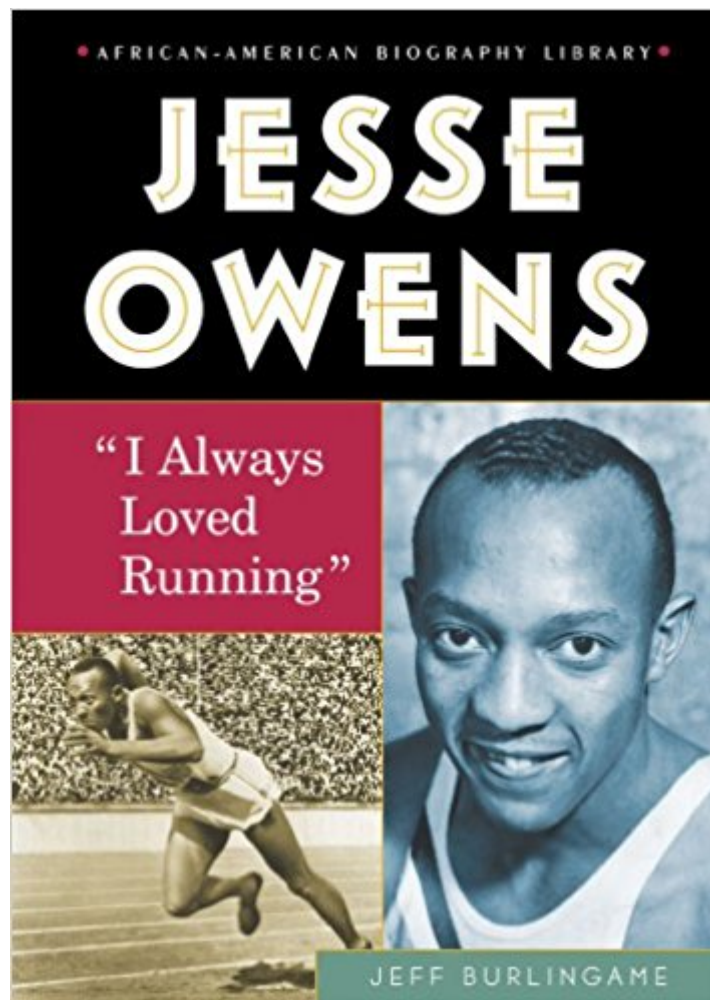




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# Jesse Owens: I Always Loved Running (African-American Biographies (Enslow))



## Synopsis

In 1936, in front of 110,000 spectators at the Olympic Stadium in Germany, Jesse Owens blew away the competition in the 100-meter final to claim the title of "World's Fastest Man." He won the gold medal in front of Germany's brutal dictator, Adolf Hitler, defying the Nazi leader's racist ideology. Owens won three more gold medals at the Olympics and returned to the United States a hero. Author Jeff Burlingame explores the life of one of the greatest and most influential athletes in American history, from his humble childhood to his legacy on and off the track.

## Book Information

Series: African-American Biographies (Enslow)

Library Binding: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

From the African-American Biography Library series, this book opens with Jesse Owens's celebrated victory in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, when he triumphed in the 100-meter dash and Hitler refused to congratulate him. In a more nuanced historical account than many books offer, Burlingame looks at different interpretations of the day's events and comments on how Owens's own account changed over time. He also makes clear that the runner did not leave racism behind when he left Hitler's Germany but encountered it repeatedly in the U.S. as well. After the dramatic opening chapter, the book offers a chronological account of Owens's life, covering his sickly childhood in rural Alabama, his family's move to Cleveland, his training as a runner, and his sometimes difficult life after retiring from sports. On every page, color brightens the headings, backgrounds, bordered photos, sidebars, and boxed quotes. Back matter

includes a chronology, chapter notes for the many quotes, and lists of books and websites for further reading. An engaging biography of a significant American athlete. Grades 6-8. --Carolyn Phelan

\*Winner of a 2012 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work: Youth/Teens\*The author offers a fairly robust consideration of the controversies in Owens' life ... This is a solid resource for school libraries and an excellent discussion starter on the historical impacts of racial discrimination. --Children's Literature

I think that this was an amazing read and it has some quotes and events in it that really motivate people to do better in life he was an amazing athletic and person it was a very enjoyable read

Author is so well written. Great read for my son!

What an amazing book! I would recommend this book to history and sport lovers. I liked how Jeff Burlingame used references from the book Jesse Owens himself wrote.

This 128 page biography on Jesse Owens by Jeff Burlingame suits school reports for upper elementary and middle school students. In 1936 Jesse was far and away the world's fastest man, as proven by the Olympics in Germany, when he won the 100 meter race. His world setting record of 10.2 was ruled out by German judges because they said there had been too much wind at his back during the race. Hitler was in the stands and he would not congratulate Jesse, but the German crowd loved and cheered for him. He was born to sharecropper parents and was a sickly child, but achieved great fame for records in track and field events, race relations and humanitarian ventures. Young athletes will find the glossy, colored photos scattered throughout to draw them into the fact filled text portions. The index, chronology, chapter notes, further reading, and list of web addresses make this biography ideal for comprehensive reports. For young runners this would be a fascinating book filled with historical events and the life of an admired world runner. Also, readers will learn about the Great Migration, slavery, sharecropping, the Great Depression, racial issues, and Hitler. Other titles in the African-American Biography Library are Barack Obama, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Muhammad Ali. Numerous black and white action photos are scattered throughout the text, along with fact boxes. Recommended for children biography collections.

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