

The Blood of Olympus Study Guide

The Blood of Olympus by Rick Riordan

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Plot Summary

In the fifth book of the Heroes of Olympus, by Rick Riordan, the characters Jason, Piper, and Annabeth have decided that they need to find out what Gaea, the Earth Mother, has planned. In the previous book, she was awakened as the heroes discovered and removed the Athena Parthenos from Arachne's lair. Learning of a great 'gathering' of Gaea's minions, Jason, Piper, and Annabeth go undercover.

Jason is mistakenly identified by Antinous. This is a good gamble as the ghouls enjoy speaking about how Gaea has promised to reward them when she comes back into power. Luckily, the ghoul goes on to say that there is a way to safely navigate and avoid the Straits....they would have to go o by way of Peloponnese. Jason is discovered and mortally wounded when he is run through by a ghoul wielding a special sword made to kill demigods. Juno is called upon and refuses to heal Jason, but does tell them to find Nike and capture her.

The other heroes have been on their own mission to return with the Athena Parthenos and take it to Athens. In order to do this quickly, they are using Nico's ability to shadow travel. Reyna, a Roman praetor, and Coach Hedges, join Nico in attempting to get the Parthenos to Athens, but it goes sideways when Nico drops them in the middle of Pompeii.

Olympia is in ruins when they arrive. They are about to leave when Leo makes an offhanded comment about Adidas versus Nike. They hear an enraged voice screaming: You Will Die Now. Nike, too, is suffering the same conflict of identity. She demands a competition and a winner and a loser.

Nike is out of her mind. She is demanding that they fight to the death for her honor. After some close calls, the heroes manage to capture Nike in a special net made of gold. The ship is now able to move and they quickly take off.

Nico, Reyna, Coach and the Statue land in Portugal. Nico sees a ghost on fire beckoning to him. Following the ghost, they arrive at a temple dedicated to Hades. He tells Nico that Orion, the famed hunter, is on their tails and that the only way to really survive is to outrun him. Hades tells Nico that some deaths cannot be prevented, which deeply grieves Nico.

Meanwhile, Leo and the others manage to retrieve the poison of Pylos. Piper and Annabeth decide that they should go find the chained god in Sparta. Annabeth and Piper face a series of battles. Before they can figure out their next steps a giant appears. To make things worse, they find out that they are in the 'cave of fears'.

Piper puts her cornucopia at the statue's feet for a sacrifice, then takes the statue's head. This releases the makhai, spirits of battle. They swirl from out of the statue and into Piper, who now has the power to take down the giant.



After a short stop on a cruise ship, Nico then takes the group to San Juan. Before she can concoct a plan Reyna is shot in the neck by a silver dart and is carried off.

It isn't Orion who has captured Reyna, but Jason's sister, Thalia Grace. She tells them that they had been using Reyna as bait to draw out Orion.

Meanwhile, the Argo II is in trouble. A violent storm has nearly capsized the boat. Percy and Jason go into the water (Jason in an airbubble) to find out what is causing the storm and why Percy cannot control the water in this area.

Kymopoliea is upset because no one knows about her as a minor goddess. They are attacked by the giant's basilisks, and Percy is bitten. Jason offers Kym a shrine and an action figure. Kym agrees and cuts Polybotes' head off in one swoop. Kym heals Percy and warns him that his blood will awaken Gaea.

The Argo II arrives at the island of Delos, looking for something called the 'curse' of Delos. Leo tells Apollo that he makes the finest of all instruments. Apollo states that if this is true he will tell him about one of the ingredients for the physician's cure...a flower, which is called 'the curse of Delos'. He also tells Leo that if the heroes will take the ingredients to Apollo's son, Asclepius, that he will make the cure for them.

Asclepius gives them the physician's cure along with a pair of glasses for Jason. He matter of factly predicts long lives for all of them, with the exception of Leo.

When they make it to Porphyryon's throne it was revealed that he is holding Annabeth and Percy hostage. A large battle ensues and Percy's blood, in the form of a single drop, hits the ground. The Earth Mother awakes.

Will and Nico realize that they can re-position the onagers in such a way that they will destroy themselves.

When Frank lands with everyone they see the ground has turned fluid and is roiling underneath everyone's feet. Gaea stands, but before anything can happen further, Leo, using Festus swoops down and carries Gaea off. Leo tells them to trust him. Festus explodes changing the sky to a golden color.

Octavian is still not backing down. Nico and Will find him by an onager where he's planning to fire on them. Unknown to Octavian his robes have gotten wound into the mechanism. Will tries to stop Octavian but Nico stops him when he remembers his father's words, that some deaths are necessary. Octavian blows himself up.

The win is bittersweet as it is clear to all of them that Leo has died, but in doing so has secured their safety. Jason shares with the others that he believes that Leo may actually be alive somewhere out there. As it turns out, everyone is right about Leo. He did, indeed, die, but he had programmed Festus to inject him with the physician's cure. Once he comes to he and Festus manage to overcome Calypso's curse and he's able to find her island again.



again.



Chapters 1-2

Summary

Chapter 1

Jason, Piper, and Annabeth have determined that the only way to find out what the next move is by Gaea is to go undercover. They change their appearances so that they look like an old man and two serving girls. When they arrive they are readily welcomed into the ruins. Everywhere that they look there are the defeated and evil remnants of various figures from history. Jason is worried that his mother might make an appearance and blow his cover.

The monsters all decide to have a party and set up a large banquet table. Jason sits down and begins to listen in on their plans and their bragging. As he scans the crowd, Jason is amazed at how many have dared to gather in one place. It is yet another implication that darkness and evil are furthering their foothold in the world.

Jason recognizes many of the monsters and villains, some who are the suitors from Odysseus's time. Since it is Odysseus's palace ruins, it only stands to reason that the defeated would still be there. They assume their roles and begin circulating around the room.

Chapter 2

Jason, still disguised as an old man, is mistakenly identified by Antinous as an old man named, Iros, who had been a beggar at Odysseus's table in the old days. Jason doesn't correct him thinking that he will get more information that way. It works. Jason learns that everyone there is vying for Gaea's favor because when she takes over the world she will divide it up and give dominion of various sections to her most loyal subjects. One of the ghouls at the table tells Jason that he can't wait for the demi-god's ship to try and go through the Straits of Corinth as they have an ambush waiting for them there. He goes on to state that the ONLY way they could possibly remain safe is to go by way of Peloponnese.

The girls overhear that Gaea is to be awakened at the Acropolis and needs the blood of the gods to do so. Demi-god blood will work. Just as Jason is about to slip away and leave to warn the ship one of the ghouls stops him. He is a long dead Praetor and he knows that Jason is not Iros. He calls upon one of his soldiers to stop him. Jason's blood runs cold....that soldier is his mother.

Analysis

Chapter 1



The beginning of the book picks up immediately where the previous one ended. In this chapter the reader learns more about the background of several characters. Most notably, the reader learns about Jason and that he and his mother don't get along. In fact, she opted to allow her ambition and desires for power to overwhelm her, landing her in the Underworld. When he must tell her that he was no son of hers, it is a pivotal moment for him, having to disown and turn his back on his mother's dishonor.

Jason poses as an old man and is accepted into the group because they mistakenly identify him as someone he is not. This underscores and demonstrates the theme of Cooperation as Jason and the others must work together to remain concealed and learn what the next move is by Gaea's forces.

Chapter 2

There is also backstory offered on the suitors in Odysseus's palace, and Gaea's plans for resurrection. Having infiltrated the gathering of monsters, Jason and the girls show that they are willing to go to great lengths for the greater good of others, placing themselves in harm's way willingly. This continues the theme of Cooperation and also demonstrates the theme of Sacrifice...something that will happen many times in this book. This gamble pays off and readers see that taking calculated risks has rewarded the heroes with much needed intel.

Discussion Question 1

Why are the assembled ghouls readily willing to let Jason sit at their banquet table?

Discussion Question 2

Where is the Argos II safer traveling to, and why?

Discussion Question 3

Which soldier is Jason the most afraid of running in to?

Vocabulary

gnarled, adorned, mahogany, feral, amphora, disembodied, resonated, molten, appeasement



Chapters 3-4

Summary

Chapter 3

Piper rushes to Jason's rescue by using her charmspeak to lull all of the revelers to go way. Meanwhile, Jason confronts his mother who attempts to cause him to become confused and depressed. He fights it off and tells her that he doesn't recognize her as being his mother. She disappears and the charmspeak wears off.

Chapter 4

Jason and the girls are holding their own but the tide turns and Jason is run through with a sword. Angered, Piper takes off Varus's head after he stabs Jason. Both she and Annabeth try to tend to the wound, but it is smoking and difficult. The sword had been made of Imperial gold, which is a poison to demi-gods.

They manage to get Jason and work their way back to their ship, Argo II, where they try to heal him further. With a gasping breath, Jason tells them to call on Juno. They locate her in the ruins standing by an Olive Tree. The tree symbolizes fidelity and undying love, and was one of the corner bedposts of Odysseus's bed. They do and she appears, but refuses to heal Jason, for reasons she doesn't share. However, she does help them in that she tells them to find the goddess, Nike, who is near the Peloponnese. Jason loses consciousness.

Analysis

Chapter 3

This is a traumatic chapter for all of the demi-gods, none more so than Jason. He is confronted with his mother's ghost and finds that he is just as saddened and angry as he was when she was alive. All over again he must reject her. This demonstrates the theme of Family in that throughout the novel each demigod will struggle with their relationships with either their godly parent or their mortal parent. For Jason, in this instant, he is having to realize, all over again, that his mother had many tragic flaws. The difference now is that he realizes that he doesn't have to let her choices affect him, nor does it doom him to her particular weaknesses. It is of particular interest that Piper's charmspeak doesn't work on the ghouls very long. This could be taken to mean that it only works best on the living, as the dead cannot be charmed, only bribed or commanded by someone in authority.

Chapter 4



Jason's day goes from sad to tragic in a few short minutes as the tide of battle turns against them and he is run through by one of the ghost soldiers. The fact that it is Imperial Gold means that this sword was most likely intended for killing demigods. As a result, the wound doesn't heal, and symbolically, this incident, much like the wound, parallels the internal wound that Jason carries in regards to his mother.

Discussion Question 1

What does Piper tell Jason about his mother and her powers of persuasion?

Discussion Question 2

What do the girls feed Jason when he is first wounded?

Discussion Question 3

What is the symbolism of the Olive Tree and why is it sacred to Juno?

Vocabulary

chafed, grievances, jagged, parried, veneer, rummaged, nectar, bovine



Chapters 5-6

Summary

Chapter 5

Meanwhile, the other part of the team (Reyna, Coach, and Nico) are in route to return the Athena Parthenos statue to Athens. They come out of their shadow travel and find that they are falling through the air and will land in the mouth of Vesuvius (a volcano). Quickly, Nico shadow transports them again, which is dangerous for him to do so close together.

This time they crash land in Pompeii, which is not a good thing considering all of the restless, dead spirits in the place. Nico, son of Hades, can command them to stay away as long as he is awake, but they hang around knowing that he will have to rest soon. Then, they will only take orders from Gaea and will kill or capture the demigods. Soon, this prediction comes true as both Reyna and Nico fall into a deep sleep. Only Coach Hedge, a satyr, is left to defend them.

Chapter 6

Reyna's dreams are not restful, however. She has a prophetic dream where she is shot by an arrow by an unseen hunter. Then her visions jump and she is viewing Octavian, who has set up camp just outside of Camp Half-blood. His intentions are clear. He intends to lead an assault on the Grecian Camp. Reyna wakes to the Coach shouting at her. People are starting to come into the camp, tourists who are starting their tours. Reyna's first concern is for the Parthenon statue, but Coach reassures her that it is still securely 'misted' from mortal eyes. Reyna begins striking camp and decides to let Nico rest as long as they can. Each successive shadow jump is draining his life force.

Analysis

Chapter 5

The place that Nico, Coach, and Reyna land is an interesting choice. Nico, who is sensitive to the spirits of the dead has landed in a place known for its restless and grieving spirits...Pompeii. What is interesting to note is the parallel, here, to the teens, themselves. All three, even Coach, are restless for something they can't have. Nico and Reyna are both in love with someone that they can't have. Coach wants to be home with his expectant wife. All of them are bound to their duty, and yet, they long for other things. They are as restless as the spirits.

The fact that Nico can command the spirits to stay back only as long as he is awake and aware also parallels the fact that he can keep the thoughts he has at bay only as



long as he concentrates on doing so. Once his guard is down, he is tormented again by who he is and what he can't have.

Chapter 6

Reyna's prophetic dream is foreshadowing by the author. The fact that the hunter is unseen is also telling. Later, she will learn that one of the hunters is Orion, a legendary hunter that will not stop until he's slaughtered her and the Hunters of Artemis, and the other arrow (the silver one) belonged to her sister, Hylla.

It is interesting to note that the Parthnos statue is secured from mortal eyes by the 'mist' that the demigods have around it. However, the irony is that the mortals keep bumping into it without wondering what has impeded them. This seems to be the author's way of saying that many people go throughout life without stopping to question their own actions or the actions of others.

Discussion Question 1

What indicates that Nico is not doing well?

Discussion Question 2

What is the significance of their fall into Pompeii?

Discussion Question 3

Why does the author have Reyna dream of being shot?

Vocabulary

caldera, pluming, nauseous, midair, bleated, seared, frigid



Chapters 7-8

Summary

Chapter 7

Nico finally must be wakened, and Reyna tells him about her dream and that she fears that Octavian is about to attack Camp Half-blood. Most of the day has passed and when the shadows get long enough, Nico will transport them again. However, just as they are getting ready to make the jump, Coach Hedge becomes possessed by Gaea. Without warning the very rocks start coming up from the ground and attacking them as rock soldiers. Nico tries to control them but it is if they are immune to his commands. The demigods find themselves cornered.

Chapter 8

Nico figures that this is an opportune time to use the Diocletian scepter and he uses it to call forth some soldiers of his own. Nico summons dead legionnaires to his cause and the scepter explodes at the strain of using Romans to fight Romans. Nico, still weak, makes ready to shadow jump them, yet again. Reyna and Coach Hedge form a circle around him to hold off any rock monsters that should get through their defenses. They barely manage to slip away as the rock monsters manage to destroy all of the soldiers that Nico has summoned.

Analysis

Chapter 7

Coach Hedge, in this chapter, is the one that seems most despondent. He sends a paper airplane letter home to his wife. He shares with Reyna that he wants his unborn child to know something of him, in case something were to happen and he were not able to go home. This is a bit of foreshadowing because a few pages later, the rock monsters happen and it is Coach Hedge who is possessed.

