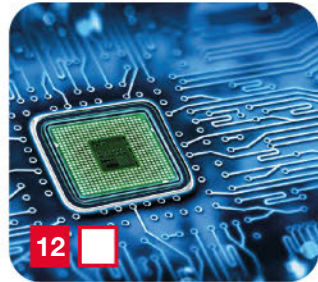
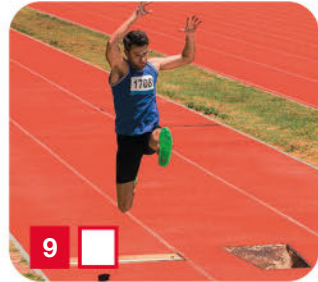


Meryl Streep

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Match the words (a-m) with the correct picture (1-12).

a a lunar module **b** an Oscar **c** a Natural History programme
d novels **e** buildings **f** gold medals **g** a chip **h** the cosmos
i long jump **j** astronaut **l** plankton **m** design



BEFORE YOU READ

2. Match the first part of the sentence (1-8) to the second part (a-h) to make a complete sentence. You can use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. ☐ an entrepreneur | a is good at calculations |
| 2. ☐ an architect | b can run very fast |
| 3. ☐ a cosmologist | c studies plants, insects and animals |
| 4. ☐ an athlete | d creates a business and takes some risk |
| 5. ☐ an actress | e has a job in films and in theatre |
| 6. ☐ an author | f finds theories about the development of the Universe |
| 7. ☐ a mathematician | g writes books |
| 8. ☐ a naturalist | h designs buildings |

3. Complete the sentences with some of the words from exercise 2.

1. Jesse Owens could very fast.
2. Katherine Johnson did the maths that sent a man to the Moon.
3. Sir David Attenborough makes TV programmes about all over the world.
4. Meryl Streep is famous for her roles in
5. Stephen Hawking looked for about our Universe.
6. Zaha Hadid designed beautiful
7. Bill Gates created a computer software called Microsoft.
8. J.K. Rowling is the of the best-selling books about Harry Potter.

4. Complete these definitions with a word from the word pool that fits the spaces.

separate • advice • selfish • rivals • curve •
scar • degree • landmark • smooth

1. Someone who only thinks about themselves is _ _ _ _ _ .
2. A flat surface is _ _ _ _ _ .
3. Students go to university to get a _ _ _ _ _ .
4. Two competitors in the same race are _ _ _ _ _ .
5. If you give someone guidance you give them _ _ _ _ _ .
6. When things are divided they are _ _ _ _ _ .
7. A building that identifies a place is a _ _ _ _ _ .
8. A line that is not straight is a _ _ _ _ _ .
9. A mark on the skin from a wound is a _ _ _ _ _ .



“One chance is all you need.”



Jesse Owens

*One of the greatest athletes
in the history of Olympic sports*



It was the summer of 1936 and Hitler was in power with his Nazi party in Germany. On the first day of the Olympic Games in Berlin, the black African-American Jesse Owens won a Gold Medal for the 100 metres, but on the second day things were not going according to plan. Jesse didn't jump well in his first two attempts ¹ to qualify for the final of the long jump. He only had one more chance. He was angry with himself. He kicked the ground with his foot. Luz Long, a tall, blonde, blue-eyed German athlete came over to Jesse.



track 03

"What's the matter?" Luz asked. "You can jump this distance easily. You can qualify for the final with your eyes closed."

"I know, I'm angry with myself and an angry athlete makes mistakes."

"Why don't you take off a little early?" Luz said. "Then you can't make a mistake."

Jesse looked at his rival. Could he trust ² him?

"Thank you" he said.

Jesse Owens took Luz's advice and jumped early. He qualified for

1. **attempts** : tries.

2. **trust** : believe in.

Jesse Owens

the final. That evening he went to the Olympic Village to find Luz and thank him. They talked for hours about their sport, about their lives and about what was happening in the world. They became good friends.

