

The House of Hades Study Guide

The House of Hades by Rick Riordan

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Plot Summary

The House of Hades by Rick Riordan is a tale of good vs. evil. This book is the sequel to The Mark of Athena in the Heroes of Olympus series. As would be expected, it contains numerous elements of Greek mythology. Seven modern day demigods are the teen protagonists who set out to stop the evil Greek goddess Gaea, commonly known as Earth, from waking and destroying the world. Each protagonist plays a different role in thwarting Gaea's plan. Since demigods are lesser gods who possess divine and mortal qualities, each realizes that their survival is not guaranteed.

As the novel begins, two of the story's demigods, Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase, have become separated from the others. Arachne has facilitated their fall into Tartarus, which is an abyss beneath Hades. It is important to note that Tartarus is also considered to be a deity, much like Earth, Time, and Water. As a deity, Tartarus is the husband of Gaea and he is the father of the giants that reside in the underworld. When Percy and Annabeth realize that they are inside the physical body of Tartarus, the two begin their journey through the terrifying landscape toward their destination, the Doors of Death. Their goal is to close those portals. If they are successful, underworld monsters will be prevented from returning to the mortal world.

Percy and Annabeth have two allies along the way, Bob (a Titan) and Damasen (a giant). Damasen fights the powerful god Tartarus, knowing that he cannot win. Bob faces an army of monsters with only his cat, Small Bob, at his side. The bravery and self-sacrifice of the two enable Percy and Annabeth to escape the body of Tartarus.

In the meantime, the other five demigods, along with Nico de Angelo and Coach Hedge, take a flight on the Argo II to Greece. Along the way, they face numerous enemies who are trying to keep them from reaching their destination. Leo Valdez and Hazel Levesque, two of the five remaining demigods, are also cut off from their friends and left to find their way alone to the Doors of Death, which are guarded by the sorceress Pasiphae and the giant Clytius. Barely alive, Percy and Annabeth are the first to complete their journey. With help from the goddess Hecate, Frank Zhang, Jason Grace, Nico, and Piper McLean are able to defeat Clytius. Hazel uses her own powers as a sorceress to trick Pasiphae. With the guardians of the underworld doors defeated, all of the demigods are reunited. Together they are able to close the Doors of Death. Unfortunately, they do not close them in time to keep some of the giants in Tartarus from entering the mortal world. Realizing that eventually they will have to face the formidable army of evil monsters that have escaped, the heroes set sail for Athens to face their final battle with the goddess Gaea.



Chapter I - VI

Summary

In Chapter 1, Hazel Levesque, Nico di Angelo, and Leo Valdez are on the deck of the Argo II. The ship is being attacked by numina montana, Roman mountain gods, who are trying to keep them from continuing on their journey. The gods pummel the ship with large boulders. Leo finally flies the ship out of the mountains and the range of the gods. The rest of their companions are asleep below deck. They are trying to reach Epirus in Greece and find an old temple called the House of Hades where they will find the Doors of Death, but are continually attacked by Roman monsters trying to stop them. They are in a hurry to reach the House of Hades where they are to meet their friends Annabeth Chase and Percy Jackson who have fallen into Tartarus. They, too, are trying to make their way to the Doors of Death. Hazel prays to her father Pluto, the Roman god of the underworld, and asks for his help getting to the House of Hades. Within seconds she sees the horse, Arion, running across the fields below toward the ship. Hazel asks to be lowered down to see Arion because she knows he is there to help.

In Chapter 2, Arion indicates that Hazel needs to go with him. When the boys realize that the horse is taking her to some stone ruins in the distance where a storm is gathering overhead and a funnel cloud is forming, they tell her not to go. Hazel assures them she will be back and spurs Arion on toward the growing tornado.

In Chapter 3, Arion and Hazel charge into the tornado. Hazel is unable to see very well through the gloom, but she can make out an arched gateway. She feels a presence, but cannot see anyone. Hazel and Arion make their way through the archway. There is a courtyard enveloped in mist. Hazel realizes it is the Mist, the supernatural veil that obscures the world of myth from the sight of mortals. She slides off Arion's back. Immediately, he runs away leaving her alone. A dog howls. Hazel sees three images of the same figure coming toward her. The figure is trailed by two smaller wisps of smoke. Hazel sees one figure, a young woman. The woman addresses Hazel by name. Hazel asks her which goddess she is. The woman, accompanied by a black Labrador retriever and what Hazel thinks is a weasel, identifies herself as Hecate, the goddess of magic.

