

Percy Williams

These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the Percy Williams biography.

1. How would you describe Percy Williams? Describe his physical appearance and personality?
2. Describe Bob Granger's method of training his athletes. How did it differ from the typical track training methods at the time?
3. How did Percy's and Bob's attitudes towards track differ from each other?
4. Why did Percy's decision to run track put him at physical risk?
5. Describe some of the positive and negative aspects of Percy and Bob's relationship?
6. What happened to Percy at the 1927 Canadian Track and Field Championship? Describe his reaction.
7. Why was the 1928 Canadian Olympic Track and Field team a historic team, even before they competed?
8. What problems arose in regards to the attendance of Bob as Percy's coach at the 1928 Olympics?
9. What conflict arose between Percy and the official Canadian track coach?
10. What conditions did the Canadian athletes face when they arrived in Amsterdam?
11. How did Percy practice his start before his event at the Olympics?
12. What was the attitude of most people towards Percy's attendance at the 1928 Olympics? How did this attitude change after he won the gold medal?
13. What were Percy's feelings about his victory in the 100 metres?
14. Explain how significant (and why) Percy's 200 metre victory was.
15. What did the city of Vancouver do to ensure that Percy stayed in Canada rather than going to the United States on a scholarship?
16. How did Percy do on his "Tour of Guts"? How were the results significant in his life?
17. What was Percy's 100 metre world record? How long did it last?

18. How did Percy's defeat in the 1932 Olympics affect his attitude towards track and his relationship with Bob? How did this new attitude alienate him from the Canadian track establishment?
19. What was Percy's role during the Second World War?
20. What happened to Bob after he stopped coaching Percy?
21. How did the death of his mother affect Percy?
22. How did Percy's struggle with alcohol lead to the ruin of his life? How did the press deal with Percy's suicide?
23. What honours were given to Percy in 1950 and 1972 respectively?
24. Would you describe Percy's life as a success or failure? Explain.