The next day in the final of the long jump, Luz broke his own record, but Jesse jumped further. And even though Hitler was watching, Luz shook Jesse's hand and smiled at him.

Hitler expected German athletes to win all the medals at the Olympic Games because he said the German 'Aryan' race (people with blonde hair and blue eyes) were the best. So when Jesse came first in the long jump, Hitler gave him a Nazi salute and left the stadium.

Jesse Owens returned to the US a hero with four gold medals at the Olympic Games. It was an incredible achievement. He humiliated³ the German Nazi Party and showed that Hitler's theory of a superior 'Aryan'

3. **humiliate** : embarrass / shame.





race was completely wrong. Jesse hoped that this could bring change. The US constitution and federal law said that everyone was equal, but in the 1930s there was still racial segregation between white and black people. Black people sat separate from white people in churches, hospitals, theatres and schools. They had lower paid jobs and they couldn't enter many public places such as restaurants and hotels.

When Jesse returned from Berlin, he felt hopeful for the future, but he was disappointed when President Roosevelt did not congratulate⁴ the eighteen African-American athletes and invited only white Olympians to the White House. Jesse didn't shake hands with Hitler and he also didn't shake hands with the president of the United States.

A true hero stands up for what is right and continues when life is difficult. Jesse Owens knew what he wanted to do and racial discrimination didn't stop him. It was a difficult period in history. Jesse and Luz sent letters to each other until Hitler invaded Poland. Suddenly the letters stopped. Jesse later discovered that Luz was killed in the war.

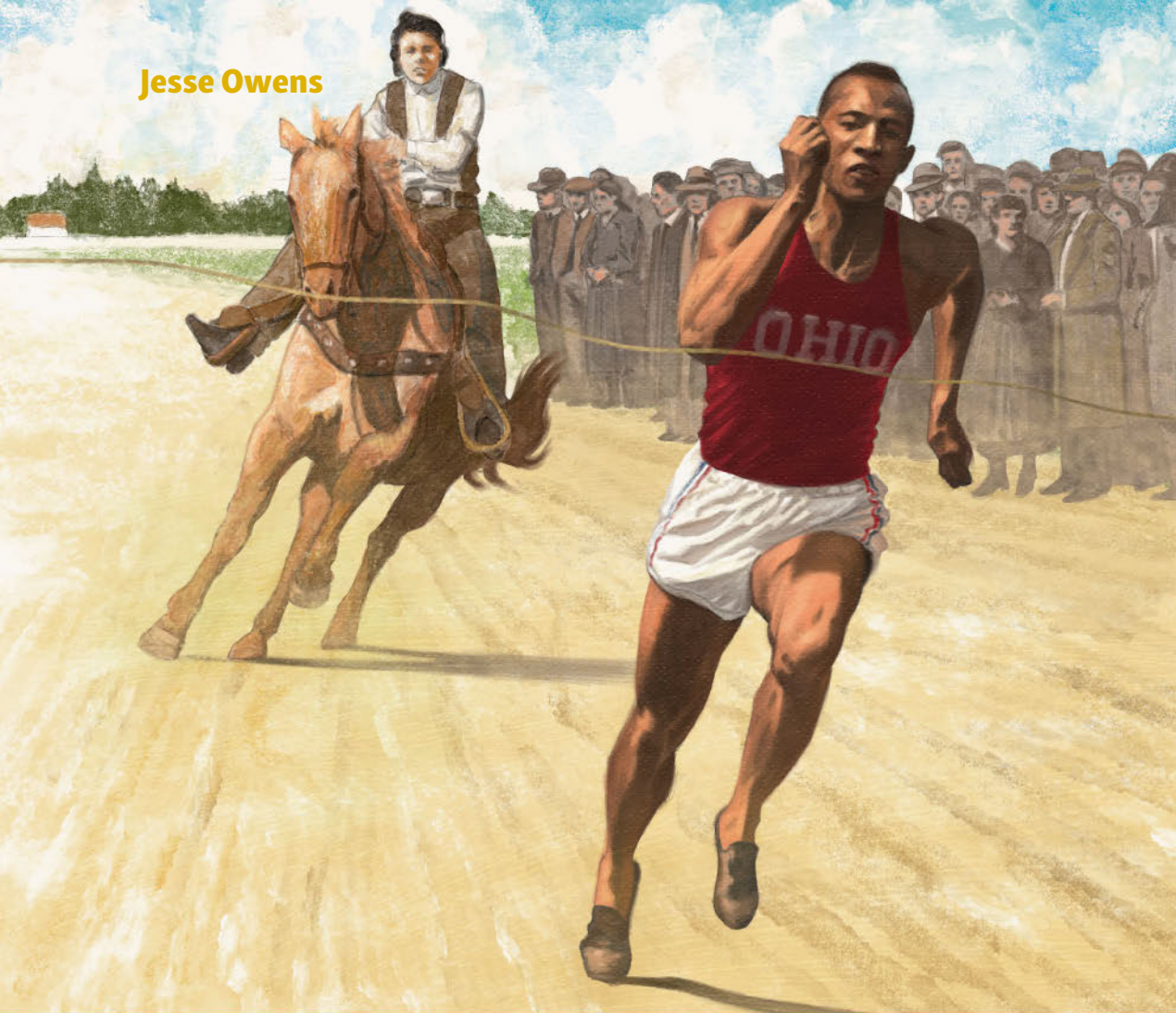
James Cleveland Owens was born on 12th September 1913 in Oakville, Alabama. When Jesse was a boy he wasn't a strong child and he watched his family working in the cotton fields. His grandfather was a former slave⁵ and his family was very poor. Sometimes there wasn't enough food for Jesse and his nine brothers and sisters. The children worked hard to help their parents and had time to play in the fields. Jesse loved running. He ran everywhere without any shoes.