In Chapter 4, Hecate tells Hazel that her companions are Gale (the polecat who was once a witch before the goddess transformed her) and Hecuba (a dog who was the former queen of Troy). The goddess tells Hazel that her mother, a fortune teller, actually had magic and that she helped the woman to summon Pluto, who had fallen in love with her.

Hecate tells Hazel that without her help the girl will die. She shows Hazel images of Roman and Greek demigods fighting one another. Another image is of the Argo II as it crashes and burns. She also sees her friends dying or injured and herself in a vast cavern trying to break through some kind of web of light. The goddess tells Hazel that she is at a crossroads and there are at least three ways to go.



Hazel and her friends can go back to America with the Athena Parthenos statue. They may be able to avert a war between the Roman and Greek demigod camps. They can continue on to Greece to prevent the goddess Gaea from rising on August 1, but the journey through Italy will destroy their ship. Hecate says that it makes no difference about which path Hazel chooses, Percy and Annabeth will die. Hazel refuses to accept that. The goddess informs her of a secret pass that will take them out of their way, but Gaea will not expect them to travel that way. Hecate will help shroud them, but Hazel must learn to use the Mist. When the demigods reach the House of Hades, Hazel will meet a powerful enemy, who can only be defeated with the use of magic. The giant Clytius, who absorbs all magic, also waits for them in the House of Hades. Hazel has to defeat the witch before worrying about Clytius.

Although she is a Titan, Hecate has sided with the demigods in the battle against Gaea. She agrees to help Hazel and her friends when they face the giants, if Hazel proves herself worthy. Hazel agrees to trust the goddess and take the secret pass. Hazel assures Hecate that she and her friends will not let any of the images come true. They will make their own path.

The goddess disappears and Arion returns. He and Hazel go back to the Argo II. She tells Leo and Nico that she met Hecate, but she does not tell them everything the goddess said. She tells them about the north passage and that they have to find some dwarfs in Bologna who have something they need. They set a course and hurry on their way.

In Chapter 5, Annabeth Chase and Percy Jackson are in the process of falling from earth into Tartarus. As they continue to fall, Annabeth wonders how long they have been falling and how much longer will they continue to do so. There is complete darkness and the two hold onto each other. Arachne, who was the first to plunge into the chasm, had exacted her revenge on Annabeth by catching the girl in her webbing and dragging her down with her. Percy, was pulled in as well when he tried to save Annabeth. After what seems like an eternity, the darkness lightens slightly and the air becomes very hot. The two fall into a vast cavern with a river of black liquid far below. Percy, who has the ability to control water, speaks a command and the water shoots up in a geyser and swallows them.

In Chapter 6, the two are in the river. The water is freezing. Annabeth loses her grip on Percy. Her ears are full of a wailing sound that encourages her to stop fighting and just let go. Annabeth is beginning to sink when Percy grabs her and they struggle to the surface. The river is the River of Lamentation. The two have to fight against its feelings of misery and finally make it to the shore. They find traces of where Arachne landed, but the giant spider woman has crawled away. Annabeth realizes that the atmosphere of Tartarus is killing them and that they will not make it far if they do not do something. She tells Percy that to survive they need to find the River of Fire.



Analysis

The demigods are on a quest to fulfill their destiny. They must get to the House of Hades. They will do what it takes to get there. The attack by the mountain gods shows how the forces of Gaea are against them and will try to stop them whenever they can. The demigods are up against powerful odds, but they do not give up. They must help their friends get out of Tartarus and thwart Gaea's plans.

It is shown that Hazel will play a large part in what will happen in the House of Hades. Hecate wants to prepare Hazel for the upcoming battle so that she has a chance to win. She will help the demigods with their voyage. Hecate shows Hazel images of what can happen, but these will be affected by the choices that the demigods make. Their fates are not sealed. They have a choice about how their quest will end.

Annabeth and Percy must work together to help them survive Tartarus. They each have their own strengths and can keep each other going. When one wants to give up the other must encourage them. Friends are important in the novel. Without the trust and support of one another, the demigods would not be able to accomplish their quest.

Discussion Question 1

Where are the heroes on Argo II headed? Why must they go there? Whom are they trying to meet?