It is significant to note that of all of them to be possessed, it is Coach Hedge, a satyr. Satyrs are connected to nature and are a part of it, thus making it easier for him to be possessed by Gaea. Additionally, Nico is at a loss to control or command the rocks from the earth, even though bringing forth rocks from the ground is a gift bestowed on all of Hades' children. This indicates that these rock formations are not 'natural' at all.

Chapter 8

This chapter indicates just how much danger the demigods are in. Nico is still quite weakened by all of the shadow jumping, but must sacrifice his own life force to do it again. This demonstrates the theme of Sacrifice, and his use of the Diocletian scepter



reiterates that things are not normal in the world. Ordinarily, his use of this scepter would have been enough match for the ghosts, but since it is Romans fighting Romans the conflict is too much and it destroys the scepter, effectively suggesting that Nico has no control over the unnatural elements at work, and that even as a child of Hades, he should flee the situation. That the Romans held the scepter in such high regard indicates that both Romans and Greeks will have to sacrifice much in order to have peace between them.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Gaea choose Coach to possess?

Discussion Question 2

What clues are there that the world is not acting according to natural or demigod laws?

Discussion Question 3

What does the destruction of the Diocletian scepter mean?

Vocabulary

commission, shuffled, tiresome, corroded, lunging



Chapters 9-10

Summary

Chapter 9

Onboard the Argo II Leo is working hard to repair the flying ship. While he submerges himself into the literal bowels of the mechanical workings of the ship he finds himself pining for the girl he left behind, Calypso. He'd promised her that he would return, but the odds are against it and they both knew that. Calypso was cursed with finding and losing love, over and over. Leo had been one of many who had landed there and had to leave her behind. Somehow, Leo vows, he will find a way to take her from that island.

Piper and Annabeth manage to get Jason back onboard the ship and they tell him that Juno has told them that the only way to win is to capture the goddess, Nike, the goddess of competition. They plan how they can capture a goddess. Since she governs all competitions, and since she is most likely suffering from the same identity crisis that the other gods are (are they Roman or Greek...or both???) they decide that the best route is to go down to Olympia in a contingency of equal numbers Romans and Greeks. Percy and Leo go down with Frank and Hazel.

Chapter 10

When the heroes land in Olympia everything is in disarray. The temple is in ruins and Nike's statue is destroyed and scattered around the room. The heroes begin to look around for some signs of what might have happened. They wander over to a temple dedicated to Zeus and it is also overturned and ransacked. Leo makes an offhanded comment about Adidas versus Nike and all of a sudden they hear a loud goddess voice screaming at them: You Will Die Now.

Analysis

Chapter 9

Leo's desire to be reunited with Calypso offers the reader insight into his character. He is not built, nor does he have the natural good looks, of the other demigod boys. And yet, Calypso fell in love with him. This parallels his own father's marriage to Aphrodite, goddess of love. That he is determined to find a way back to her, underlies much of his motivation in completing the tasks at hand.

In a nice ironic symbolism, the team are told that they have to capture and secure 'victory', literally. They must capture and hold the goddess Nike, goddess of victory in battle and competition. Interestingly enough, she's out of her mind, and her idea of competition is to fight to the death. In a literal sense, the goddess of competition and



victory in battle doesn't know what the right outcome is, or how it should be decided. There is no clear cut way for anyone to win.

Chapter 10

The theme of War is demonstrated using Nike's disorientation and the destruction of her temple (and other's temples) as a depiction of how confusing and jumbled alliances and beliefs can be when a war has begun. This theme is underscored when they find Nike, goddess of victory in battle, babbling like an idiot. She screams at them: You Must Die Now. This is not the voice of a coherent and logical goddess, or process, but that of a raving lunatic, illustrating that war makes normally sane people do or say things that they normally wouldn't consider doing.

Discussion Question 1

What is the symbolism tied to the task that Juno sets them?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the theme of War as it is demonstrated in Chapter 10.

Discussion Question 3

Why would the author show that Zeus's temple was also ransacked along with Nike's?

Vocabulary

muster, tad, suspicious, blazing, hordes, blunder



Chapters 11-12

Summary

Chapter 11

As the heroes suspected, Nike is suffering from the dissension between the Romans and the Greeks. The Goddess can't decide if she is Nike, the Greek, or Victoria, the Roman. She is constantly splitting her image to first one, then the other. Even though they attempt to reason with her, she is out of her mind. They tell her that Gaea is the enemy, not them, but she wants competition, and a winner, and a loser. She demands that they fight to the death for her honor. She gives them a few hours to gather what they will need to meet her on the battlefield.

Chapter 12

The heroes manage to trick and trap Nike in a golden net. But it is obvious that she is out of her mind and she won't quit babbling incoherently. One of her rants catches Percy's ear. She talks about a physician's cure, which might be just the thing that they need to heal Jason. She also babbles about the poison of Pylos, the heartbeat of the chained god located somewhere in Sparta, and a curse that was levied on someone named Delos.

Analysis

Chapter 11

Percy tricks Nike into fighting them, instead of the heroes fighting each other to the death. He does this thinking that this might be their chance to subdue her somehow. She accepts their challenge and gives them time to prepare. The heroes watch as she summons her Nikai, spirits of competition. Leo rushes back to the ship and scoops up all of the gadgets that he has and meets his friends back at the stadium.

It is interesting to consider that the gods, themselves, are having identity crises'. This parallels the same internal struggle that the teen demigods are going through, in trying to figure out who they are and what role they will take in the greater world. This theme of accepting oneself for who you are is presented and demonstrated acutely in this chapter.

Chapter 12

The symbolism inherent in the trapping of the goddess of victory in battle is obvious in this chapter, but in a nice twist, it is shown that she's out of her mind. What the author suggests here is that victory is not always clearly defined, and often there is a great deal of confusion that will surround the event. During her ranting, the heroes hear her speak



about the prophecy and items that they will need in order to 'win'. What this indicates is that one has to learn what to listen to and what to dismiss when given information from a questionable source.

Discussion Question 1

What indicates that Nike is not quite herself?

Discussion Question 2

What is the symbolism in fighting against the spirit of Victory?

Discussion Question 3

Why does the group decide to listen to what Nike's ranting about once she is captured?

Vocabulary

overkill, relevant, gilded, laurel, espressos, plumage, prudent, pamphlet, shrieked



Chapters 13-14

Summary

Chapter 13

Nico is still out of commission and having his own sort of premonition: He's in Camp Half-Blood. Basically, he sees the camp doing everything in its power to defend itself from Octavian and his oncoming assault. They're frazzled because they aren't sure the Athena Parthenos will arrive in time. However, Coach Hedge interrupts Nico's dream when he wakes the boy up saying that there are problems.

Chapter 14

With the last shadow jump the heroes arrive in Portugal; the Athena Parthenos atop a temple. Not to mention a ghost on fire is beckoning to Nico. Following the ghost, they arrive to a temple of human skulls, to which Hades, Nico's father, is waiting. Hades tells Nico that they have a hunter named Orion on their tails and that the only way to really survive is to outrun him. He also adds, cryptically that some deaths should not be prevented. From there Nico hurries back to Reyna and Hedge. Reyna is not happy to be in Portugal as this is where she grew up. She had a terrible and tragic past, which she alludes to.

Analysis

Chapter 13

This chapter shows that Nico is still in a very weakened condition and that he's almost to the point where it is threatening his life. At one point, Nico is so wraithlike that he walks through a tree as if he no longer has any substance. This is symbolic of how Nico feels about himself and others. The theme of Accepting One's Self is demonstrated in this chapter by Nico feeling as if he can't be who he really is and tell anyone about his crush on Percy or that he is gay. Likewise, his dreams urge him to action as he sees his friends facing impending doom. He realizes that the delivery of the Athena Parthenos is the only thing that will prevent the war between the two camps.

Chapter 14

This chapter sees Nico's father stepping in to assist his son, which he almost never does. Hades tells Nico that Orion is hunting them and that they are in grave danger. He additionally offers the advice to his son that some deaths need to occur for the greater good of everyone. At the time, Nico believes that his father may be speaking about him and giving his life to support this last cause.



Discussion Question 1

What becomes evident as a result of Nico's dream?

Discussion Question 2

What does his father tell him about Orion and death?

Discussion Question 3

Why would Nico feel the pressure the most of the others in his group?

Vocabulary

forged, mantel, concisely, plummeting, etched



Chapters 15-16

Summary

Chapter 15

As Nico fills in the crew on what he's learned from Hades the rest of the crew chows down. When he tells Reyna that Hades had told him that wolves were hunting them, as well as Orion, Reyna is skeptical. Wolves are considered friendly towards Rome. Nico thinks about Percy Jackson and how much he wished that things were different between them. He recalls how Percy looked when he had begged Nico to lead the others, in the previous novel, to the other side of Tartarus.

Then without warning wolves start to howl all around them, signaling they're surrounded. One comes up to them and becomes a man right in front of their eyes.

Chapter 16

The man is a Lycaon, in other words, the first werewolf. Nico jumps into action by summoning a wall of bones to protect them from the wolves and their attacks. Unfortunately for them to shadow-travel, Nico needs to have a shadow. In order to get what he wants Nico taunts the Lycaon which transforms back into a wolf, lunging at Nico. Stabbing the wolf, it dissolves into shadow and a voice screeches out for them to stop along with the sound of a bow being drawn. Nico acts quick on the draw once again and uses the shadows to take them (Reyna, Coach, and the statue) away.

Analysis

Chapter 15

Nico doesn't have too much time to fill everyone in before the next calamity befalls them. The literal wolves are 'at the door'. To make matters worse, they are not normal wolves, but werewolves. The wolf is a symbol of Rome, which should be noted by the reader. Thus, not only is the author telling the reader that they are in danger, but that most likely they are in danger from Rome...both at Camp Half-blood but also in their present location.

Chapter 16

Nico shows that having superpowers doesn't always cut it, and instead he uses his mind to trick the werewolf into providing enough of a shadow so that they can travel away from the attacks. They narrowly escape as Orion catches up with them. The author uses these series of events to increase the tension and suspense as to whether or not they will actually be able to succeed in delivering the statue to the proper place in time.



Discussion Question 1

What does the author seem to suggest about special abilities and getting out of trouble?

Discussion Question 2

Though Nico is able to call a wall of bones to protect them, what eventually saves them?

Discussion Question 3

What causes Nico and the others to have to shadow jump sooner than they had planned?

Vocabulary

crouched, vanity, detain, barren, animated, femurs



Chapters 17-18

Summary

Chapter 17

Piper and Frank land in Pylos. Frank is looking over his shoulder thinking that he will run into some of his relatives, while Piper is reminded of her father because of the plethora of advertisements with his face on them. They manage to locate Nestor's Cave, which is where a rumor says shapeshifters used to live. Thinking that this MUST be some sort of relatives of Franks, who might be able to point them in the direction of the poison, they go there. Frank goes into the cave, leaving Piper to think about her family and past trips they'd taken. She talks about Cows and how they creep her out. Frank returns with a small vial of poison called Pylosian mint.

After retrieving the poison of Pylos, the group heads to Sparta to the mysterious chained god. Frank thinks it's a statue of his father, Ares. Piper, however, has a vision of her touching the statue and being engulfed in flames. By the morning they would be in Sparta.

Chapter 18

Jason is still pretty sick from his sword wound which prompts Piper to worry. She tells him to trust his own instincts and that she never doubts that he makes the right choices. She tells him a Cherokee tale about two hunters whose personal taboos ended up being their demise when they gave in to them.

After she chats with Jason a bit more, Piper falls asleep into a nightmare vision. She sees herself flying to the Acropolis, where king Porphyron is located. Piper also sees many giants gathered there. She had heard that each giant was born to oppose a particular god, but there are way more than twelve giants gathered in the Parthenon; at least twenty. Porphyron is wearing something akin to a velour tracksuit. Piper learns that they are taking the route that the giants expected them to, and that when they arrive at Sparta, Mimas will take care of them. One giant warns that if the heroes are able to unleash the makhai that all will be lost. Then Piper hears them say that when the blood of the last heroes is spilled there, Gaea will be raised.

Analysis

Chapter 17

What is interesting to note is the theme of family being demonstrated. Both Piper and Frank have different instances where they recall their family. First, Piper sees all sorts of tangible reminders of her father through the posters and billboards advertising his movies. She misses her father and longs for the ocean and surfing, of a time that was



simpler. It is easy to see that she is tired and that the task that they've been given weighs on her.

Frank is also concerned with family. When he gathers information that leads them to Nestor's Cave, because of the legend of the shape-shifters, he is disappointed at his reception by long lost family. He reports that they are only marginally welcoming and while they do give him what he's requesting he doesn't feel that they approve of or even like him. It causes him to feel badly.

Chapter 18

This chapter directly addresses choices and what goes into making them, and living with the choices once they are made. This is evident in the Cherokee tale that Piper shares, as well as the discussion between Piper and Jason about his mother and Jason's decision to follow his own instincts in that situation.

The dream that Piper receives gives her more information for the journey and that their decisions from here on out are going to impact the outcome of the mission. She sees that more than the required number of giants have gathered, which sets up a foreshadowing effect for the next chapters.

Discussion Question 1

What made Jason decide to reject his mother and make the choice to remain with Piper and the group?

Discussion Question 2

How is the theme of family discussed in Chapter 18?

Discussion Question 3

How does the reader know that Piper misses her father?

Vocabulary

recounted, wrench, glowering, implying, sprawled, archaeology, invincible



Chapters 19-20

Summary

Chapter 19

Annabeth rouses Piper and tells the ship about her dream. As they reach Sparta the two females agree to both go together to the statue. There they find a pair of fire pits, to which Piper dives right into one. There she encounters a few bronze dragon statues spewing flames, and she lops their heads off, allowing Annabeth to come into the cavern safely. There they come across the statue and hear a heartbeat inside. Before they can even do a thing a giant arrives, ready to kill them.

Chapter 20

Being within the temple of fear affects both Annabeth and Piper, paralyzing them with fear; Annabeth more so than Piper. Piper attempts to get Annabeth up and away from Mimas, the giant, who is there to kill them. She tries to reason with Annabeth by telling her that no matter how much she wants to she can't think her way out of her emotions. That seems to snap the girl out of her stupor enough for the two to run and fight until Piper makes it to the statue of Ares.

Piper puts her cornucopia at the statue's feet for a sacrifice then takes the statue's head. It's then that the makhai, spirits of battle, swirl from out of the statue and right into Piper. With them inside of her Piper now has the power to take down the giant. Fighting hard, she does indeed take him down and then she and Annabeth both leave the cavern.

