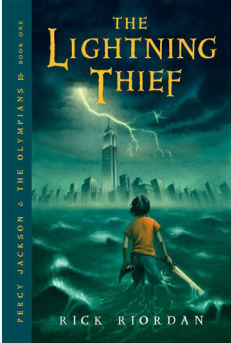


The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book One



AUTHOR Rick Riordan
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VOICETEXT Yes
LEXILE LEVEL 740L
GRADE EQUIVALENT 5

OVERVIEW

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse — Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends — one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena — Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Character Traits Worksheet
- Major Events Summary
- Venn Diagram
- Analysis of a Symbol
- KWL Chart

- › Discuss famous quests and show excerpts from movies based on quests: William Wallace (*Braveheart*), Frodo (*Lord of the Rings*)
- Understanding the idea of an archetype and how the protagonist is an example of a heroic archetype.
 - › Have students share examples of a hero both in their lives and in books and film.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

For fifteen years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. While teaching in San Antonio, Saint Mary's Hall honored him with the school's first Master Teacher Award. While teaching full time, Riordan began writing mystery novels for grownups. His *Tres Navarre* series went on to win the top three national awards in the mystery genre – the Edgar, the Anthony and the Shamus. Riordan turned to children's fiction when he started *The Lightning Thief* as a bedtime story for his oldest son.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

- Greek Mythology and the 12 Olympian Gods (see Thirteen Olympian Gods)
- What is a quest?
 - › A quest is a long or arduous search for something
 - › Complete a KWL Chart in order to determine student's level of understanding of a quest before the book.

VOCABULARY

Incinerate (*verb*): to reduce to ashes
 Vaporize (*verb*): to turn into gas
 Pulverize (*verb*): to break down into dust or powder
 Douse (*verb*): to wet thoroughly
 Wispy (*adj.*): thin and weak
 Ambrosia (*noun*): the food and drink of the gods
 Shard (*noun*): a broken piece of a brittle artifact
 Amphitheater (*noun*): a large oval theater with tiered seats
 Eon (*noun*): the longest unit of geological time

WRITING PROMPTS

- Compare and Contrast the quest of the main character of Percy Jackson to the quest in the legend of Perseus in Greek mythology
- What is a hero's journey? Describe how Percy's quest relates to another important quest in history or literature.

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- Percy says, “Mr. Brunner expected me to be as good as everybody else, despite the fact I had dyslexia and I had never made above a C- in my life. No — he didn’t expect me to be as good. He expected me to be better.” What do you think of Mr. Brunner as a teacher?
- Percy has both dyslexia and ADHD. This makes things difficult for him at school. Describe a time when you have felt challenged by an assignment or school activity. Were you able to overcome it? Why or why not?

LITERARY DEVICES

Symbolism

- The lightning bolt of Zeus represents his individual power. Percy comes across many symbols in this book that represent his powers. What are these?
- The concept of games in this story is used to symbolize the violence, battle, and concept of a loser and winner in the hero’s quest

Simile

“I thought about some of the kids I’d seen in the Hermes cabin, teenagers who looked sullen and depressed, as if they were waiting for a call that would never come.” (p.96)

Imagery

“Later in the evening, when the sparks from the campfire were curling into a starry sky, the conch horn blew again, and we all filed back to our cabins.” p. 106

Setting

Percy takes the reader on a quest from New York to Los Angeles, and all the points between the 2. The story takes place in the sky, the sea, and the underground.

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

Video on Greek Gods of Mythology

The board game, Hero Quest

Braveheart movie

Lord of the Rings movie

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS

- Apply strategies including making complex predictions, interpreting character behaviors, and comparing and contrasting.
- Interpret literary elements and devices including setting, imagery and symbolism
- Analyze mythology to make sense of novel reading

WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Use audiobooks for learners who have a print-based disability
- Students with writing difficulties can pair up with a stronger writer in the class to write a co-paper
- Use different forms of media to provide background information before commencing the reading of the novel
- Kinesthetic and tactile learners can choose to complete some of their graphic organizers (Venn Diagram, specifically) with drawings and cut outs

RESOURCES:

www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology/videos/greek-gods