Discussion Question 2

Whom does Hazel meet in the Mist? Who awaits Hazel at the House of Hades and why is Hazel so scared of her?

Discussion Question 3

How did Percy and Annabeth fall into the chasm? Where did they land? What is it like in Tartarus. How do the conditions in Tartarus affect them?

Vocabulary

Summit, basalt, starboard, legionnaires, cohesion, initiative, sentiment, dire, ballast, undulated, unison, monochromatic, melee, minions, terminal, velocity, intolerably, permeated, colossal, defiantly, dissipate, ambrosia, illuminated, eddy, suppress.



Chapter VII - XII

Summary

In Chapter 7, Annabeth and Percy are trying to make their way to the River of Fire, but the terrain makes it difficult for them and the air of Tartarus is making them ill. They have to climb down a cliff face in order to reach the river at the bottom. The two finally make it to the river. Annabeth tells Percy that it is also called the River of Healing. Annabeth is the first to drink. The heat is intense, but finally passes and Annabeth feels better. Percy passes out before he can drink, so Annabeth has to pour the water into his mouth.

Percy recovers and reminds Annabeth that they have to find the Doors of Death. They must meet their friends there and close the doors to keep the monsters from entering the mortal world. They are trying to decide which way to go when they are attacked by Arachne. As the spider woman throws herself at Annabeth, Percy is able to kill her with his sword. Once they have recovered they decide to head downstream.

In Chapter 8, Annabeth and Percy have not gone far when they hear voices. The voices are female and they are arguing with one another. Percy recognizes one of the voices, which sounds like a teenager. The voices stop close to where Annabeth and Percy are hiding. They argue amongst themselves and question the leadership of the teenage girl.

The girl assures the others that she knows where she is going and that they have been summoned by Gaea. The teenager wants to get to the battle since she wants to kill Percy Jackson herself. At this point, Annabeth realizes the voice belongs to an empousa (vampire) named Kelli. Annabeth had killed her two years before and sent her to Tartarus. As the creatures wander away Annabeth sneaks a look. She sees five women walking away. Annabeth knows how dangerous an empousa is. Kelli had almost killed Percy. They know the vampires are heading to the Doors of Death; so, they must follow them.

In Chapter 9, Leo has spent a lot of time trying to figure out how the Athena Parthenos statue works since they brought it aboard the Argo II. He spent his nights going over the statue looking for some kind of lever or switch, but without any luck. Annabeth had said that the statue is the key to defeating Gaea. Leo is determined to find out how.

Finally, in exhaustion Leo curls up in a blanket in the engine room. He dreams of being chased through his mother's old workshop. He is prevented from leaving by a woman standing in the doorway. Gaea's voice comes from the woman. She says that he has to meet her favorite son. Gaea tells Leo that his end is near. Leo tries to run away from Gaea, but a large figure blocks his path. The boy throws fire at the figure, but it absorbs it. Leo cannot speak and he cannot get any tools that will help him. Gaea tells him that her son is the void that consumes all magic.



Leo tries running again and darts around the figure. He finds himself in Camp Half-Blood, but the camp is in ruins. There are Greek and Roman bodies on the ground. He runs toward the only living people there, which is a group of Romans. One of them is Octavian, the augur from Camp Jupiter. Gaea's voice comes out of Octavian. She tells Leo the destruction cannot be prevented. The Romans are on their way to Camp Half-Blood.

Leo climbs a hill and finds a cliff with nothing beyond it. The entire world is gone. A woman kneels nearby at a cave entrance. She looks like Athena Parthenos. She stands and demands that Leo make a choice, either the cliff or the cave. He hesitates knowing that both are bad choices. She grabs his wrist and her touch burns. The giant arrives and is about to strike the boy, but Leo is awakened by Jason Grace. The other boy tells Leo that they are almost to Bologna and Nico has some information for them.

In Chapter 10, Leo tries to forget about his dream. Jason has taken over the role of group leader since they lost Annabeth and Leo could see the stress was taking its toll. The entire group was exhausted and showing the signs of the stress they were under. Most of them are gathered at the dining table for breakfast, Jason, Hazel, Frank Zhang and Nico. Piper McLean and Coach Hedge, the satyr, are taking their turn at the helm. Jason turns to Nico who has something to share with them.