Analysis

Chapter 19

This chapter demonstrates the theme of Cooperation between the heroes. First, there is the group agreeing on whom should go to Sparta to find the chained god's heart. Then, of course, there is the cooperation that has to happen between Percy and Annabeth. Having returned from their harrowing adventures in Tartarus in the last book, Percy is loathe to agree to Annabeth's volunteering for the mission. She deftly turns the tables on him asking if he believed a 'male' demigod would be more suited to the task. When put that way, Percy realizes that he has to let people be who they are. He learns an important facet of cooperation which is that each person's differences also create strengths, and that refusing to allow people the chance to be who they are limits the success of the team.

Chapter 20



This chapter focuses more on Piper than on Annabeth, though both characters experience development. First, Piper, who believes she is the least useful in a battle, ends up being the one that saves her life as well as Annabeth's life, not to mention fulfill the mission they are tasked with. Piper uses her cornucopia to give a sacrifice to the chained god, but more than this act is her ability to feel everything and appreciate it for what it is, even if the emotion is unpleasant. As a daughter of Aphrodite, this is second nature to her and is not unfamiliar territory. Annabeth, however, is paralyzed by her own fears, which are magnified in the caverns below Sparta.

Mimas is sent to kill the girls while they are immobilized by their fears. However, because Piper is not immobilized she is able to remove the chained god's head, releasing the spirits of battle who allow her to gain the strength to defeat Mimas. What the author seems to be suggesting, here, then, is that when a person is able to come to terms with their own fears, instead of trying to suppress them or rationalize them, then a person can draw great strength from an understanding of who they are.

Discussion Question 1

Compare Annabeth to Piper in the cavern under Sparta.

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the theme of Cooperation as it appears in Chapter 19.

Discussion Question 3

Why would Percy have a problem with Annabeth volunteering to go on the mission to Sparta?

Vocabulary

devouring, managed, advised, spewed, welled, plunged, activate, surge, engaged, withdraw, inconsistent



Chapters 21-22

Summary

Chapter 21

After a short stop on a cruise ship, Nico then takes the group to San Juan, Reyna's old stomping grounds. She's by far not happy to be there. Reyna wasn't sure if she should ask Nico to Shadow-jump again; he's fading from reality, turning into a shadow. Before she can concoct a plan Reyna is shot in the neck by a silver dart and is carried off.

Chapter 22

Thalia Grace, Jason's sister turned out to be Reyna's kidnapper. Not to mention she's a hunter working with the Amazons in order to take down Gaea. Though they were using Reyna as bait hoping to intercept Orion. The Hunters lead Reyna to their leader first though: Reyna's sister, Hylla.

Analysis

Chapter 21

In this chapter the author's purpose is to offer more insight into Reyna's character by exploring her past. By having her and the rest of the group land in San Juan, it is clear that they have come back to some place that Reyna would much rather not be. She believes that because she has been 'lending' Nico her strength that maybe she'd influenced his jump somehow. This indicates that San Juan is a place that something terrible happened to her, something she'd rather forget.

The author uses this instance to show Reyna, not as a fierce warrior and leader of her people, but as she began life....unsure and vulnerable. This is made doubly evident when she's attacked out of nowhere and a tranquilizer dart renders her and the others unconscious.

Chapter 22

In an ironic turn of events, this chapter further explores Reyna's past as the reader learns that the leader of the Amazon group that darted her is none other than her own sister, Hylla. The Amazons had been hoping that Orion, the legendary hunter, would be drawn to Reyna and her quest, but they have yet to catch a glimpse of him. They offer Reyna and the others time to rest and food, but Reyna only wants to see her sister, to find out why they've both been drawn back to the scene of a terrible thing from their past.



Discussion Question 1

Why does Reyna think Nico brought them to San Juan?

Discussion Question 2

What is the author's purpose in making Reyna seem indecisive and unsure?

Discussion Question 3

What had the Amazons and Hunters hoped to accomplish by following Reyna and the others?

Vocabulary

captor, tranquilizer, pulsed, utility belt, wrestler, impression, gravelly, glinted, circlet, lair



Chapters 23-24

Summary

Chapter 23

Hylla goes on to talk to Reyna about Orion and the fact that he's the greatest threat to them. He was once an admirer of Artemis yet when he died and then came back, he was returned as their enemy. She offers her sister a little agreement, defeat Orion and they would help Reyna deliver the Athena Parthenos. The only issue is that Orion had already arrived and they aren't ready.

Chapter 24

Reyna and Hylla and the other women warriors prepare to battle Orion, but they are no match for him. Seeing that the tide is turning, both Hylla and Reyna try to escape, but are not able to outrun him. They begin to fight. Soon, Nico and Hedge arrive and are able to help destroy Orion's bow, the source of his power. This allows Reyna, Nico, and the Coach to grab the Athena Parthenos and escape.

Analysis

Chapter 23

What the reader learns and observes in this chapter is the dynamic between sisters. Reyna shares with the reader that her sister is a constantly evolving personality. First, she was the shy and protective older sister, trying to help Reyna and herself outrun and hide from their father's temper. Then, they were dumped onto Circe's island where Hylla once again changed to fit the situation. Reyna examples other instances where Hylla has adapted and overcome stressful and dangerous situations and is now the Queen of the Amazons. She tells Reyna that it was she who diverted the shadow jump so that they would land in San Juan.

Interestingly enough, Reyna is more than willing to be used as bait to draw in Orion, and Hylla is only too willing to allow her sister to offer. This is a dynamic that will surface again throughout the series, in that tough and strong women are often singled out and despised by the older gods and demigods. This chapter shows that strong women must not only be tough physically, but emotionally and mentally as well.

Chapter 24

Now that their plan has not gone as they wished, both Hylla and Reyna find themselves running, ironically enough, from a man wanting to do them harm. This parallels the childhood abuse that they endured at the hands of their father. In their effort to outrun Orion, Hylla leads Reyna back to their old home, which Hylla tells Reyna she purchased



some years ago. Reyna is dumbfounded, but Hylla tells her that running from the past doesn't make it go away. The author seems to be suggesting that facing one's fears makes them easier to deal with, and can even allow healing to begin.

Discussion Question 1

What in Hylla and Reyna's childhood may have contributed to Hylla's ability to reinvent herself?

Discussion Question 2

How do Coach Hedge and Nico contribute to Hylla and Reyna's escape?

Discussion Question 3

How had Nico, Reyna, and Coach Hedges really ended up in San Juan?

Vocabulary

targeting, impression, pulleys, studded, swept, undercut, quiver, embedded, sockets, nocked



Chapters 25-26

Summary

Chapter 25

Back aboard the Argo II a violent storm is threatening to capsize the boat. Percy and Jason have no choice but to head underwater to see what's going on. While Percy doesn't have any problem breathing underwater, Jason has to be a little more inventive by taking a storm cloud to make a miniature tornado. In the water they find a giant woman who tells Percy that she's his sister and she wants to meet him before he has to die.

Chapter 26

Kymopoliea, or Kym for short, is Percy's sister's name; a minor goddess. She was upset that basically she's been forgotten and that no one worships her. She's working for Gaea now and her given mission was to detain Percy and Jason so that Polybotes, the giant nearby, could kill them. As they discuss the fact that Gaea won't keep her word, Percy tells Kym that their father would hate it if she killed him. She says that she agrees with that, but that her job was only to detain him...which she has done. Soon, Polybotes appears, telling them that he tracked Percy through all of Tartarus and that now he is going to enjoy killing Percy.

Analysis

Chapter 25

This chapter demonstrates the theme of Cooperation in that all of the team members have to utilize their gifts in order to keep the ship afloat. Frank has turned into a gorilla and is untangling the oars so that they can become airborne, while Percy and Jason try to control the wind and sea. Later, they both agree to go under the water to find out what is causing the storm. Leo, meanwhile, has strapped himself to the controls and is doing his best to keep the ship going. This shows that when it matters most all of the demigods understand that their strength doesn't lie in their own individual abilities, but in the combination of them all.

Chapter 26

This chapter illustrates an interesting family dynamic for Percy Jackson. Kym is one of Percy's many siblings that he didn't know about. In a previous book he was introduced to Tyson, a cyclops, who became Percy's biggest ally. Now, he is hoping that the same kind of kinship will happen with Kym, allowing them to escape. However, she is so upset by the fact that she's a seldom worshiped goddess that she will not listen to reason,



though she was curious about Percy. The fact that she is a little curious is something that Percy believes he can use to build a rapport with her.

What becomes clear when Polybotes arrives is that many of the monsters - and Polybotes specifically - have been tracking Percy Jackson for a while. Sacrificing one of the big three's child would be preferable to Gaea.

Discussion Question 1

How is the theme of Cooperation exemplified in Chapter 25?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Percy hopeful when he meets Kym?

Discussion Question 3

How is Jason at a disadvantage under the water?

Vocabulary

resemble, frilled, grimaced, stale, alien, muffled, disruptive, silt, algae, debris



Chapters 27-28

Summary

Chapter 27

Percy and Jason manage to destroy Polybotes' swimming basilisks; unfortunately, during all of this Percy gets poison and Jason is put at a disadvantage. Jason needs to make a bargain with Kym, to whom he offers a shrine and an action figure. It seems that's enough for her and it's off with Polybotes' head in one swoop.

Chapter 28

Kym does Percy a favor and heals Percy of his poisoning, warning him that his blood will awake Gaea. Percy and Jason leave but they take a break on the dome of the sunken temple for a moment before going back to the ship. Jason realizes his own wounds have been healed too, much to his confusion. He is glad for Kym's assistance and he learns a big lesson about listening to other's problems.

Analysis

Chapter 27

Attacked by Polybotes's basilisks, both Jason and Percy work together to defeat them, but Percy ends up being injured. Kym has sat back and watched everything unfold without interference. However, when Jason appeals to her vanity and hurt pride, he is able to sway her to their side and she agrees to fight Polybotes. It seems as if she is seeking any reason to help Percy, who is her family, and it can be stated that the theme of family is touched upon at this point. Kym was held to certain rules, but once she found a loophole, she was able to do as it appears she wanted to do from the beginning.

The basilisks can be said to represent the sins of unrealized hopes and dreams, and how they can turn into monsters that writhe and turn until they almost destroy a person. The fact that Jason and Percy are able to destroy them indicates that they are able to set aside their pride and can help others restore their dreams, even reach them. This is what they offer Kym and why she agrees to help them.

Chapter 28

In this chapter, both Jason and Percy are made whole by Kym's gratitude. As a goddess she is able to heal them completely of the injuries that they took from the basilisks as well as the injury that Jason sustained earlier from Michael Varus's sword. Percy and Jason are grateful to Kym, who is still a bit sad she didn't seem them die spectacularly. To a goddess death has little meaning. However, she warns Percy that his blood will



waken Gaea and that he should beware putting himself in any situation where he might spill it. Kym tells him that his fatal flaw will be his undoing which is that he is unable to step away from his friends. She also calls Jason, Pontifex, which means Priest in Roman. She is suggesting that he has yet to make a heavy sacrifice and Jason is beginning to get an idea of what it might take to defeat Gaea.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Kym decide to heal both Jason and Percy?

Discussion Question 2

Even though it is plain that Kym likes Jason and Percy, why does she want to see them die?

Discussion Question 3

What warnings does Kym give to Jason and Percy before they leave?

Vocabulary

shrines, assuming, recognition, confident, mentors, impression, unbearable, primordial, expression



Chapters 29-30

Summary

Chapter 29

Nico Shadow-jumps them to South Carolina. Unfortunately, he's not doing so hot now, losing his connection to the real world at an alarming pace. In fact, at one point he even went right through a tree. Both he and Reyna have a chat about their pasts, and Reyna admits - shockingly enough - that she killed her own father. It's then that a Roman Legionnaire steps out of the shadows and tells Reyna that she's going to be executed for this.

Chapter 30

The legionnaire was in fact Bryce Lawrence, one of Octavian's henchmen, instructed to arrest Reyna. She's not about to be taken down by him, but Bryce hasn't come alone; he has backup. Summoning a lot of undead soldiers, Bruce sends them to get Reyna. A skeleton restrains her and Bryce cuts her face with the weapon he has. Nico is beyond furious and goes blitzkrieg.

Analysis

Chapter 29

This chapter sees Nico not faring too well. The fight with the werewolves, where he was wounded, has left him even more drained, on top of the shadow traveling. And yet, Nico pushes on. This demonstrates the dedication that all of the demigods have to the mission that they've been tasked. This chapter, as they try to rest and recover, is about character expansion. Nico muses that Jason Grace had once told him that maybe he should stop living in the shadows and in this chapter, in a symbolic as well as realistic gesture, he does turn his face to the sun, saying that it makes him feel more anchored to the world. What this also suggests is that Nico, who is gay, will finally have the courage to 'step out of the shadows'.

Reyna talks about why San Juan was such a hard place for her to come back to. She tells them about her abusive father, a former soldier in Iraq who'd fallen in love with Bellona, the goddess of war. He was never able to adjust to civilian life. He became paranoid, seeing enemies everywhere. Eventually, she shares, her father turned into a wraith called a Mania. Nico is supportive as she continues. She confesses to him quietly that she killed her own father to save her sister.

As she says this, a legionnaire steps out from the edge of the woods. He tells her that the news of Patricide would make his job of deposing her even easier.



Chapter 30

Bryce Lawrence is indicative and representative of someone who blindly follows the loudest and meanest person because it vicariously gives them a sense of power. Interestingly enough, Bryce tells them that he is the half son of Orcus, the god of broken vows and eternal punishment, so Nico's threats of the Underworld don't phase him. It also explains why Bryce would be the perfect person for Octavian to use to betray Reyna.

When Bryce calls forth his own dead warriors to surround the group, the reader sees Nico's reaction to someone who enjoys inflicting pain on others for fun. This clues the reader in to the fact that most likely Nico has faced someone like this before. But now, unlike then, he has the ability to do something about it. The amount of pain and suffering that he's gathered over the course of his lifetime will have a moment to be unleashed in the next chapter.

Discussion Question 1

What does the reader learn about Reyna's childhood?

Discussion Question 2

What does the author mean when the author writes that Nico has decided to turn his face to the sun?

Discussion Question 3

What does Nico's confrontation with Bryce tell the reader about Nico?

Vocabulary

crumpled, inclined, scum, unsheathed, descendant, etiquette, violations, paralyzed, exerted, transparent



Chapters 31-32

Summary

Chapter 31

Though Nico doesn't remember what happened, the others certainly do and fill him in. When Bryce attacked the group with his resurrected skeletons, Nico (receiving energy from Reyna) went 'DARK'. The temperature around them dropped to below freezing, the ground turned black, and all of the pain and misery that existed in the Underworld, and all of Nico's pain and suffering was placed onto Bryce and those in the general vicinity. He opens a hole in the ground under Bryce, condemns him for breaking his oath to the legion, and then closes the hole up, effectively burying Bryce alive. Then he collapses.