At the age of nine, Jesse's life changed when his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. At school, Jesse discovered he could run like the wind. He was faster than all the other children. Charles Riley, a sports coach at the school, could see that Jesse had a real talent for running. He took Jesse under his wing. Jesse went to Charles Riley's home, which was unusual during a time of racial segregation. Charles Riley was a second

4. **congratulate** : honour / praise.

5. **slave** : a person who belongs to another person.

Jesse Owens



father to Jesse. He took Jesse to watch racehorses running because he wanted to inspire his student. He taught Jesse to take short fast steps and to run as though the track was on fire. In 1933 Jesse took part in forty-two races and won all of them. Jesse went on to study at Ohio State University and then to the Olympics in 1936.

Jesse returned home after the Olympics a great hero, but life wasn't easy. Athletes in 1936 were not paid much. Jesse didn't have any money, so he took part in races, where he ran against horses. He started 36 metres in front of the horse and he usually won. People said an Olympic athlete shouldn't race against a horse, but Jesse replied, "What should I do? I had four gold medals, but you can't eat gold medals."



Jesse worked with young people from poor families all his life and became a good will ambassador for the US government. He was a great speaker. He often spoke to youth groups at sports dinners, church organisations and in high schools.

In 1976 Jesse finally visited the White House. President Ford gave him the Presidential Medal of Freedom and in 1979 President Carter gave him the Living Legend Award. President Carter said that Jesse Owens fought against poverty and racism. He worked with young athletes and gave them hope to continue with their dreams.

Jesse Owens is a hero, not only because he was an Olympic athlete, but because throughout his life he encouraged children to hold onto their dreams.

“We all have dreams,” he said, “and to make those dreams come true we need a lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.”

Jesse died on 31st March 1980. His three daughters work with the Jesse Owens Foundation. The Foundation gives financial help and support to talented young people.



THINK!

Friends and Heroes

Luz Long and Jesse Owens were competing in the same event, but Luz helped Jesse.

1. True friendship means helping someone and not being selfish. Do you agree? Why/Why not?
2. A true hero stands up for what is right. Do you agree? Why is Jesse Owens a hero? Can you give any examples of people who put others before themselves?
3. Do you have a sporting hero? Why do you like him/her?

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