Nico tells the group that the House of Hades used to be a place where people could come to speak with ghosts. They had to make offerings and the ghosts had to see them as worthy before they would appear before them. Nico had obtained this information from a ghost, who used to be the priest of Hecate. He had wanted to confirm that what the goddess had told Hazel had been true. The ghost confirmed that Hecate had defeated the giant Clytius. She had set his hair on fire and he had burned to death. This was the same giant from Leo's dream and Leo mentions this and the rest of his dream to the group.

The woman in Leo's dream, who had spoken with Gaea's voice is the witch that Hazel will have to face. Since Clytius's weakness seems to be fire, they all look to Leo as the one who can fight the giant. Leo remembers his dream and the effect of his fireballs. He is doubtful it will be so easy. Suddenly, the ship lurches and everyone is thrown off balance. The images on the walls that usually show scenes of Camp Half-Blood suddenly change and show a gruesome face with a red beard and mismatched eyes. They also show Piper and Coach Hedge bound and gagged with duct tape. One of the creatures is running around stuffing things into a burlap sack. Hazel is the one who realizes that the creatures are dwarfs.

In Chapter 11, Leo, Jason, and Frank race up the stairs to stop the dwarfs while Hazel stays with Nico, who has fallen and hit his head. Coach Hedge and Piper are struggling to free themselves as the three boys come onto the deck. One of the dwarfs lets off a flash bang grenade, which leaves Leo unable to move. The second dwarf takes Leo's belt while he is incapacitated. The dwarf then goes over to the ballista, jumps onto the projectile and has his companion shoot him into the sky. The red beard dwarf then goes over the side of the ship.



Leo and Jason manage to get to their feet, but Frank is still unconscious. Piper orders Jason to forget about untying her and to get the dwarfs. So Jason and Leo leave the ship to follow them. They head in the direction the flying dwarf took. Jason stops Leo when they reach a statue of Neptune. Leo discovers it is mechanical. As he is looking for a secret door the two dwarfs appear out of nowhere.

The dwarfs introduce themselves as Passalos and Akmon. They not only stole Leo's tool belt and Archimedes' sphere, but they also have Piper's knife. Jason and Leo prepare to fight the dwarfs to get their stuff back when they realize that the statue is a trap. Leo moves in time, but Jason is wrapped up in golden cords and turned upside down. The dwarfs run away, but they drop the Archimedes sphere, which Leo retrieves. He tries to free Jason, but the other boy orders him to follow the dwarfs. Leo runs after them.

In Chapter 12, Leo chases after the dwarfs who make it easy for him to keep up with them, which makes the boy suspicious. They finally climb up a tower and disappear around the back of it. Leo finds a grocery store close by, which gives him an idea for a plan. He buys the supplies he needs. He chooses a spot close to the tower so that he can keep an eye out for the dwarfs while he prepares his arsenal.

When he is ready Leo goes into the tower. He makes his way up the stairs. At the very top he finds the dwarfs' treasure horde and the dwarfs themselves. Leo surprises them with a homemade flash grenade and then with homemade firecrackers. He also releases a white fog into the room. The dwarfs are caught off guard and Leo takes his tool belt back as the dwarfs wheeze and cough. He then ties them up.

Leo digs through the dwarfs' treasure and retrieves his and his friend's belongings. Jason arrives at that moment and is surprised to find the dwarfs tied up. Leo remembers what Hazel said about finding something that would help them in their quest so he continues to search the dwarfs' treasure. He finds a navigation device that the dwarfs say was made by Odysseus. It is missing a crystal so it does not work. Leo takes it anyway. There is also a leather-bound book whose gold leaf title is in a different language. The dwarfs tell him they took it from a minor god in Venice.

Leo realizes the book must be important since Venice is their next destination. The dwarfs are too frightened of the god's wrath to tell Leo his identity, though. They finally relent and tell the two boys they will find the god at La Casa Nera, Calle Frezzeria. Instead of killing the dwarfs, Leo makes a deal with them. He sends the dwarfs to New York to harass the Roman army and make life difficult for them.

Analysis

Percy and Annabeth are dealing with an impossible mission and although they waver occasionally in their resolve they persevere because they have each other. Annabeth knows that she would not be able to survive Tartarus if Percy was not with her. Their love and friendship gives them strength and they know that they need to keep going so



that they can meet up with their friends and close the Doors of Death. It is up to them to save the world from the monsters pouring into the mortal world. They are willing to do what it takes to defeat Gaea's forces.