When he comes to Coach Hedge is giving him Gatorade telling him that he has both good and bad news.

Chapter 32

Bad news was that Nico had been out of it for three days, and nearly died. Thanks to Coach Hedge's nature magic and cures, Nico is literally back from the brink of total dissipation. Reyna fills Nico in on what happened and is upset with Nico for his summary execution of Bryce because it reminded her too much of how her father became consumed and became a ghost, too. However she forgives him by saying it doesn't matter; they're friends and she trusts him. Unfortunately Nico can't shadow travel and so Coach Hedge calls up a different mode of transportation: Pegasi.

Analysis

Chapter 31

Both chapters demonstrate the powerful theme of Friendship. Here, in Chapter Thirty One the reader, as well as the others, get to see Nico without filters. He allows everyone to see all of his pain, suffering, self doubt, loathing, misery, and loneliness. Not only does he draw power from finally not holding any of it back, but he's able to save all of them. Unfortunately, it comes at a grave price and it almost kills him. This shows, not only the amount of trust that he has because of his friendship with Reyna and Coach, but that he will give his last measure of strength to keep them safe. This chapter further expands on Nico's character development.

Chapter 32

One of the key questions that Nico asks when he regains consciousness is, "Why?" Why did they stay to look over him for three days when they knew he was of no further use to the mission? They told him that he was a friend and that friends don't abandon



friends. Reyna also shares that the story that she told him the day before about her father was the first time she'd shared that memory with anyone, which meant that he must have been the right one to do that with. That meant that when he was willing to listen to her he helped her carry some of that burden, and it actually made her feel better to have carried it.

This is paralleled by Nico when he realizes that despite having seen his soul and memories laid bare by the DARK that came out of him, instead of being more distant, his friends love him more than ever and seem even more determined to stay with him. He realizes that true friendship isn't about keeping up appearances all of the time, but that its an acceptance of all the aspects of a person, the good and the bad.

Discussion Question 1

Why was Bryce overcome when Nico unleashed the darkness from inside his soul?

Discussion Question 2

What shocked Nico the most after he regains consciousness?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss the important discoveries about the theme of Friendship that is explored in Chapters 31 and 32.

Vocabulary

whale, prompted, chided, huffed, plumage, summoned, massive



Chapters 33-34

Summary

Chapter 33

The Argo II makes its arrival at Delos to obtain the Curse of Delos. Unfortunately, this island wasn't totally deserted - the two sibling deities were there: Apollo and Artemis. Starting up a conversation with the two eventually turns to Apollo telling them that he wasn't able to help with the physician's cure. Apparently he's so upset that he couldn't help but throw a nice tantrum, one that ended with a broken ukulele. On that note, Artemis takes Hazel and Frank away, telling Leo that if anyone could bargain with her brother it would probably be him.

Chapter 34

Hearing these 'words of encouragement' Leo attempts to bargain with Apollo. He would make a new instrument, a new one, for him in exchange for what they wanted. Apollo reiterates that he doesn't have the Physician's cure but he did have the last ingredient - a daisy - which turned out to be the Curse of Delos.

If Leo, Frank, and Hazel went to Apollo's son Asclepius then he could take the ingredients and make the cure. Leo makes the deal and returns to the docks where Frank and Hazel are. Meanwhile, Artemis told them that Octavian was going on with his crazy plan to eradicate Camp Half-Blood by way of Cyclops-built catapults. In other words, they were huge. Leo then fills them in on his plan.

Analysis

Chapter 33

In this chapter Leo, Hazel, and Frank meet Artemis and Apollo, who are both also suffering from some of the split personalities that the rest of them are also suffering from. They say that on the island they feel more like themselves. Apollo is especially out of control. The reader sees Artemis attempt to salvage the meeting by separating Hazel and Frank so that Leo can try to talk some sense into Apollo long enough for them to get the Curse of Delos. Leo does learn from Apollo that the 'Curse of Delos' is a flower that grows all over the island, so at least he's able to solve that issue. It is Leo's abilities as a tinker that come into play in this chapter, however, since he's able to build and repair just about anything, Apollo's broken Ukulele gives Leo a chance to barter for help with the physician's cure.

Chapter 34



This chapter sees the successful conclusion to Leo's bargaining with Apollo and the heroes all leave the island with the flowers that they came for. Apollo has also directed them to seek out his son, Asciphius, who can actually construct the Physician's Cure for them. What really comes out in this chapter is Artemis's willingness to tell them that Octavian is moving forward with his maniacal plans to raze Camp Half-Blood. The desperation that all of the demigods feel at this point serves as a motivation for them to move quickly, but it also allows the author to increase the tension and suspense in the book.

Discussion Question 1

Why have Artemis and Apollo come back to Delos?

Discussion Question 2

Of the three demigods that land on Delos, which one holds the key to getting Apollo to help them, and why?

Discussion Question 3

What lets the reader know, in Chapter 34, that the gods want to see the demigods succeed?

Vocabulary

modifications, diplomatic, gelato, turf, blurted, fiasco, windswept, barren, impressive, mournful



Chapter 35-36

Summary

Chapter 35

Leo raises the Argo II into the air and they fly over the temple of Asclepius. Using a claw, Leo reaches down and turns away the stones hiding the temple's hidden entrance. From there the three (Jason, Piper, and Leo) head down. Reaching Asclepius' waiting room they're all accosted by Hygeia in statue form, demanding to see their insurance. It's a disaster - one that has snakes, acid, and a giant battle. Leo saves the day by reprogramming the statue into self-destruct mode. The door to the doctor's office opens to them afterwards.

Chapter 36

Asclepius gives them the physician's cure along with a pair of glasses for Jason. He also lets the group know that they're all gonna live a long time, with the exception of Leo. It's back on the ship that they're all in agreement to have Piper hold onto the vial of the physician's cure. Leo wraps up the vial in a cloth for safe-keeping and hands it to her. However, down in the engine room it's revealed that he has the real vial, which he hides in the ship's engine. The one he handed over to Piper was a trick created via Hazel.

Analysis

Chapter 35

The theme of Cooperation is demonstrated in this chapter when Jason, Piper, and Leo go down into the temple. Here, they all work together to simultaneously avoid Hygeia's attacks, but to try and fix what ails her. Finally, though they are not able to convince Hygeia that they pose no threat, Leo is able to reprogram her and she is disabled. Then, they work together to get into the main office where Apollo's son waits for them. What is interesting to note in this chapter is that in previous chapters the others would have turned to Jason for orders or direction on what they should do. Here, in this chapter, no one gives orders; rather, everyone shares insight and offers ideas for solutions. No one person is in charge, but all view the other as equals.

Chapter 36

This chapter begins to hint at the theme of Sacrifice. When it is revealed that Leo will not live a long life, the reader begins to see that Leo is going to have to make the ultimate gesture of love for his friends. He accepts this matter-of-factly, but is also seen to use his mind to try and figure a solution to the problem. When he takes the



physician's cure and hides it below deck, the reader is hopeful that Leo won't have to die.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Leo hide the vial of cure from the others?

Discussion Question 2

How is the theme of Cooperation exemplified in Chapter 35?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss Leo's character and compare him from earlier novels to this novel.

Vocabulary

rubble, unoccupied, complex, intensive, telescoped, pneumatic, spiral, serene



Chapters 37-38

Summary

Chapter 37

Reyna diverts the Pegasi to a near ship to avoid getting shot down by the onagers. After they land, the Lord Pegasus tells Reyna that he came to her aid because of her kindness and depth of compassion for a winged horse named Scipio. He tells her that forever more she will be known as a Horse Friend. This, Coach tells her, is an extreme honor. As they land, Nico can tell that this ship isn't empty; there are two people asleep on board. Thinking that they were safe was a fallacy, and this is made clear when a motorboat comes up carrying Octavian's welcome committee. Michael Kahal steps into Bryce's shoes trying to arrest Reyna. It ends about the same way though this time Tyson comes to the rescue, clouting Michael right over the head and knocking him flat out.

Chapter 38

Tyson and Ella take Coach Hedge back to the Camp where he will check on his wife and will also alert everyone to the fact that Reyna will bring the Athena Parthenos early the next morning. Reyna also gets Dakota and Leila, legionnaires who came with Michael, to agree to help sabotage the attack on Camp Half-Blood and Nico tags along. Reyna is left alone on the ship to think and regroup when an arrow flies right into her Pegasus' flank, one with a ticking explosive device attached.

Analysis

Chapter 37

The theme of Friendship is illustrated in this chapter as Reyna is rewarded for her friendship with Scipio. The honor that is bestowed on her from Pegasus, himself, indicates that her kindness was noticed. Secondly, Reyna's friendship with Michael, Dakota, and Leila, who are the Romans that try to arrest her, buy her enough time to argue her case with them. Had they not been friends, then Reyna would have been arrested summarily. As it turns out, Michael gives them some valuable intel as well as confides that no one likes Octavian and what he has planned. This gives Reyna hope that they may overcome Octavian's grip on the Legion. The reader also sees friendship emerge when Tyson saves Reyna, Nico, and Coach Hedge by impersonating Octavian and getting Michael and the others to drop their weapons. Tyson's friendship and acceptance by Percy, and everyone else, has provided another way for the group to continue their mission.

Chapter 38



This chapter sets up the action that will take place in the next few chapters where the final confrontation will take place. Coach Hedge is going back to the camp because his wife, Mellie, is about to give birth and he wants to be there. He is also going to take word that the Parthenon has arrived and will be delivered immediately. Just as things seem to be turning around for the demigods, Orion's arrows sail over the ship's sides. One hits BlackJack the Pegasus, and the other hits the boat. The timer is ticking.

It is important to note that just before this, when everyone had left the boat, that Reyna had been reflecting on her mother, Bellona (Goddess of War) and wondering what her thoughts would have been on the entire ordeal. What did she think when Reyna had had to cut down her father's wraith at the end? Though she has been honored by Pegasus she doesn't feel worthy of it, nor does she feel worthy of much that she has received. It is during these moments of self-doubt that the boat comes under attack.

Discussion Question 1

How does friendship save Reyna and the others from capture?

Discussion Question 2

As a direct result of friendship, what do Leila and Dakota agree to?

Discussion Question 3

How does Tyson save everyone in Chapter 38?

Vocabulary

meteorology, bitterly, divisions, refrain, commission, cohorts, sabotage, onager, peered, veiled, sponsored, furrowed, extended, questing



Chapters 39-40

Summary

Chapter 39

Orion catches up with Reyna, though pretty roughed up from where he fought with Hylla. He says that the remaining Hunters are still alive but that he's planning on killing her. Reyna manages to throw her knife and it lands in Orion's chest. She grabs the special cloak that she was given by Athena and jumps on top of the explosive to try and contain the blast.

As it goes off, Reyna is spared because she's proven herself to be worthy of being called a hero of Olympus and is given a piece of Athena's mantle, the cloak, which is what protects her. Orion shoots another arrow at Reyna but the cloak deflects the shot. She then uses the same cloak to strangle Orion, finally killing him.

Chapter 40

Reyna helps Blackjack the Pegasus by cleaning the wound left by the arrow and healing him. After that, the dawn seems enchanting and Reyna begins to doubt that Octavian would attack the camp. As if to answer that thought an explosion goes off courtesy of their first volley, the signal of the start of the war.

Analysis

Chapter 39

The theme of Sacrifice is demonstrated in this chapter by Reyna's actions. Having disabled Orion, Reyna is able to take her cloak and throw herself over the bomb that is on the ship. The Athena Parthenos is moved by her sacrifice and willingness and confers on her the title of 'hero' which converts the ordinary cloak into a part of Athena's mantle. This protects her from the blast when it happens, and then it serves as the instrument that Reyna uses to kill Orion. It is interesting to note that just in the previous chapter she had been suffering from the 'why me' syndrome and had been feeling very unworthy of the accolades she'd been receiving. This final demonstration of her willingness to die for her friends and a cause are recognized, and for once she doesn't downplay her contribution or worthiness.

Chapter 40

This short chapter indicates that the war is beginning and that Octavian is not playing by the rules. Reyna is busy nursing BlackJack back to health when the first volley is shot from the Roman camp. It has begun.



Discussion Question 1

Discuss Reyna's sacrifice and the outcome of that sacrifice.

Discussion Question 2

How has Reyna changed from Chapter 38 to Chapter 39?

Discussion Question 3

What was Orion's plan, initially?

Vocabulary

wheeled, nocked, wheezed, burst, conflagration, mustered, glared, summoning, homicidal, endorsement



Chapters 41-42

Summary

Chapter 41

The Argo II lands at the outskirts of Piraeus and everyone is gearing up to storm the Acropolis when they're detained by a snake-man, named Kekrops. He was once the king of Athens, and offers to help them. He says that he and his kind took to the underground when they were overrun by Romans. He offers to take the heroes to the Acropolis. Piper becomes suspicious so she employs her charm-speak. With a quick song she's able to get the truth out of Kekrops, and they learn that it's a trap. But the truth is, they have to move forward anyway because this is the only way through. Hazel and Frank decide to have Piper sing the entire way so that they can get Kekrops and his men to take them through the tunnels safely. The only problem will be when they get to the end of the tunnels and Piper stops singing. The heroes manage to overcome this issue and safely exit the tunnels.

Chapter 42

They all arrive safely and Frank transforms into a group of bees. Frank flies to Hazel and tells her that they have made it through and are safe. Hazel then uses her Mist on the three of them to transform into monsters, and then they split up and storm into the Parthenon. By the time Piper arrives at Porphyron's throne she learns that he has Annabeth and Percy hostage.

Analysis

Chapter 41

Part of the reason that Piper is guarded around Kekrops is that she's had a dream where a giantess named Periboia had told her that she would meet friends as well as enemies in Athens. She is further dismayed when he tells them that only three demigods could pass through the tunnels without the giants picking up their scent. This chapter features Piper, although not exclusively. What the reader learns about Piper's character is that others are turning to her now for confirmation.

At one point, before they agree to go with Kekrops, Annabeth gives her a look as if to see how Piper felt about the offer of help from Kekrops. Since Sparta Piper and Annabeth had learned that together they are a formidable team, with Annabeth providing the logic and Piper the intuition and gut reactions. Piper's 'gut' is telling her that something is not quite right with Kekrops's offer, but she has no proof. This is not only a demonstration of the Friendship theme, again, but later on in the chapter also weaves in the theme of family as Piper remembers her father talking about the song of the snakes. It is this song that charms Kekrops into telling them his true intentions.



