

## Literature Circle Questions

Use the following questions and activities to get more out of the experience of reading *The Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan.

1. What does Percy Jackson say is his favorite place in the world?
2. In the first chapter, Percy dreams that his friend Grover is hiding from a monster. Based on what you learn later in the story, who or what is this monster?
3. During gym class, what magical force prevents Coach Nunley from noticing when the visitors turn into monsters?
4. The letters Percy sees on the door of the taxi in Chapter Three appear jumbled. Why is this? What do these letters probably spell out if arranged properly?
5. Who are the “Big Three” gods and what pact did they make after WWII? According to Percy, why was this pact made?
6. List three items that Hermes gives to Percy for his journey and explain one way in which each of these items helps the heroes on their quest.
7. Late in the book, Chiron tells Percy, Tyson, and Annabeth that they are “all true heroes.” Choose one moment from the quest when you think Percy, Tyson, or Annabeth acts heroically and explain why you think the character is heroic at this moment.
8. In the story, Percy is able to command the sea, while Tyson has great strength and keen senses of smell and hearing. Imagine you are the son or daughter of a god and possess an extraordinary ability. Describe the ability you would choose for yourself and how you might use it on the quest.
9. On page 199, Annabeth tells Percy that her fatal flaw is hubris. What does she say hubris means? Briefly describe one time when you or someone you know acted with hubris.
10. Reread the description of Annabeth’s vision on page 196. What do you think this vision reveals about Annabeth’s true desires?
11. Choose two father-son or father-daughter relationships from the story to compare and contrast. Describe one way in which these relationships are similar and one way in which they are different.

12. How do Percy’s feelings about Tyson at the end of the story differ from his feelings about Tyson at the beginning of the story? What do you think is the reason for this change?
13. On page 167, Annabeth tells Percy about Chiron’s prophecy and warns, “Knowledge isn’t always good for you.” Do you agree with Annabeth? If there was a prophecy about something that might happen to you in the future, would you want to know about it?
14. After Circe turns Percy into a guinea pig, she tells him he has unlocked his true self. Do you agree with Circe? If so, explain why. If not, when in the book—if ever—do you think Percy *does* unlock his true self?
15. Think about the quest the heroes undertake in this story. First, state the purpose of the quest. Then, using evidence from the text to support your argument, explain whether you think the quest was a success. Be sure to read the final pages of the book carefully before you answer.

*Note: These questions are keyed to Bloom’s Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-5; Application: 6-8 Analysis: 9-10; Synthesis: 11-12; Evaluation: 13-15.*

### **Activities**

1. Percy encounters many mythical creatures on his quest. Examples include hippocampi, harpies, hydra, and Charybdis. Using the descriptions in the text, draw one of these creatures on a blank piece of paper. If there is another creature from the book you prefer to draw, you can do that, too.
2. Draw a map of the East Coast of the United States. Be sure to include real places like New York City and Miami *and* mythical ones like Camp Half-Blood and the Sea of Monsters. Then, label your map with a legend using symbols to represent the important events that occurred at each location. For example, for Cyclops Island, you might want to draw a golden fleece.
3. Look at the list of names below. On the blank line next to each half-blood’s name, write the name of his or her immortal parent. See how many you can remember before looking in the book.

Percy	_____
Annabeth	_____
Luke	_____
Clarisse	_____
Chiron	_____
Thalia	_____

**Other Books by Rick Riordan**

*Percy Jackson & the Olympians, Book One: The Lightning Thief*