Leo is wracked with guilt about Percy and Annabeth being in Tartarus. He feels that he is the one responsible for their falling into the chasm, therefore he is determined to figure out how the Athena Parthenos is the key to defeating Gaea. Gaea knows that Leo is important to the mission of stopping her so she does what she can to undermine his confidence. Through a dream she shows him what a formidable opponent he is up against in her son, Clytius. She assures Leo that he cannot defeat the giant and the path before him only leads to death so he should give up.

Despite his misgivings about his own importance to the quest Leo proves that he is a valuable member of the team when he defeats the dwarfs by and gets the group's stuff back without any help. He also finds two objects that have the potential to be very helpful to the demigods in their quest. One of his finds gives them the necessary clue they need for the next step in their journey to the House of Hades.

Discussion Question 1

What effect does the water of the River of Fire have on Annabeth when she drinks it? Which two enemies do Percy and Annabeth encounter after drinking from the river? What happens?

Discussion Question 2

What does Leo dream about? Why is Leo doubtful that he can defeat Clytius, the giant? Who attacks the ship and what are they doing?

Discussion Question 3

What do the dwarfs steal from the Argo II? How does Leo defeat the dwarfs? What does Leo take from the dwarfs' treasure horde and why? Where does Leo send the dwarfs and why?

Vocabulary

Obsidian, crevasse, fissure, plummet, endure, implode, logistics, legion, vengeful, stupor, pillaged, millennia, intact, symbolism, regally, labyrinth, default, praetor, impending, vertigo, grotesque, levitate, lair, scoured, improvised, pantomimed, astrolabe.



Chapter XIII - XVIII

Summary

In Chapter 13, Percy and Annabeth follow the vampires along the River Phlegethon. Every breath is like inhaling sulfur-scented fiberglass. Annabeth's ankle is better. She is barely limping. Percy is glad that they are together. The firewater is keeping them going. Percy keeps hoping that life will get better for him and Annabeth. Instead, it seems become to get more and more dangerous. They come to a massive cliff where the empousai are bounding down like mountain goats. It will be treacherous for the demigods to descend to the bleak landscape below. The ground is pocked with blisters. Each time a blister bursts, a monster is released. The monsters go in the same direction the empousai are going.

In Chapter 14, Percy must be careful with his footing as a rock slide will alert the empousai of their presence. As they rest on a ledge, Percy tells himself that he and Annabeth will find a way out of Tartarus. Annabeth tells him that it could be worse. They could have fallen into the River Lethe and lost their memories. Percy thinks of how Hera had erased his memories and placed him among the Roman demigods. He had also fought a Titan on the banks of the Lethe and blasted him with water from the river wiping his memory clean. Annabeth asks the name that Percy gave the Titan after he lost his memory. He tells her Bob. Percy wonders what happened to Iapetus/Bob after he left him in Hades' palace. He wonders if he is still content being the friendly, happy, and clueless Bob.

Percy tells her that they should keep moving. He asks if she wants more firewater. She declines. They continue down the cliff. Percy feels like something is watching them as they move forward. They follow the bank of the river across an exposed plain. Percy sees something dart between rocks on his left. He remembers that they had been following the empousai. They emerge from the rocks and form a ring around Percy and Annabeth. Kelli, one of the empousai, steps forward and greets Percy.

In Chapter 15, Percy recalls how dangerous it was for Kelli to fight in the Labyrinth. He would have died if it had not been for Annabeth. Kelli turns to Annabeth saying that she remembers her and touches her sternum where Annabeth had stabbed her in the Labyrinth. Percy tries to think what to do. Besides being outnumbered, Annabeth has no weapon. Annabeth begins talking to delay the attack. She tells them that in the mortal world they are heading toward a major defeat. She attempts to turn the other empousai against Kelli. When that does not work she tells them that the Roman and Greek demigods have joined forces to fight. The empousai do not see how that can help the two demigods in Tartarus. Annabeth remembers that they are servants of Hecate and that Hecate has a cabin at Camp Half-Blood. She tells the empousia that Hecate will be angry if they kill Percy and her. One empousai named Serephone will not cross Hecate. She tries to get the others to follow her. Instead, Kelli kills Serephone. Kelli chooses the



path that will give them the most demigod blood. She chooses Gaea. The others hiss their approval.