Chapter 42

Before the action takes place in this chapter, Piper, once again, is shown to be wiser than her years as she muses that some pain is meant to be felt, to be dealt with and even embraced. Without the hardship that she's endured, she never would have learned as much about herself as she has, nor would she have realized what great friends she now has in those she's quested with. All of them take a moment to discuss their family members that they miss and might never see again once the fighting begins.

The action starts up and all of them begin their plan to take Porphyron's throne, but instead, it is as if the giant has been waiting for them. By the time Piper makes it to the main square, both Annabeth and Percy have been captured.

Discussion Question 1

How has the dynamic between Annabeth and Piper changed?

Discussion Question 2

How is the theme of Friendship demonstrated in Chapter 41?

Discussion Question 3

What was Piper's philosophy about hardship and pain?

Vocabulary

putrid, tended, lair, procession, vial, chamois, chambers, littered, filaments, persistent, resonating, crater



Chapters 43-44

Summary

Chapter 43

With everyone so focused on Percy and Annabeth they don't notice Piper at all. Taking advantage of that she then attacks and chops off the giant's hand just as she's about to kill Annabeth. Annabeth is slightly grazed in the rescue attempt and her blood falls onto the ground where it turns from red to gold. Gaea's offering of demigod blood is commencing. In a frenzy Piper goes around the circle attempting to keep all of the giants at bay while Annabeth and Percy try to get away. There are just too many of them, and soon they find themselves hemmed in. At the last moment, they hear commotion overhead. The Argo II has arrived bringing the 'calvary'.

Chapter 44

The battle that ensues is rather one sided, though the demigods hold their own for a while. As giants, and immortals, they can only be banished to Tartarus, not destroyed. This fact King Porphyron reminds his giants of, as they all fight back. Jason immobilizes the King by hitting him with a lightning bolt, which brings the giant to his knees, but Percy and the others know that without the gods to help them, they can't kill the giants. The Argo II is badly damaged by a giant spear that has pierced its hull. During the battle Percy's nose has been burst and the blood flows down to his chin. As a single drop falls and hits the ground, the earth lets out a terrible moan. The Earth Mother awoke.

Analysis

Chapter 43

This chapter is about Friendship and Sacrifice. Piper, knowing that she's only one person, is nonetheless not going to let Annabeth be sacrificed, so without another thought, she jumps into the middle of a gathering of giants for the sake of her friend. She knows that the likely outcome will be her death, but she does it anyway. Likewise, when all of the other demigods arrive, the theme of Sacrifice is evident in that they know that they cannot kill the giants without the help of the gods. And, yet, they are willing to try, hoping that they will at least slow Gaea's wakening until the gods can regain their wits.

Chapter 44

This short chapter is a continuation of the previous chapter in that the reader sees various combat scenarios that don't seem to go well for any of the demigods. When one of the giants hurls a large spear into the hull of the Argo II Percy begins to feel as if all might be lost. Though the battle has been waged to the best of their ability, it is just not



going to be enough. When the single drop of Percy's blood hits the ground, it is a dark night of the soul for them all. The one thing that they'd been trying to prevent has happened.

Discussion Question 1

What made Piper decide to jump into the middle of the gathering of giants?

Discussion Question 2

Describe how the theme of Friendship and Sacrifice are exemplified in Chapter 43.

Discussion Question 3

How has Piper's character developed over the course of the novel?

Vocabulary

endure, colonnade, whinnied, astride, deafening, wreathed, crumpled, surgical, programmed, intercepting, elated



Chapters 45-46

Summary

Chapter 45

Nico arrives at Octavian's legion's headquarters by summoning up a zombie chauffer to drive an SUV. He gets out of the car and then fades back into the shadows so he can take out the onagers without interruption. The bad thing is that he almost collapses from overuse. Will Solace shows up and then relays to Nico that Coach Hedge is fine and told him that he is not to do shadow-traveling anymore. Will and Nico then team up with a few others to finish sabotaging the rest of the onagers.

Chapter 46

Their team makes it to the first onager and then Nico has a brilliant idea. If they changed the trajectories then they could potentially destroy almost all of them in one fell swoop. On the way to the next onager they're fighting off monsters when Nico summons skeletons to help, though Will gives him grief for doing so. He then gives him 'medicinal' gum to heal himself. Unfortunately in this span of time Octavian catches up with them before the job is done.

Analysis

Chapter 45

When Nico and the crew from the boat make their way onshore, there is a vehicle there. The problem is, no one can drive it as they are all underage. Nico calls forth his zombie driver, Jules Albert, and they get to Octavian's camp in record time. Immediately, Nico shifts into shadow. The theme of Accepting Oneself, is the strongest in these two chapters as Nico is finally able to realize that he's just as strong without his powers, too. When he is ordered to stop shadow jumping by Camp Halfblood, he is forced to use his mind and knowledge of the onagers to sabotage them. Additionally, Nico realizes that he's gotten over his attraction for Percy. He's able to make his peace with that and finds that Will, surprisingly, understands Nico and is able to return Nico's affections.

Chapter 46

This chapter, set against the backdrop of the ensuing battle, is a continuation of Nico's character development. As he and Will and the rest of the crew go around sabotaging the onagers, Nico thinks about Will and how he never noticed him before. Calling forth the skeletons takes almost everything out of him, but Will, whose ability is to heal, is able to restore him. The author would seem to be suggesting then at the restorative powers of love, and the strength it gives one to carry on. When Will gives Nico a healing



chewing gum to chew to continue on, the reader knows that something important has just begun between Will and Nico.

Discussion Question 1

What is the significance of Will's Chewing Gum?

Discussion Question 2

What did Nico discover about himself in regards to his powers?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss Will's character. Why is he brought into the storyline at the end of the novel?

Vocabulary

bind, extending, ragged, chauffeur, immune, encampment, sparring, nudged, pauldrons, valor



Chapters 47-48

Summary

Chapter 47

Will whistles, which disables his dogheaded henchmen while Nico dispatches them off to Hades. It doesn't seem to phase Octavian though because he tries to get Nico to switch camps and join them instead. At Nico's blatant refusal Octavian orders the onagers to fire at Camp Half-blood and raze it to the ground. It does not have the intended effect, as they were previously sabotaged and take out each other instead. It is then that Nico tells the Legions that Reyna has ordered them to stand down. Octavian sees his grip on power sliding away, and just as he's about to be taken away and the uprising subdued, Clarisse from Camp Half-Blood appears on the horizon with all of the the camp's warriors ready for battle. Before Nico and the others know it, Camp Half-blood is charging into battle. Octavian sees his chance to regain power and he gives the order to engage in the battle.

Chapter 48

Once again, Will's horrible whistle is enough to disrupt both battle fronts. When he has their attention he points into the air where Reyna is bringing the Parthenos. It is being delivered by Giant Roman Eagles. This abates the fight between the Greeks and Romans but not quick enough. Gaea has been raised and the ground bubbles and roils underneath everyone's feet. Suddenly, they realize that there is a greater enemy than each other.

Analysis

Chapter 47

Nico's dedication to friendship and family are tested in this chapter as Octavian attempts to get him to stand aside and let the Romans attack Camp Half-blood. Nico doesn't have to consider anything as he's already made his mind up about where he will remain. Up until this point he hasn't felt welcomed anywhere, but with Will's advice and clarity Nico realizes that the only one who hasn't accepted him is Nico, himself. In other words, Nico held everyone at arm's length, even holding Percy and the others responsible for Bianca's death. It is in these crucial hours that Nico understands that being a friend with anyone begins with liking yourself, first. Once he is able to do that, he is also able to find love again. What is interesting about this chapter is that almost all of the themes come together and are represented.

First, there is the Acceptance of Ones' self, with Nico realizing that a great deal of the emotional upset that he's experienced has been his own doing and a result of his own choices and assumptions about himself and others. Once he lets that go, he is able to



see things more clearly. The theme of Friendship is explored as Nico is shown the numerous times where people have attempted to be his friend, to draw him into things. It is when Nico realizes that he actually 'cares' about what happens to the Greek camp that he understands that he does truly have friends. Sacrifice also shows up in this chapter as Nico, also realizes that he cares little for his own life if it will save both camps from slaughter and will stop Gaea from her evil purposes. Lastly, Love is exemplified in the realization by Nico that Will has feelings for him and that he (Nico) is capable of being loved the way that he needs to be accepted and loved. It not only restores him, but it gives him the strength to move forward with the battle at hand.

Chapter 48

This chapter brings together all of the loose ends of the tale, in that all of the demigods come together in one place, with the exception of Leo in the Argo II (which is in route). The fact that the Roman Eagles are carrying the Athena Parthenos back to its rightful place is symbolic in that it shows that the Romans are undoing the wrong that was done many centuries earlier. It heals the rift between the camps just in time, as Gaea has risen and both camps realize that together they are stronger and better able to fight a common foe. Thus, an uneasy truce and friendship begins between two former enemies.

Discussion Question 1

How is the theme of Love exemplified in Chapter 47?

Discussion Question 2

Why does the author choose to have Roman Eagles deliver the Athena Parthenos to the battlefield?

Discussion Question 3

Why does the Author use Nico's character to bring all of the themes together?

Vocabulary

agonizing, ripple, cloak, suspended, gleaming, projectile, sensation, seeped, brethren, ambassador, futile, ranks, surged, minuscule, rallying



Chapters 49-50

Summary

Chapter 49

Just when things look their most dire, the heavens literally part and the gods charge the battlefield in all of their glory. By this time the Argos II has arrived and Leo releases Nike, whose mind has been restored. All the gods team up with Jason and his friends, and with their help Jason and the rest are able to wipe out all of the giants. For a brief moment Jason is reunited with his father, first fighting by his side, then speaking with his father about how they wish things could be otherwise. Zeus tells Jason that from the time he was born he had been given over to Hera to appease her. His father says that he has wished many times that it could have been different. Jason asks for more time with him but Zeus says that it is most likely not going to happen. And to make matters worse, Zeus says, that defeating the giants is not the worst thing. There is more to come. He says that someone must be punished for what had transpired to lead to these events.

Chapter 50

Zeus and Hera engage in a husband and wife type argument. Hera proudly claiming that 'her' plan came together beautifully, and Zeus quickly telling her that she caused more problems than she solved. She claims that it was the only way that the goals could be met, and Zeus tells her that there is always more than one way, which is why they have three Fates instead of just one. Zeus calls Apollo to appear in front of him and accuses him of defying him by encouraging Octavian to start the war and by revealing a prophecy that was not ready to be told. Jason sticks up for his half-brother saying that placing blame wasn't going to solve anything and is, in fact, what divided the Greeks and Romans in the first place. He tells his father that to blame Gaea's wakening Apollo, only, was unwise. Zeus is shocked that in front of everyone Jason would call him 'unwise'. Artemis comes to his rescue and redirects the discussion into what to do about Gaea who, even as they speak, is rising underneath Camp Half-blood.

Unfortunately, Zeus explains, when Apollo did what he did, and Hera interpreted the prophecy as she did, that a series of events were set into motion by the Fates, the likes of which none of the gods can undo. In other words, only the seven demigods can stop her. They are worried that they won't make it back to their camp in time, but Zeus says that he can 'slap' them back there aboard the Argo II. Leo's godly father says that the ship won't take the stress, but Leo speaks up and says that it only has to hold together until they arrive at the camp, and then they can abandon ship. Nike speaks up and says that great victory often requires great sacrifice, a topic that she says she and Leo have discussed at length. This upsets Jason because he remembers what Asclepius had said about Leo's lifeline being short.



Analysis

Chapter 49

This chapter demonstrates the theme of Family, as the gods rush to assist their offspring in a major show of force against the giants. Additionally, the reader is given a glimpse into the dynamic between Jason and his father, Zeus. Zeus makes sure that Jason knows how proud he has been over the years, how much he wanted to be a part of his life, and that whether Jason knew it or not, he had been around. The reader sees a father whose regrets are making him reach out to a son he has not really had a chance to know, and a son reaching out to a father he has long desired a closer relationship with. It is not to be and in a bittersweet moment both realize that they will have to make the best of the cards they have been dealt.

Leo arrives with the Argo II and he both literally and figuratively releases Victory to the gods in the form of Nike, the goddess of victory in war and competition. She immediately flies to Zeus and assumes the helm of his godly chariot. As the battle rages the reader gets to see each demigod assisted by their godly parent, and how this is both encouraging and fulfilling for both parent and child, as they are not usually allowed such close contact. Both are saddened when they must part.

Chapter 50

This is a pivotal chapter in that there are direct messages from the author in regards to Fate and destiny. When he has Zeus tell Hera that there is always more than one way, one option (because there are three Fates), he seems to imply that there are always options and that those who think that they have had no other choice but to do what they've done is foolish and leads to disaster. His message about Fate is reiterated when he tells the demigods that the gods cannot help them defeat Gaea because of Apollo and Hera's interference. Along the lines of Fate is the discussion and the foreshadowing of Leo's death and impending demise.

Discussion Question 1

Based on the discussions about Leo, make some predictions as to what he might be going to attempt.

Discussion Question 2

Why has Zeus not been able to be with Jason all of these years?

Discussion Question 3

What does the author seem to be saying about decisions and fate?



Vocabulary

peppered, midst, smoldering, laurel wreath, scuffled, pantomimed, queasy, essences, triumphed, blanched, recognition, pitiable, withered, defied, succumbed, flattery, descendant



Chapters 51-52

Summary

Chapter 51

Zeus picks up the Argo II and hurls it all the way to Camp Half-blood. They move at such speed that it makes everyone almost pass out. As they near the Camp Leo calls them all topside to abandon ship. Frank turns into a large gray dragon and everyone piles on, with the exception of Piper and Jason who fly together, alone. Leo stays with the ship, claiming to 'have a plan'. This plan, of course, he hasn't exactly shared with anyone. The ship is in sad shape, with half of it on fire, disintegrating before their eyes. Leo, of course, is immune to fire, so he is okay...or so they hope. Everyone joins the battle that has begun below between Gaea's monsters and the combined forces of Greek and Roman demigods. Reyna welcomes everyone back and with enthusiasm they all begin the fight.

Gaea appears on the top of a hill, having taken a human form, though nearly fifty feet tall. She taunts the demigods and tells them that the Parthenos was never going to keep her from emerging for long. She tells them all to give up, which, of course, doesn't happen. She causes the very earth underneath their feet to bubble and roll, as if they are on a water mattress. Just as they all fear that they have lost, Leo, riding Festus, drops out of the sky. Festus grabs her in his claws and they all fly away over the hills. Jason and Piper zip off into the sky to assist Leo.

