



1st - 16th August 1936 Hitler's Olympics



Task: Lies zuerst diesen Text aufmerksam durch und bearbeite ihn mit den dir bekannten Lesemethoden für Leseverstehen.

Danach siehst du optional einen Filmausschnitt, der die Informationen aus dem Text vertieft. Beantworte danach die Fragen ab Seite 3.

«Berlin, 1st-16th August 1936. The Games of the XIth Olympiad, Germany had come out as winners over Barcelona in the bid to host this summer spectacle, and even if Führer Adolf Hitler had appeared unenthusiastic at first, he understood the massive propaganda potential of the occasion. Here was an opportunity to display the might of the Aryan “master race” and the “wonders” of Nazism in full view of the world. Documentarist Leni Riefenstahl was engaged to film the show, and her visualisation of proceedings remains a stunning record of an adoration-drunk despot and a public taken in by his “charisma”: The British team were characteristically unconvinced in the opening ceremony, offering royal eyes right rather than the deferential Fascist salute produced by some of the other nations. And in an atmosphere as charged as this, how would the competitors fare? One participating Olympian who had arrived in Berlin with his own agenda – the thrill of the contest – was an African-American athlete called Jesse Owens. A scholarship winner from Ohio State University, James Cleveland Owens was a masterful runner at this time pure poetry on the track, and would stand unopposed in any poll as the candidate for greatest sprinter of all time. This was the man, of course, who once ran 10.2 on cinders! With the utmost respect afforded to Jesse’s fellow American Michael Johnson and Jamaican Usain “Lightning” Bolt in the modern era, I would give the gold to Owens on any day of any week in any year. He defied description at top speed and proved his athletic

pedigree forever at “Hitler’s Olympics”. Owens took four gold medals for the US in 1936 with his astonishing feats in 100, 200, long jump and sprint relay – a record equalled by American athlete Carl Lewis on home soil in 1984. In a wider context, Jesse encapsulated man’s positive potential the Berlin Games. And though sources may conflict as to whether the Führer snubbed Jesse’s medal ceremony on the second day of competition, surely the more important fact remains that JC Owens single-handedly demolished Hitler’s loathsome and outlandish theories of racial supremacy. Next to Owens, Aryan *wunderkinder* came a poor second, but Jesse’s trump cards were his humility, sense of humour, and – most valuably – his nobility. On the light of all this, I can never watch footage of Owens at Berlin without a respectful sense of wonder: and relief that the enlightened individuals of the world saw through Hitler’s lunacy. »



Film: Der Filmclip gibt dir vertiefere Einblicke in das Thema und kann dir fürs Textverständnis helfen: <https://youtu.be/541AA40Ww-k>

Fragen zum Text

Antworte wenn immer möglich in ganzen Sätzen. Da es ein Leseverstehen ist, stellen wir die Fragen auf Deutsch. Du antwortest ebenfalls auf Deutsch.

1. Warum war Hitler nach anfänglichem Zögern dann doch von den Olympischen Spielen angetan? Nenne zwei Gründe.

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2. Gegen wer musste sich Deutschland um die Durchführung der Olympiade beweisen?

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3. Was gewann Jesse Owens in der Universität?

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4. Wofür wurde James Cleveland Owens in den Zeitungen gerühmt?

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5. Welche Medaillen gewann Owens bei den Olympischen Spielen?

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6. Weshalb wurde daran gezweifelt, ob Hitler Owens auszeichnen würde?

- ☐ Hitler wollte nur deutsche Athleten küren.
- ☐ Owens hat mit seinem Sieg Hitlers Theorie zur Rassenlehre abgerissen.
- ☐ Hitler und Owens konnten sich nicht leiden.