Kelli wonders what happens when a demigod is killed in Tartarus. Kelli charges Annabeth. Percy kills one demon and fights the other two. Kelli rakes her talons across Annabeth's arm and she falls. Percy stumbles in her direction. The vampire on his back sinks her teeth into his neck and his knees buckle. The other bites his sword arm, and Riptide clatters to the ground. A shadow falls across Percy. A war cry bellows, and a Titan drops onto the battlefield.

In Chapter 16, The Titan drops from the sky and stomps Kelli flat, trampling her into a mound of dust. The Titan is ten feet tall, with wild silver Einstein hair and pure silver eyes. He is wearing a ripped blue janitor's uniform and carries a massive broom. His name tag reads Bob. A spearhead juts from the end of Bob's broom. He slices another of the empousai. The last one tries to run, but Bob throws his broom. It slices through her before returning to his hand. The Titan heals Annabeth's wounds by touching them. When he is questioned by Annabeth about how he knew that they were in danger, the Titan replies that he heard Percy say his name and he came. He is Bob, Percy's friend. He tells Percy and Annabeth that they must hurry and go because they are coming. Percy and Annabeth question him about who is coming. Bob says he knows a way and they will have fun.

In Chapter 17, Frank, one of the other demigods, wakes up as a python. This confuses him since he has never changed in his sleep before. He always slept as a bulldog. The voices return to him. His father's Roman and Greek personalities scream back and forth in his mind. Watching the flame in his lamp helps him focus and lessen the noise in his head. Frank has to stay focused because without Annabeth he is the next best thing to a military strategist in the group.

Frank's life span is controlled by a magical piece of firewood. If the firewood burns, Frank will die. He is trusting Hazel with it. Leo's constant teasing of Frank makes him a target of Mars and Ares. They are always screaming for his death. Frank sometimes finds it hard not to listen to them. Frank still remembers Leo remarking on the amount of bounty Gaea put on their heads. He had said that he understood why he was not as pricey as Jason or Percy, but was he not worth two or three Franks? Leo's remarks had hit Frank hard. They made him feel like the least valuable player. Sure, he could change into animals. But, how useful is that?

The Argo II is docked in Venice. The demigods are looking at the weird shaggy monsters milling through the crowds of tourists. They are about the size of a cow. Their long, anteater-like snouts drooped to the ground. Their manes completely covered their eyes. The tourists pay them no mind. They see them as beagles. The demigods will have to walk through them and hope they are peaceful. They must find the owner of the leather-bound book they obtained in Bologna. Frank volunteers to search Venice for the address they were given. Nico also offers to go as well and so does Hazel.



In Chapter 18, Frank feels useful as they stroll through Venice. They turn onto a smaller street with a plaza that is strangely deserted. It is as if the mortals can sense it is not safe. A dozen creatures sniff around the mossy base of an old stone well. At the end of the plaza they see the house they are looking for. Hazel does not like the plaza because it feels cold. Nico agrees. There are many angry ghosts. His mother used to tell him stories about the ghosts of Venice. His mother was from Venice. She met Hades here in the 1930s. As World War II approached, she fled to the United States with him and his sister, Bianca. Nico sends out a message that the ghosts should stay away and ignore them.

Halfway across the plaza, Hazel stumbles on a loose cobblestone. Six of the creatures turn to look at them. Frank glimpses a glowing green eye under one of the creature's manes. He is assaulted by a wave of nausea. The creatures make deep, throbbing sounds in their throats. Frank puts himself between Hazel and Nico and the creatures. He suggests they back away slowly. Before they can, they notice that the paving stones are moving and spiky plant tendrils are pushing through the cracks. The tendrils, which are following them, become thicker. They exude a green vapor. The roots seem to like the demigods, and the creatures like the roots. The creatures are staring at the demigods. They don't like the fact that the demigods are standing on their food. They see them as enemies. Frank tells Hazel and Nico not to meet the creatures' eyes. He has a feeling direct contact will make them more than nauseous.