Chapter 52

Leo knows that he has to get Gaea away from the earth which is where she draws her power. Having remade Festus he is confident that the mechanical dragon can take her high enough that he can effectively kill her. But, it is not an easy task. Gaea continues to try and disintegrate into dust and dirt, sand, and pebbles so that she can fall back to Earth. Fortunately, Leo's fire keeps making her solidify, and when Jason and Piper join them, Jason is able to use the wind and storms to keep all of the various particles off of the ground.

Piper clutches the Physician's Cure, or so she thinks. She uses her charmspeak to tell Gaea that she is tired of fighting, that all she wants to do is sleep. Finally, Gaea, despite her immortality, falls prey to Piper's charmspeak and returns to a small humanoid form, clutched in Festus's claws. Piper is confused, however, when Leo waves them off. He tells them that they are going to have to trust him. Piper doesn't understand because she has the Physician's Cure. Without it Leo might die. Leo knows this, but waves them off. He is a sight to behold, the author writes. Fully engulfed in fire, flames from within and without surround Leo. Piper and Jason fall free of the Dragon's grasp and Leo continues higher into the sky. The last thing that Piper and Jason see as they fall away from Leo is a giant explosion, which changes the sky to a golden color.



They all fear the worst.

Analysis

Chapter 51

Jason longs for the chance to tell his father goodbye, but there is no time as they are flung beyond light speed across the Atlantic, all the way back to Camp Half-Blood. The theme of War emerges in this chapter as the Greeks and Romans battle Gaea's forces. War is shown to make strange bedfellows, as well as bring out the courage and true character of a person. All of the demigods - both Greek and Roman - are shown to be decent people, helping out anyone that needs it.

Additionally, the author is symbolically showing the Greeks and Romans going against an irate form of nature. In essence, all of them are not natural and were never supposed to have existed, so they have all been battling against nature since their conception. The fact that the battle is won indicates that now they will be accepted and find their place in the scheme of things. The theme of Acceptance, not only between camps, but of themselves and who they are, comes full circle in this chapter.

Chapter 52

This chapter demonstrates the theme of Sacrifice as it becomes evident that Leo, in capturing Gaea, is going to have to take her as far away from the Earth as he can in order to weaken her. While Piper and Jason go to join him, the other demigods remain on the ground because there are still monsters to dispatch. There is also the prophecy which means that only Piper and Jason can go to Leo's side. Piper thinks she's going up there to not only weaken Gaea with her charmspeak, but also to give Leo the Physician's Cure once he's done destroying Gaea. When he waves her off, it is clear to her that he never meant to take the Physician's cure, but meant to go out with a literal bang.

Symbolically, Festus has been reborn from the dying embers of the Argo II, emerging as a brilliant and impressive instrument of war. Likewise, just like Festus, so, too, has Leo burst into flames and come into his own as a hero. For most of the novels he's lamented the fact that he had no real purpose, no significant other, no future to look forward to. Now, he has what he wanted...a chance to make a difference, to make his father proud, and to honor the memory of his mother.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the message brought out in regards to the theme of War in Chapter 51.



Discussion Question 2

Why does Leo sacrifice himself?

Discussion Question 3

What is the symbolism of Festus's rebirth?

Vocabulary

disorganization, regroup, salute, spiraled, vibrate, sludge, ascended, sizzled, disintegrating, lashed, shrapnel, elated, urged, organic, contorted



Chapters 53-54

Summary

Chapter 53

Meanwhile, there are still battles raging below Festus and Leo. In the middle of a skirmish, Will runs up to Nico and whispers "Octavian" in his ear. Nico and Will rush up just as Octavian finishes re-rigging one of the onagers. He's going to be a hero, he says. He's going to be the one that saves the day by blasting Gaea from the sky. He reminds them of the prophecy that Apollo had given him...that he would be the savior of Rome. Both Nico and Will try to get him to stop as they see that in his haste Octavian has gotten his robes and ropes tangled into the mechanism. Nico remembers his father's words from the Chapel of Bones, that some deaths cannot be prevented. Nico fears that the onager will strike Festus and Leo, but he also believes that he must trust his father's words to him and hope that things will turn out as they must.

Octavian is a raving loon at this point, declaring all Greeks traitors and order soldiers all around him to kill Nico and Will. None of them do, but stand by to watch the drama unfold. Screaming at them all he cuts the wire that would release the catapult's arms. It goes off in a fiery ball, and takes Octavian with it.

Chapter 54

The next day, as the smoke clears, all that Jason and Piper can tell everyone is that Leo asked them to trust him. At this point Piper has realized that the Physician's Cure that she thought she had, was a fake. She can only hope that Leo had it the whole time. However, Leo does not make an appearance and they fear the worst. While both camps celebrate the win against Gaea and the monsters, it is bittersweet. They all ask Nico if he will do the funeral service for Leo, and he agrees. However, since there is no body, Piper and the others wonder if maybe there is a chance he could still be alive.

Analysis

Chapter 53

Self Acceptance, or the lack thereof, is the theme of this chapter as the reader sees, through the character of Octavian, what it looks like when one does not fully embrace who they are and try to understand their true needs, desires, and wants. Octavian is power hungry and conceited, which has not made him any real friends....which is what he truly wants. He has falsely believed that people in power have friends, however this belief is proven to be wrong when he is demoted and Reyna steps in to replace him. No one comes to his aid, and no one backs him up. In the end, Apollo's prophecy did come true....Octavian was the savior, in that he took himself out of play, despot that he was, as well as sending up the last of the firepower needed to send Gaea to her eternal rest.



The decision by Nico, Michael, and Will to let Octavian kill himself was not an easy one. All three realized what Octavian was about to do and all three tried in their own way to talk him out of that course of action. Michael, son of Venus, asked him point blank if what he was doing was his absolute choice. Octavian screamed at him and all three backed away to watch Octavian go to his doom.

Chapter 54

This chapter demonstrates the theme of Sacrifice as Leo's sacrifice is discussed. While they mostly believe that he died in the fireball that exploded across the sky, there is that small hope that they all have that Leo might still be alive somewhere, and just too weak to join them. However, they decide to plan a memorial and ask Nico to preside over it. This is a big change from the beginning as far as how they all react to and relate to Nico. Nico knows who he is and has matured into someone who takes responsibility for things, righting wrongs when he can. He has learned that he has the capacity to 'care', which is something he had not had through most of the book after his sister, Bianca, died.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss Octavian's tragic flaw.

Discussion Question 2

Why do Nico, Will, and Michael allow Octavian to blow himself up?

Discussion Question 3

How does Chapter 64 demonstrate the theme of Sacrifice?

Vocabulary

scoured, casualties, convocation, atomized, dispersed, muted, shrouded, rites, grateful, chamois, dissipate



Chapters 55-56

Summary

Chapter 55

Nico sleeps in Hades Cabin and then decides that Camp Half-Blood is his place. From there he talks with Frank and Hazel, wishing them the best in their new lives as they prepare to leave. Though Nico can't help but feel guilty, thinking that he may have killed Leo by letting Octavian fire the onager.

Chapter 56

Jason knocks on Nico's door later at dawn and saying he'll be traveling back and forth between both camps because he has shrines to build. Will interrupts the conversation and starts to ask why Nico didn't visit him in the infirmary while he was working furiously night and day in the infirmary. Nico says that he didn't think that a healer would want the son of Hades anywhere near a place of healing. Will gives him grief for the assumption and then reminds him that he's also not recovered from all of the shadow jumping and should report for some testing and fortification. Nico agrees sensing that Will wants him to be near him, more so than to be cured from anything. This makes Nico feel like there is some hope for a future with someone. Nico confesses to Percy that he's had a crush for many years on him, but that now, he realizes he has totally gotten over it. Will smiles and they leave toward the infirmary hand in hand. Meanwhile, Percy and Annabeth have decided to spend their senior year, and then college years, in New Rome going to school and living like 'normal' people.

Analysis

Chapter 55

Nico's character development is nearly complete in this chapter. There are two hurdles left for him to overcome. One of them he is still dealing with. He holds himself responsible for not stopping Octavian's onager attack, and attack that most likely killed Leo. Nico and Hazel had both felt Leo's death, but as Nico told Hazel later on, it was a 'different' death, feeling off, somehow. This may be some foreshadowing by the author in regards to Leo. Hazel agrees, but when Leo doesn't return, Nico feels that certainly Leo must have died. He has a hard time forgiving himself for the role he most likely played in Leo's death.

Chapter 56

In this chapter Nico manages to overcome the other obstacle to his character's true development, which is his long harbored crush on Percy Jackson. After he speaks with Will he realizes that he has to clear the air with Percy, for his own sake more than



Percy's. So, he speaks with Percy and Annabeth and tells them of his past feelings for Percy. Percy, of course, was completely oblivious to the fact that Nico was gay. Annabeth, however, only nods knowingly. When he turns and goes to seek out Will, the reader knows that Nico has found happiness. He tells Hazel that having a second life isn't much if one didn't make a 'better' life out of it. While he was speaking to Hazel about her own second chance at life, in reality, he knows he was telling himself as much, too.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Nico feel guilty about Leo's death?

Discussion Question 2

What foreshadowing does the author give the reader in regards to Leo's death?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Nico feel that he needs to tell Percy how he used to feel?

Vocabulary

rapped, gruesome, preventative, pistons, hapless, toting, reconstruct, guidance, dense, resurrecting



Chapters 57-58

Summary

Chapter 57

Reyna and Piper discuss what their future will be like. Piper is staying in Camp Half Blood and Reyna is going back to Rome. Reyna asks Piper if she can help explain something that Piper's mother, Aphrodite, said to her back at Battery Park. Reyna repeats that Aphrodite had told her that she would not find love where she wanted to, or where she'd hoped, and that no demigod would be able to heal her heart. Unfortunately, Piper can't help her determine what her mother meant by that, but she offers her undying friendship, forever. She also reminds Reyna that even though her ability is to give strength to others, that at some point she must let others do the same for her.

Later, Piper and Jason sneak off together to stargaze and they talk about Leo. Jason tells Piper that he just won't accept that Leo is dead. Piper asks how he can be so sure and Jason begins to mention all of the times that Leo had gotten into and out of impossible situations before. Piper agrees to hold onto hope with Jason.

Chapter 58

Their hope is well founded as the reader learns in this chapter that Leo is alive. He did actually die, as he knew he would, but being the mechanical genius that he was, he rigged a needle to go off at a set time. It was preloaded into Festus with the Physician's Cure. Festus also managed to survive as well and flies Leo from the battlefield and to Ogygia, Calypso's island. Leo manages to land on his face right into the sand on the island, but that just makes Calypso even happier. He asks her to go with him and leave the island with him to which she agrees, not even caring if her immortality is given up. They soar into the unknown together.

Analysis

Chapter 57

The theme of Friendship is demonstrated in this chapter in the discussion between Reyna and Piper. Only a few months earlier they would have been enemies, but now, they are best friends. Reyna trusts Piper enough to share with her something that Piper's mother had told her back in Battery Park. Though Piper isn't able to interpret the prophecy she goes on to tell Reyna that she doesn't have to be strong all of the time, that it is okay to let people in. Reyna acknowledges this and the reader can tell that just by confiding in Piper, and earlier in Nico, that she is well on her way to doing just that: making true friendships and relationships.



The commentary between Jason and Piper as they stargaze allows the reader to review Leo's past exploits and offers, yet again, a taste of foreshadowing, hinting that Leo may not be as dead as Hazel and Nico claim him to be. The author also suggests that hope and certainty are powerful forces in the world, and that one doesn't need to be a demigod or hero to wield it.

Chapter 58

This chapter is the culmination of several previous chapter's foreshadowing work. Leo is, in fact, alive and well. Instead of going directly back to Camp Half-blood, he's programmed Festus to revive him with the Physician's Cure and to plot a course to Ogygia and Calypso. This last chapter tips its hat to the theme of Finding One's Self and accepting who one is, whether you be tall, blonde and handsome like Jason, or short, plain, and funny like Leo. When he sees Calypso, her words confirm what he's learned about self esteem, confidence, and being yourself. Love, then, conquers all, even death.

Discussion Question 1

How is the theme of Friendship demonstrated in Chapter 57?

Discussion Question 2

What does Piper say to Reyna in response to Aphrodite's prophecy?

Discussion Question 3

In Chapter 58 what does the author seem to be suggesting about the power of love, friendship, and being yourself?

Vocabulary

charred, injector, hypodermic, membrane, fused, grappled, aloft, access, descend, tatters, priorities



Characters

Percy Jackson

Percy is the son of Poseidon, he is very talented. Percy can control water, talk to horses, make hurricanes, and on top of all that he can breathe underwater. He is an accomplished swordsman, fighting with his sword, Riptide, from his father. Percy has one fatal flaw: loyalty. At first he doesn't understand how that could be a weakness, but soon comes to stop questioning it. Throughout all the books, Percy becomes more and more confident after several obstacles.

As a general rule, in this novel, Percy often feels inadequate as his water powers fail him and he is helpless to assist the others in his usual manner. This humbling experience gives him insight into many things, including allowing him to develop empathy for Annabeth and the others who suffer. He is also able to realize that he doesn't always have to rely on his 'superpowers' that his true powers come from his desire to help his friends and to do what is right.

It is Percy's blood that initiates Gaea's waking during a battle, which makes him feel a great deal of guilt. In fact, there are several occasions when Percy feels as if he's let others down. When the Argo II falls to Kym's storms, Percy is unable to control the water, and it is only when Jason steps in to offer her a shrine (and an action figure) that she agrees to help them fight the Basilisks and right their ship. Percy is one of the two demigods preferred by Gaea as a blood sacrifice because he comes from one of the strongest gods, Poseidon.

Jason Grace

Jason is the son of Zeus. He is the first of the 'wannabe' demigod heroes to face a challenge that is physically, emotionally, and mentally challenging. When he confronts the ghost of his mother, Jason is stabbed with a sword made of imperial gold, which is deadly to the demigods. When the Argo II, where Jason is recovering, is attacked by wild winds Jason and Percy jump overboard to find the source of the attack.

Jason and Piper have become close and are now dating. He is often overprotective of Piper which upsets her, and a good deal of his time is spent trying to learn the delicate art of protecting without looking like he's protecting. He is a former praetor of Rome, and in a 'legal' sense, still is along with Reyna. Octavian hates most people, but Jason in particular. Jason's father's abilities allow Jason to ride on the wind, control lightning, and control anything in the sky.

