

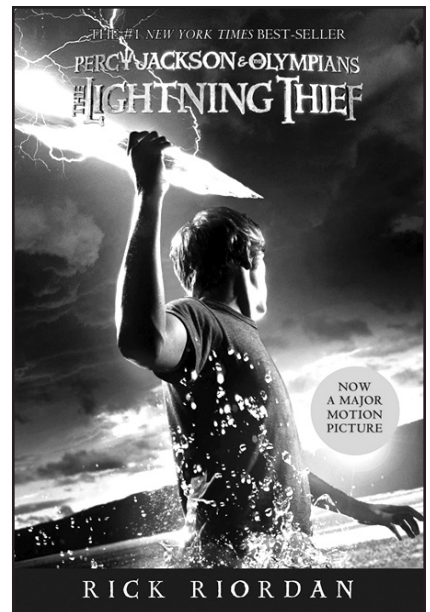
Based on

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief

By Rick Riordan

About the Book:

Young Percy Jackson seems to be a troubled 12-year-old who can't seem to keep from getting kicked out of various boarding schools. He never knew his father, and his mother married a lazy, domineering slob who has an obvious disliking for Percy. He is burdened with the common challenges caused by having ADHD and dyslexia. Yes, Percy's life is troubled and boring until suddenly, the teachings from his Greek mythology class begin to come to life. He not only finds himself involved in the stories, but he is actually a part of them. Soon he discovers that he is a demigod and his father is Poseidon, the great ruler of the sea. After training at Camp Half-Blood, he is sent on a quest with his friends Grover (a satyr) and Annabeth (daughter of Athena) to retrieve Zeus's stolen lightning bolt.



Percy's adventures take the reader on an exciting journey that not only thrills but leaves a strong desire to find out more about the Greek gods and their mythical world.

Set the Stage:

Use the following to get the students ready to read:

- **Ask:** Have you ever fantasized about discovering that you were not who you thought you were? Did you imagine that you were really the child of royalty, or that you were an heir to a great fortune? Maybe you were related to a famous movie star. Or you might have imagined magic powers like Harry Potter and discovered that you were destined to save the world. That is similar to what Percy Jackson discovers in *The Lightning Thief*. His real father is an Olympian god, which makes Percy a demigod. Percy is sent on a quest that will save the world.

Review:

After reading the book, discuss the following:

- What is a half-blood in terms of this story?
- Explain why the cabins of the "Big Three" are empty. Who are the "Big Three"?
- What is the story behind the lone, large pine tree on the hill of Camp Half-Blood?
- Who does Chiron think stole the lightning bolt?
- What magic item did Annabeth's mother give her? What magic item did Luke's dad give him? What does Percy get from his dad?
- Explain the concept of the mist in this story. (This also comes up in Homer's epic poem *The Iliad*.)
- Will Percy's sword kill mortals? Why can't it hurt him? Can he lose it? What other form does it take?
- How is it that Percy is able to understand what the zebra wants?
- What does Ares (God of War) want Percy to retrieve at the water park?
- Why does Percy avoid airplanes?
- Who, or what, guards the gates of Hades?
- What is Grover's personal quest?

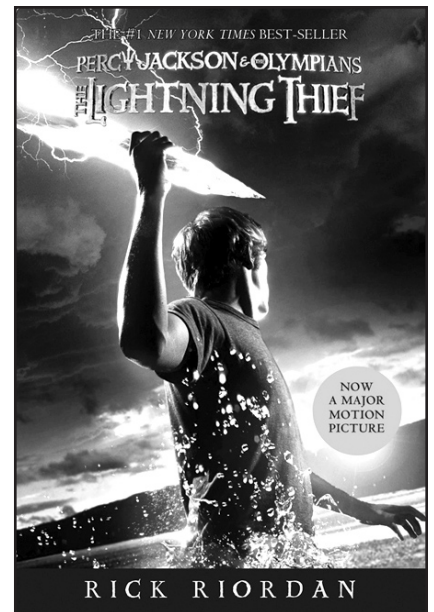
Student Activity (found on the last pages of this PDF):

Students are asked to briefly study the 12 main Greek gods and, based on what each of the gods stands for, determine which one would be their parent if they discovered they were a demigod.