The demigods must run to avoid being attacked. Frank tries to keep the monsters' attention on him to let Nico and Hazel escape, but two of them split from the herd and follows them. The creatures surround Frank billowing green gas from their nostrils. The stench nearly knocks him over. Frank changes into a lion. He springs from the middle of the herd and lands on top of the old stone well. He kills three leaving seven and the two following Hazel and Nico. The herd is scared of him and backs away. He attempts to maneuver around them and go after his friends. One of the creatures attacks as he takes a backward step. It blasts him in the face with green gas. He slashes the monster into dust, but he can feel the fur burning off his snout. He is half-blind and dizzy. Nico is screaming his name. Frank changes back to human form retching and stumbling. Nico is standing with his sword drawn and two red puddles at his feet. Frank surmises that the blood puddles are the remains of the two creatures that followed Nico and Hazel. Hazel is propped against the wall behind her brother. She received a blast of the green gas right in her face.

They need to go back to the ship to help Hazel. The creatures bellow and there are answering cries on the nearby streets. They will not make it on foot. Nico tells Frank to turn into an eagle to get Hazel to the ship. Nico doesn't want Frank to worry about him. A voice behind them says that their friends cannot help them. They do not know the cure. Standing in the threshold of the Black House is a young man in jeans and a denim shirt. Frank asks the man if he can cure Hazel. His reply is "of course"



Analysis

The terrain of Tartarus is vile and disgusting. It is like a body with membranes as monsters pop out of blisters on the its surface. The demigods do not feel comfortable in this place because they are not meant to be there. The creatures are able to traverse the terrain without any difficulty, while the demigods struggle to survive. Their only hope is to follow the monsters and hope they are leading them where they need to go.

Percy and Annabeth's conversion about Bob saves their lives for it makes the Titan hear his name and come in search of Percy. Hearing Bob's story is foreshadowing for when Bob will join them on their quest. Percy and Annabeth are distracted by the scene in Tartarus so do not see the trap the empousai have set. Kelli knows the demigods and wants revenge. Their past conquests mean nothing in Tartarus where the monsters can reform. This makes the demigods seem useless especially in a place like Tartarus. Unlike their monster counterparts, they will not reform.

Frank feels useless. He finds his powers lacking when they are compared to his friends' skills. He does not see what he can offer to their quest. He feels weak because of the voices battling in his head. He cannot stop hearing them. He questions his every move which makes him indecisive in battle. He must overcome this trait to be of use to his friends.

Discussion Question 1

How was Iapetus' memory erased? What did Percy rename him? How did his character change once he lost his memory?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Kelli not like Annabeth? Why does she attack Annabeth instead of Percy? How does Bob help and why?

Discussion Question 3

What are Frank's powers? Why does he feel useless to his friends?

Vocabulary

Cataract, precipice, spires, malevolent, implied, tactics, baleful, reticulated, retaliate, dematerialize, crescendo, supplement, appreciatively.



Chapter XIX - XXIV

Summary

In Chapter 19, Frank, Hazel and Nico barely make it inside. The cow monsters slam themselves against the door. Their host tells them that they are safe. Frank says that Hazel is dying. Her skin is cold and her lips have a greenish tinge. He does not understand why the gas affected him less than Hazel. The voices of Mars and Ares scream in his head urging him to kill Nico and their host and anyone else he could find. He forces down the noise. The front room of the house they are in is a kind of greenhouse. The walls are lined with tables of plant trays under fluorescent lights. The back room has a bank of servers and laptops. Their screen savers are flashing pictures of plowed fields and tractors. There is also a stack of farm implements. There is a red and gold chariot with an open carriage and a single axle against the back wall. Wrapped around the rim of the left wheel, a spotted python snores loudly.

The man has Frank lay Hazel on the bed. He says the cow monsters are katobleps. Nico remembers reading about them. They have a poison breath and a poison gaze. They live in Africa, but were accidentally imported into Venice hundreds of years ago. The Venetians smuggled Saint Mark out of Egypt in a barrel of pickled pig parts. The consequence was that they accidentally also smuggled the katobleps. They have been breeding like rats ever since. The man refuses to help Hazel when she finds out she is a child of Pluto. He turns Nico into a corn plant. The man is Triptolemus. Frank tells him that they bring a gift and gives Triptolemus his almanac. Triptolemus says that Frank can go free, but he owes his godly powers to Demeter and he has a problem with Hades. Hades kidnapped Demeter's daughter, Persephone and Triptolemus helped Demeter when no one would. She thanked him by making him the god of farming. He has to side with his patron goddess. Also one of the children of Hades killed the python on the right rim of his chariot and now it does not go. He has not been able to spread the word about farming. He has to give online courses.