In this novel, Jason, along with the others, is trying to create a lasting peace between Roman and Greek demigod camps, not only so the Greek/Roman gods can heal, but so they will be stronger to fight Gaea. Jason is one of the first to realize that their strength doesn't live in their similarities, but in their differences.



Annabeth Chase

Annabeth is the daughter Athena. She is deathly afraid of spiders; this is because of Athena's argument with Arachne, who then became the first spider and all spiders despise children of Athena and vice versa. She is an excellent leader, combatant, and strategist. Annabeth, like Percy, has a fatal flaw called Pride. Annabeth is very prideful, which is one of the reasons she couldn't answer the Sphinx's question in *The Battle of Labyrinth*. Percy and Annabeth become a couple after she was asked to redesign the city on Mount Olympus due to damages done to it. She fights the giants, and is one of the seven named in the prophecy.

She was a major character in the *Mark of Athena*, but in this fifth book she often takes a backseat to the others. She must realize, in this novel, something important about emotions. Coming from the goddess of wisdom, it is notable that she is completely unable to rationalize emotions because they are not, as a general rule, rational. In the cavern of fears it is Piper, Aphrodite's child, who helps Annabeth understand what it is to have faith in something that cannot be proven, and to trust with her heart, and not just her mind.

Nico di Angelo

Nico is the son of Hades and was believed to be conceived after the promise to have no more children. It is later revealed that his sister, Bianca, and he was at the Lotus Casino for what they think was a month and that they had their memories of their early life washed away with the River Lethe's water. Nico used to be a happy-go-lucky boy, but in *The Titan's Curse* he finds out about his sister's death and becomes gloomy and dark. In the *House of Hades*, it is revealed that Nico is gay. During *The Blood of Olympus*, Nico and Reyna are on a quest to return the Athena Parthenos statue before a war between Greeks and Romans starts.

In this novel he plays a key role in that he helps transport, for a great deal of the novel, the Athena Parthenos by using his ability called shadow-travel. As a son of Hades he can use the shadows to move from one shadow to the next. While this is a great way to move something as large as the Parthenos, it costs Nico dearly. Each time he jumps it draws on his life force. The fact that he is willing to almost become a ghost himself in his efforts to transport the statue back to Athens shows how dedicated he is to his purpose and his friends.

Unknown to many, Nico has had a secret crush on Percy Jackson. He confesses this to Reyna while they rest after a shadow jump. He realizes that his affections will never be returned and it makes him sad and depressed most of the time. However, at the end of the novel he meets Will. Together they manage to disable the onagers and save Camp Half-blood. It is Will that nurses him back to health after Nico is injured after the big battle with Gaea and Camp Jupiter.



Leo Valdez

Leo is a 15-year-old demigod, and the son of Hephaestus. He has the ability to touch and produce fire, which is something Hephaestus's sons haven't been able to do for about 400 years. Due to his father's abilities, Leo is a very good mechanic, he repairs a bronze dragon and names him Festus, as well as creating Argo II the ship in which they sail on for the quest to Greece.

Leo has met the girl of his dreams. Her name is Calypso, whose curse is to remain eternally on an island, doomed to fall in love and lose the lover time and time again. Leo was one of those great loves. However, when Leo leaves her island he promises to return. At the end of the novel he is able to do this because he has won the right to go there, as well as his knowledge of various ancient technology.

Leo is dedicated to the quest and his friends, even going so far as to sacrifice himself and his beloved ship, the Argo II to destroy Gaea. At the end he sails his flying ship down, scoops up Gaea and flies into outer space where he explodes the ship, and Gaea. While it doesn't completely destroy Gaea, it weakens her so that she doesn't ever have the ability to return to a bodily form. He dies in the blast, but as a last act of self preservation he has placed the physician's cure into the components of the ship. He is given the dose shortly after the explosion and he is able to come back to life, where he flies away on Festus's back to Ogygia and to Calypso.

Piper McLean

Daughter of Aphrodite, Piper is unlike the other children of Aphrodite. She is a half-Cherokee tomboy who is not concerned with how she looks in the slightest. She fell in love with Jason after they rescued her father in *The Lost Hero*. After Piper's first quest, she challenges Drew, her mean cabin head, to successfully beat her for the position. This novel expands her character.

In this novel Piper's abilities begin to emerge, and she is shown to have a depth of compassion for all she encounters, even those monsters. Instead of willing Kekrops to do something horrid to himself she instead sings a song that charmspeaks him and his followers into showing them the way through the underground tunnels safely. Through this the author shows that compassion is often the best course of action over force.

Kekrops

Kekrops is the last king of Athens before it was sacked by the Romans and he was overthrown. Forgotten and bitter, he and his followers took to the underground where they were transformed into snake-like creatures. They have aligned themselves with Gaea in hopes that they will be restored to their former glory. Piper realizes that they are lying to the heroes and uses her charmspeak on them to have them guide them through the tunnels safely.



Will

Will lives in the Roman camp and assists Nico in disabling and positioning the onagers so that they will destroy themselves. Befriending Nico, the two realize their feelings for one another after the battle is over. He stays with Nico after Nico is injured, nursing him back to health.

Michael

Michael is one of Reyna's former legionnaires. When he is ordered to capture and arrest Reyna he realizes that Octavian is acting unlawfully and pledges his loyalty to Reyna. He also recruits for her behind enemy lines and it is due to his success in this that the tables are turned on Octavian.

Frank Zhang

Frank is the son of Mars at Camp Jupiter, and he one of the first to accept Percy when he comes to the camp. He is Hazel's boyfriend. Frank is a descendant of Poseidon's grandson, Periclymenus, making him distant kin to Percy. The combined powers of being the son of Mars and the ability to shapeshift, Frank is very powerful. Since he is too powerful, The Fates balance this out by tying his life to a piece of firewood. If this piece of wood burns out, Frank will die. Juno warns his mother about this as Frank is a crucial part to defeating the Giants. He has only lighted the wood twice, once when finding his way to Camp Jupiter, and once when he was with Percy and Hazel in Alaska trying to free Thanatos.

Hazel Levesque

She is the daughter of Pluto and girlfriend of Frank. Her mother was granted a wish from Pluto after Hazel was born, and she asked for great wealth. This backfired as a curse and caused metals and gems to pop out of the ground when Hazel got nervous, but anyone who tried selling the metals and gems would have great misfortune. Gaea tries to use Hazel to resurrect her oldest son, Alcioneus. Hazel's mother changes her mind to help Gaea at the last moment, causing Hazel to bury her mother and herself under earth which kills them both. Hazel then gives up a chance to go to Elysium, to save her mother from spending eternity in punishment, after they are sent to the Fields of Asphodel. Nico de Angelo brings back Hazel from the dead while in the underworld investigation an imbalance between life and death.

Gleeson Hedge

Gleeson is the protector of the nine heroes of Olympus. He is 103 years old, in human years he is 53, and his wife, Mellie, is a cloud Nymph. Described as scary and warlike,



he is actually a real softie. His wife is about to give birth in this novel and he's anxious to return to camp to be with her.

Octavian

Octavian is 18 and the descendant of Apollo. He desired to succeed Jason as praetor but when Percy arrived at Camp Jupiter it ruined his plans. He is the strongest political rival of Reyna. He is in the midst of arranging a war against the Greeks of Camp Half Blood, the same day in which Gaea is supposed to arise. He has the gift of prophecy which he does by reading the entrails of stuffed animals that he's gutted. He is depicted as being power hungry and more that a little out of his mind.

Gaea

Known as the Earth Mother, she plans on killing all of the gods and taking over the world. She is very protective over her children, which causes her to be extremely cruel to anybody who might threaten them. She tries to convince Hazel, Annabeth, and Percy to join her. She is defeated when Leo scoops her up into the Argo II and flies her far away from Earth where his ship explodes with her aboard. While it does not kill her it makes it so that she cannot retain a corporeal form any longer.

Porphyron

The giant king, Porphyron plans to use the blood of Annabeth and Percy to awaken Gaea, the Earth Mother. He waits for them at the Acropolis.

Calypso

Calypso was imprisoned on an island. Her curse was to always fall in love and lose that love, eventually. She can never leave the island unless one of her loves returns for her. Unfortunately, none who've tried to return to the island have ever been successful. Luckily, Leo is able to use his technology to find the island, and rescue Calypso.



Symbols and Symbolism

The Curse of Delos

The curse of Delos is a flower that is found on the island where Apollo and Artemis are staying. The flowers are a result of the fact that Hera made a deal with the nature spirits to turn away Leto when she was getting ready to have Artemis and Apollo. The catch was that the agreement was for every 'land' that was rooted on the earth...but Delos was a floating island, and the spirits of nature welcomed Leto. Upset that she'd been uprooted, she made sure that Delos became rooted, and no longer an island. However, the island spirits were so honored to be the new sacred place for Apollo and Artemis (and Leto) that they covered the island in the flowers.

This flower, along with several other components, are what the demigods need in order to construct the Physician's Cure.

The Physician's Cure

The Physician's cure is a concoction that overcomes death. Apollo's son, Asclepius, the god of healers, is the only one to have been able to make the cure.

The Poison of Pylos

This is another ingredient that is needed to create the Physician's Cure. Frank and Piper go to get it on Pylos. The poison was created when a nymph died on a mountain and her blood spilled. The plant that resulted creates the poison.

The Chained God

When Piper and Annabeth go in search of the 'chained god', they find a life sized bronzed statue of Ares...bound in chains. On either side of the statue are two doorways with a monster's head carved over them. They soon realize that the statue ramps up fear in people and those around it will be infected. It is only when both girls face their fears that they are able to take the heart of the chained god.

Hygeia

Hygeia is the daughter of Asclepius (Apollos' son). She's the goddess of good health. In this book she's also an automaton and she's gone haywire, claiming that everyone is unclean and must be sterilized. In her mind, this equates to execution. Leo overcomes her by rewiring her circuitry to where she believes herself to be germ ridden. She explodes.



The Athena Parthenos

This is a statue that was stolen by the Romans from Athens many centuries before. It had disappeared into history's depths until Annabeth found it and rescued it. It is the only thing that can heal the gods from their split personalities, and bring peace between the Greek and Roman camps.

Onagers

This is a Roman Catapult that Camp Jupiter uses to attack Camp Half-blood. The onagers are also what Nico sabotages so that they will destroy themselves in the first volley. Likewise, it is an onager that Octavian gets his robes wrapped up in and ends up being killed.

Will's Gum

When Nico is severely injured during the assault against Camp Jupiter, it is Will who gives him some gum that heals him. This is not only a physical healing, but a healing of the heart. It is Will who becomes Nico's true boyfriend, allowing Nico to let go of his feelings for Percy.

Argo II

The Argo II is a flying ship that Leo Valdez created for the mission. It is technological genius and provides for their every need, even some needs that they don't know they have. It's guidance system is a mechanical dragon named, Festus. This is what Leo rides to Calypso's island at the novel's end. This is also the ship that starts the war between Camp Jupiter and Half-blood when Leo is possessed by spirits and fires on the Roman camp.

Cornucopia

This is a horn that Piper cuts off of Achelephus for Hercules. However, Hercules is such a jerk she can't bear to give it to him. Instead, it turns itself into a horn of plenty (cornucopia) and Piper uses it to great facility many times. She uses it to bury Hercules in fruits and vegetables, and then later, she uses it to pay tribute to the gods so that they can pass through various places unharmed.



Settings

Camp Half Blood

Directed by the god of wine, Dionysus, Camp Half-Blood is located on Long Island Sound. It is guarded by magical borders, which are enforced by Thalia's tree along with the Golden Fleece. Niko and Reyna are on their way to returning the Athena Parthenos before a war between the Romans and Greeks begin.

Camp Jupiter

Camp Jupiter is the camp that protects and trains the children of the Roman gods along with their descendants. The entrance is a service tunnel that is near the main Caldecott Tunnel in San Francisco, California. The Praetors are Reyna and Frank. It is being guarded by Lupa and her wolves.

The Argo II

The Argo II was built by Leo Valdez. The chapters that contain Jason, Leo and Piper take place aboard this ship as they sail their way to Athens.

The Acropolis

This is where Gaea has determined she will awaken and it is where the final showdown will take place. This is where Percy's blood drops on the ground and she wakens.

San Juan

Reyna was originally born and raised in San Juan. She confesses to Nico that she killed her father in San Juan and is overheard by a Roman legionnaire loyal to Octavian.



Themes and Motifs

Friendship

The theme of Friendship is consistent throughout the entire novel, even though the demigods on the quest are most often split into two teams. Each of the demigods who take part in this book have equal revelations about the true breadth and depth of friendship. Some of the early examples occur when Piper and Annabeth go into the caverns under Sparta and Piper helps Annabeth to allow herself to experience emotions without analyzing them. Annabeth learns that friends can help you to become your best self, even when you aren't aware that you need the help. Later, when Nico goes 'DARK' after Bryce attacks them, it is evident that both he and Reyna learn that a true friendship takes into consideration, and extends compassion, when the other person is less than amazing. In fact, the sharing of one's deepest anxieties and fears, suffering and sadness, can make a friendship stronger because of the acceptance that comes with full disclosure.

What all of the demigods learn in this novel is that even though they may all have differing abilities, backgrounds, family histories, and goals for the future, that there is a strength in their diversity. When each of them learns to embrace those differences and to construct plans that involve everyone, then they are the most successful. A good example of this is when Percy and Jason must go under the Argo II to find out what's causing the massive storm that is threatening to capsize them. They find Percy's half sister, Kym, but it is Jason's quick thinking that wins her over to their side and as a result, both Jason and Percy are healed. Symbolically, they are healed from their own egos and animosities toward one another, as well as the physical 'poison' that had entered their bodies.

Until this book in the novel series, two of the demigods: Leo and Nico, have felt like the odd men out. Everyone else has a significant other, but these two feel as if they will never find someone. Nico believes that because he is gay that he won't find anyone, or that anyone will accept his lifestyle choices. This is why he keeps that inner torment to himself for so many novels, why he's depicted as dark and gloomy. It is through his friendships with the others that he realizes that he's been wrong not to share this very important aspect of himself with them. When he does, love finds him. Secondly, Leo, while enjoying friendship's benefits, also feels drawn to find Calypso. Again, she fell in love with him when Leo didn't feel that anyone could find him lovable. It is through his exposure to the acceptance and companionship, as well as the respect and admiration from his friends, that he realizes that he is worthy of being loved. This makes his decision at the end of the book credible.



Sacrifice

Within the novel, *Blood of Olympus*, the theme of Sacrifice shows up significantly. First, all of the demigods selected for the quest were willing to sacrifice their lives if it came to it, which is part of the reason they were selected in the first place. Their dedication to the cause was that of total commitment, even if it meant their death.