Related Activities:

To extend students' enjoyment of the book, try these:

- **Cabins of the Gods:** The 12 cabins at Camp Half-Blood are of the 12 Greek gods. Each one houses the children of a particular god. From the list below, have students choose a cabin they wish to design based on what that god represents. Example: Poseidon's cabin would have an under-the-sea theme. Students can either draw this or they can even create a 3D version out of cardboard and embellishments. Choose from the following:
 1. Zeus – god of weather
 2. Hera – god of the heavens/motherhood and marriage
 3. Poseidon – god of the sea/water
 4. Demeter – goddess of vegetation/agriculture
 5. Hestia – goddess of hearth and home
 6. Ares – god of war
 7. Athena – goddess of wisdom and the arts and crafts
 8. Apollo – god of music and poetry/archery, protector of herds and flocks
 9. Artemis – goddess of the forests and wild animals
 10. Aphrodite – goddess of love and beauty
 11. Hermes – god of the traveler anyone who uses the roads, including merchants, doctors, and thieves. The messenger god.
 12. Hephastaeus – god of fire and blacksmiths/metalwork
- **You Are Here:** Have students draw a map of Camp Half-Blood, making it very visual with color and dimension. Students should draw the various buildings and landscape and be sure to include the following locales:
 1. The 12 Cabins (in a "U" shape in the woods around a lake)
 2. Armory
 3. Archery Range
 4. Canoeing Lake
 5. Stables
 6. Javelin Range
 7. Sing-a-long Amphitheater
 8. Arena (sword and spear fights)
 9. Strawberry Fields
 10. Lone Pine Tree
 11. Bathrooms
 12. Metal Shop
 13. Arts & Crafts Shop
 14. Climbing Wall
 15. Mess Hall
 16. Anything else from the story, or from your imagination, that you think should be added.



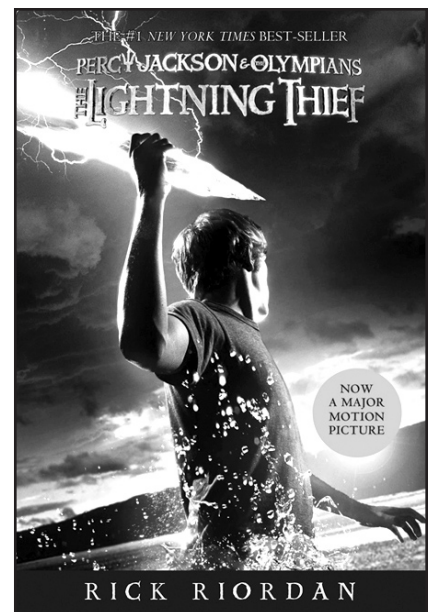
- **Famous Stars:** Have students map out 5 of the 10 constellations below and write about their connection to the Greek myths. If possible, ask students to use glow-in-the-dark paint on black paper so they can enjoy the constellations in their bedrooms at night.

1. Andromeda
2. Cetus (the Whale)
3. Cygnus (the Swan)
4. Orion (the Hunter)
5. Pegasus
6. Perseus
7. Sagittarius (the Archer)
8. Taurus (the Bull)
9. Ursa Major (the Great Bear)
10. Ursa Minor (the Little Bear)

- **Percy's Namesake:** Percy shares the name of a famous Greek hero, Perseus, who was believed to be the son of Zeus and Danae. Have students write a short biography of Perseus that includes his great feats and who he married.

Bonus: They can do the same for another great Greek hero, Hercules.

- **It's All Greek:** Have students define the following: Minotaur, centaur, satyr, River Styx, Nereid, ambrosia, drachma, caduceus, Cerberus, portcullis, Medusa, Titan, Tartarus, demigod, ichor.

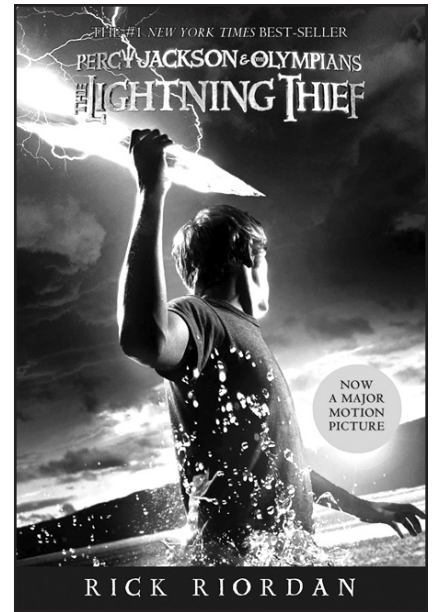


Name _____

Myth-ing Persons

Based on *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Directions: The 12 main Greek gods have definite attributes that set them apart from not only mortals, but also from each other. List what each god represents and make notes about what each god can do. Think about these different powers and what it would mean if a human could possess them as well.



The gods:

1. **Zeus:**

2. **Hera:**

3. **Poseidon:**

4. **Demeter:**

5. **Hestia:**

6. **Ares:**

7. **Athena:**

8. **Apollo:**

9. **Artemis:**

10. **Aphrodite:**

11. **Hermes:**

12. **Hephaestus:**

Which god would you want for a parent, assuming you would inherit some of their super abilities? What would this mean for you? How would you use your new powers?

Bonus: List some mythical friends you might hang out with and explain why you chose them. Examples: satyr, Cyclops, harpy, Nereid, wood nymph, siren, or centaur.