The theme of Sacrifice is most notably seen in the characters of Nico and Leo. Nico, early on, is willing to die by shadow jumping in order to get the Athena Parthenos back to Athens. And, he almost did die were it not for Coach Hedge treating him with special concoctions. Later, he once again offers himself up for lost when he goes into battle against Monsters, and then against Octavian. Many times when he was with Reyna and Coach Hedge he mused that he might as well give up his life for others as he may never know true love or friendship in his lifetime. This is, however, incorrect, as he later finds out. The author means to show the reader that sacrifice can come in many forms, and for Nico, not only placing his life in danger for others, but also giving up his preconceived notions about love, relationships, and the nature of friendship.

Leo also sacrifices himself for others. He was given the prophecy by Apollo's son, who says that Leo's lifeline is short. Leo feels that if his lifeline is going to be short that he might as well make the most of it, make it count for something. Also, the reader sees that Leo will try and get around that prophecy by dying, but not staying dead, if he can help it. With his intelligence and way with all things machine, he is able to construct a scenario that, if all went right, would make his sacrifice worthy as well as less lethal. The fact that he's willing to take that chance shows the depth of his character.

For all of the demigods they've sacrificed a 'normal' life and the reader learns at the end, that Percy and Annabeth may actually have a shot at living like normal people if they will go to New Rome and attend school there, where there is an actual society constructed of demigods. The reader sees that sacrifice, true sacrifice, often comes with rewards.

Family

The theme of family continues in this last book in the series. In many of the previous novels various facets and directions have been taken in regards to family. Whether it has been accepting your family, as in Percy and Annabeth's cases, reconciling with one's father, such as is the case with Piper and Jason, each novel has focused on illuminating the struggles of finding one's place within the family dynamic and how to come to terms with the situation as it exists. In this novel, however, it is about accepting who and what someone is instead of trying to change them, ignore the problem, or simply pretend it doesn't exist.

One of the best examples of this is in Reyna's refusal to ever speak of her relationship with her abusive father. For most of the novel the reader catches glimpses of a dark parental past that Reyna would much rather pretend is over and done with. However, when she finds herself back in San Juan, she can no longer dodge the past. Add to that



the reunion with her sister, Hylla, and she seems to have come full circle. It is only when she is able to view the situation with her father's choices with a more mature eye to his weaknesses and her actions that put an end to the misery he was causing, that she is able to heal from the abuses, and she is able to release the baggage she has been carrying around with her for so long.

The reader also sees this in the character of Leo, whose familial past is equally as fraught with devastation, as is Frank's. Both have had brushes with fire and both have been emotionally scared by it. Leo, of course, was targeted by Gaea from the beginning, though he didn't know it. For so long he believed that he was the cause of the fire in his mother's shop that killed her. The rejection by his extended family only made his guilt worse. It was only after he is able to learn the truth about the fire that he is able to forgive himself. What he learns from this is that while one may be born into a family, it is the people whom you surround yourself with, who support you and like you despite any of your faults, that constitutes a family. In this way, then, the definition of family is extended.

Frank brings an interesting dynamic to this theme in that his family dynamic causes him concern and confusion as well. He is Chinese Canadian, so there is the aspect of trying to reconcile those two cultures, but then he is also a demigod, so he must also come to terms with that. For being as large as he is, it does not reflect the inner conflict that he deals with. His self esteem is quite low at the beginning of the novel. However, through the support and continued encouragement of his friends (who become his family) he is able to withstand the rejection from his family members in Pylos, and the disdain he receives from Mars/Ares.

Piper is one of the first of the group to make peace with her mother's fickleness as Aphrodite, because she is able to look at the positive aspects of being Aphrodite's daughter. She accepts that her mother is just as susceptible to poor judgement as the next average person, which makes Piper feel better. She knows that her mother cares for her, wants her to be safe, but that her mother is not her parent. This is an important distinction that she is able to make, and it makes her feel even close to her father.

Accepting Oneself/Be Yourself

Leo, at the end, is similar to Nico in that he also doesn't believe that he will ever find love, due to who he is. He is not bold and brash like Jason or Percy, nor is he gifted with physical handsomeness. However, Calypso doesn't care about any of that and falls in love with him for who he is. As the novel develops, so too, does Leo and many of the other characters. In the end, Leo is able to offer himself up because he knows who he is and also believes that he's the only one that can possibly pull it off. This comes from a deep belief in his abilities and his love for his friends, and Calypso.

Likewise, Nico comes to terms with his own sexual orientation and is able to let go of his hurt and angry feelings toward Percy. When he speaks with Percy and tells him that he was secretly in love with him for a long time, Percy is clueless, but Annabeth had an



idea that this was true. Nonetheless, Nico has realized that he has the ability to love and be loved, which is a monumental character development.

Even Annabeth comes into her own when she realizes that trusting ONLY her logical nature and intelligence would only get her so far and that emotions were not to be distrusted or hidden, but used as an additional tool in discovering and experiencing the world. She learned, with Piper's help, that fear is crippling and mind numbing if you fight against it. Fear, she learned, has to be experienced, with the knowledge that it will pass.

Piper also has a massive character arc in this novel. At first a shy, hesitant, restrained, demigod with low self-esteem, Piper begins to realize that there is a strength in love that many overlook. It is this gift of love that allows her to become a strong member of the team, the go-to person on many missions, and brings out the self confidence in her that had always been there, waiting to emerge. At the end of the novel, she has gone from someone who doubted herself, to someone who was fully able to take whatever life may throw at her.

Reyna realizes that she is a leader, and as a leader must also take time to take care of herself and her own needs. She realizes what it means to have true friends, something she didn't have before. With this understanding comes a greater vision for the future and for her role in New Rome.

Cooperation

Throughout the entire novel none of the plot line could have moved forward if the demigods selected for the quest hadn't been able and willing to work with one another. Cooperation is exemplified numerous times in the novel, indicating that there is an inherent strength in diversity and cooperation. Working towards a common goal, time and time again, is successful, where working alone only seems to lead to trouble.

A good example of this is when Kym strikes the Argo II with a terrible storm at sea. When both Jason and Percy jump overboard to confront Kym, both Jason and Percy realize that they are going to have to work together to convince Kym to cease her attack. While Percy continues to keep them and the boat safe, Jason speaks to Kym and discovers what her issues are. It is Jason, rather than Percy (who is Kym's half-brother) that offers to make her a shrine when the war is over.

Also, Piper and Annabeth learn to work together. Both girls enter the caves under Sparta and in certain sections of the cave, Annabeth's knowledge and deductive reasoning save them, while it is in front of the chained god that Piper shines, helping Annabeth to survive the crushing fear that washes over them and threatens to destroy them. After that incident, both girls volunteer for various tasks together because Annabeth's wisdom and Piper's intuition make a formidable team.

At the end of the story it is the cooperation between both Greek and Roman camps that allow all of them to put an end to Gaea's attacks and safely send her back into an eternal slumber. Had they continued to war against one another this would not have



been possible. Each camp accepts the abilities of the other and stand shoulder to shoulder as they battle a common enemy. This same cooperation is repeated in miniature in the scene between Octavian, Will, Nico, and Michael. Both Greek and Romans are represented there, and all cooperate and agree to let Octavian suffer at his own hands for the good of everyone.



Styles

Point of View

Blood of Olympus is told in the first person perspective, keeping in tradition with all of the previous novels. However, interestingly enough, the first person account that the series started with (Percy Jackson) is not whose voice ends the series. In fact, there are 5 different first person accounts of the same event as it unfolds. This allows the reader to fully engage in what is happening, as if it is a omniscient viewpoint.

This ability to remain in first person, while offering detailed versions of an event allows the reader more insight and understanding (and misunderstandings) that otherwise would have been lost without it. The author solved a major issue with the series by allowing for multiple viewpoints. So, in this series, the reader sees Nico come to terms with his birthright, not only from his own viewpoint, but as other observe him. Secondly, the reader sees Leo's plan unfold, from three different perspectives, as well as Leo's, making the ending much more satisfying when Leo, aboard Festus, goes to find Calypso.

Language and Meaning

Because the reader sees everything through the eyes of five different demigods, the reader experiences the world through that of five teens, both male and female. Riordan captures the essence of this age group in that each character experiences self-doubt, feelings of guilt over actions taken, or not taken, love/relationships, and dealing with growing up. As a result, the use of language varies from character to character, as not only a trait of that character at the moment, but as a way of offering a wider view of the circumstances. Slang, innuendo, and humor dot the landscape of Riordan's work.

The author also utilizes interior monologues to great facility, which tends to allow the reader to identify with the character's feelings and offers motivation for the actions that will take place. In what could be tense situations, even life threatening situations, the author allows some levity to come into the language so as to deflect some of the suspense that could otherwise shift the novel into a horror or sci-fi genre.

Structure

The series is structured around 58 chapters, many of them an average of 10+ pages. Each chapter features the viewpoint of a different character, which moves the plot along. Interestingly, Riordan seems to understand that the age group he has written for will bog down in too much details about traveling, eating, or mundane actions, so he structures the chapters so that most of these tasks have already been accomplished. For example, one chapter may mention that Nico is going to transport everyone, and then a few chapters later, they've already arrived and been at their destination for a

while. Thus, while the other chapters may be providing crucial information about the other characters, the sense of time is progressing.

Unlike other books in this series, the titles of each chapter are only titled with the name of the character whose viewpoint is being featured. In previous books there have been fascinating titles for each chapter, such as "I killed my Algebra teacher, and ate a plant". Chapters often begin and end with a posed problem, and culminate with the proposed solution for each character. In this respect they tend to be each encapsulated from one another, until the end, of course, when all of them are back together and the plot lines begin to converge.



Quotes

Our next offering!" the ghoul shouted, his voice buzzing from the arrow in this throat.
"Let us feed the Earth Mother!

-- Ghoul (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 11)

Importance: This is one of the ghouls who has bound Jason and the others. He demonstrates what the fountain of sand is capable of, showing Jason that whatever goes into the fountain is ground up into tiny bits and fed to Gaea.

At least the statue didn't rumble, "DIE, UNBELIEVERS!" and zap the mortals to dust. Reyna had once dealt with a statue of the goddess Diana like that. It hadn't been her most relaxing day.

-- Narrator (Chapter 7 paragraph Page 70)

Importance: This shows some characterization of Reyna, in that she is the leader and has had to deal with many unsavory acts in her praetorship.

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM." Reyna wondered bitterly how many times she'd said that in her demigod career.

-- Reyna (Chapter 8 paragraph Page 79)

Importance: This is when Gaea has overtaken Coach Hedge and is using him to speak through. She calls forth some rock soldiers to battle Reyna and the others. This is also particularly telling in regards to Reyna's character as this is not the first time that she's faced impossible odds.

Now... well, after what happened in Tartarus, it seemed like Percy had graduated to a totally different level of butt-kickery.

-- Narrator (Chapter 10 paragraph Page 100)

Importance: This is the narrator giving internal dialogue and thoughts from Leo's point of view. He is jealous of Percy and especially where Calypso is concerned. Percy was already hailed as a great demigod hero after restoring the lightning bolt, so Leo is upset that the other boy's fame never seems to die down. It makes him feel inadequate and the lesser demigod.

I want to thank you," she continued . "Bob... the Titan... he only helped us in Tartarus because you were kind to him. You told him we were worth saving. That's the only reason we're alive.

-- Annabeth (Chapter 15 paragraph Page 156)

Importance: Annabeth is saying this to Nico. If it hadn't been for Nico being kind to Bob, then neither she or Percy would have found an ally and gotten help leaving Tartarus.



Of course!" Lycaon said. "Spilled upon the ground, especially sacred ground, demigod blood has many uses. With the proper incantations, it can awaken monsters or even gods. It can cause new life to spring up or make a place barren for generations. Alas, your blood will not wake Gaea herself. That honor is reserved for your friends aboard the Argo II. But fear not. Your death will be almost as painful as theirs.

-- Lycaon (Chapter 16 paragraph Page 161)

Importance: This particular quote is notable because it gives the reader insight into why Gaea needed demigod blood, but that it is also sought after by many other monsters for their own reasons.

Annabeth sat, her face suddenly pale. "I don't know why it's hitting me so hard all of a sudden. I can't quite get that memory out of my head... how Percy looked when he was standing at the edge of Chaos.

-- Annabeth (Chapter 19 paragraph Page 192)

Importance: Annabeth says this after they've returned from Tartarus, where they nearly died. She's referring to the edge of a place called Chaos, where Percy was so thin and translucent that he was almost a wraith.

The giant floated down. Clouds of dark viscous fluid— poison, perhaps— curled from his blue skin. His green breastplate was fashioned to resemble a cluster of open hungry mouths. In his hands were the weapons of a retiarius—a trident and a weighted net.

-- Narrator (Chapter 26 paragraph Page 260)

Importance: This quote indicates the danger that the demigods are constantly in. The symbolism of the 'hungry mouths' on the monster's breastplate symbolize a continual wanting and yearning that many of the demigods feel for their family.

Reyna and the coach experienced his journey through Tartarus, his capture by the giants, his days wasting away inside that bronze jar. They felt Nico's anguish from his days on the Argo II, and his encounter with Cupid in the ruins of Salona.

-- Narrator (Chapter 31 paragraph Page 296)

Importance: This takes place when Nico goes berserk when he sees Bryce cut Reyna's face. Though he is severely weakened from shadow jumping, seeing his friends threatened allows him to loose the dark side of himself in a way that he's never done before. The others must share all of the despair and tragedy of Nico's life.

Hylla was alive. Thalia and the Hunters were still out there somewhere. But none of that would matter if Reyna's mission failed. The sun was rising on the last day of the world....

-- Narrator (Chapter 39 paragraph Page 370)

Importance: This quote shows the stakes that Reyna is up against and how much is riding on her shoulders.



The Acropolis groaned and shifted as the Earth Mother woke.
-- Narrator (Chapter 44 paragraph Page 410)

Importance: This is a pivotal point in the book, as the one thing the demigods were trying to prevent, has happened.

That's the problem with prophecies," Zeus growled. "When Apollo allowed the Prophecy of Seven to be spoken, and when Hera took it upon herself to interpret the words, the Fates wove the future in such a way that it had only so many possible outcomes, so many solutions. You seven, the demigods, are destined to defeat Gaea. We, the gods, cannot.

-- Zeus (Chapter 50 paragraph Page 449)

Importance: Zeus is explaining why they can't help the demigods defeat Gaea. Though they have been restored to their own identities, they are prohibited to the next phase of the battle. It also shows that there are some natural laws that not even the gods can challenge.