Frank tries to tell Triptolemus that Hazel and Nico are not like other children of Hades. Triptolemus says that if he heals Hazel and returns Nico from a corn plant Frank must stay with him and take up farming. Frank offers to fix his chariot instead. If he fixes it, the man agrees to fix Nico and Hazel, let them go in peace and give them whatever they need to defeat Gaea's forces. Hecate said he could help and sent them to him. She said he had knowledge to help them through the House of Hades. Triptolemus agrees that if Frank fixes his chariot he will help them, but if not Hazel and Nico will die and Frank will make a lovely patch of sorghum.

In Chapter 20, Frank stumbles out of the house. The katobleps have gone. Frank is at a loss of how to fix the chariot. Frank could turn himself into a python, but he does not want to spend the rest of his life turning the wheel of a farmer's chariot. He asks the voices of Mars and Ares that are always in his head how he can get a snake. Ares can turn his enemies into snakes. Frank says that if he finds him an enemy he can turn it



into a snake. Ares says that Frank will have to prove his worth before he can ask for such a favor. He has to prove himself as good as Horatius. Horatius stood on a stone bridge facing an entire army on the other side. He single-handedly held off a horde of invaders, sacrificing himself on the bridge to keep the barbarians from crossing the Tiber. By giving his fellow Romans time to finish their defenses, he had saved the Republic. Mars says that Venice is overrun like Rome was and Frank needs to cleanse it. He needs to destroy all of the katoblepones.

Frank unearths the roots that the creatures like. He slices a long cluster of vines and laces them through one of his belt loops. The katoblepones start gathering bellowing in anger. He shoots an arrow killing one. Frank turns into a lion and leaps over the heads of an advancing group. They begin following him. The katoblepones that he passes joins the group following him. He stops to enrage the creatures and then turns into a dolphin and jumps into the canal. He turns back into a human at a gondola dock and stabs a few more katoblepones to keep them angry and takes off running. He leads a mass following through the streets of Venice. He somehow finds the strength to keep going. Frank sees a wooden bridge spanning the widest canal. It is empty of any foot traffic. Frank runs to the middle of the bridge and throws the poisonous roots on the deck behind him. He draws Hazel's golden spatha. He yells at the creatures to come see what he is worth.

The monsters charge. He slices the creatures and when he is overwhelmed by the clouds of gas from the creatures he changes shape and each transformation clears his lungs giving him renewed energy. His shape-shifting becomes fluid and he can start an attack as a human and finish as a lion. The animals kick with their hooves, and expel their noxious gas and glare at Frank with their poisonous eyes, but he stays on his feet unharmed. He fights with a rosy aura around him. He keeps fighting until there is only one monster left. Frank yells to Mars that he has proven himself. The last katoblepone attacks and Frank kills it. Mars appears saying he has done well. Frank's bravery has united his Greek and Roman forms so that he can appear to Frank for a moment. Mars tells him that his greatest test is yet to come. He will face the armies of Gaea in Epirus. He is going to tell Frank about his leadership when he doubles over his form changing over and over. He tells Frank to go to hurry. Frank turns into an eagle, picks up the python that Mars has brought him and flies away. A miniature mushroom cloud erupts in the middle of the bridge. Frank is unsure what happened.

Triptolemus is excited that Frank found a python. He tells the god to heal his friends. Since the explosion on the bridge, Frank has not heard the voices of the war god in his head, but he could still feel their anger. He also feels physically different. Triptolemus seems shorter. The snake slithers to the chariot and wraps itself around the right wheel. The other snake wakes up and the chariot inches forward. Triptolemus tries to not honor his deal, but Frank slams him against the wall his fingers around the god's throat. He mixes herbs and places them under Hazel's tongue. She instantly sits up coughing and her greenish tint is gone. She asks Frank what happened to him. Frank realizes that he has gotten taller and his gut has shrunk. His chest seems bulkier. Triptolemus tells him he has had some sort of blessing from Mars. He changes Nico back to human form.



Triptolemus tells them that when they arrive at Epirus they will be offered a chalice to drink from. It is filled with a deadly poison. They have to drink it or they will not be able to make it through the temple. The poison connects them to the world of the dead. He gives them barley to make cakes to eat before they drink to soak up the worst of the poison. It will affect them, but not kill them. Triptolemus takes his chariot out happy to be mobile again. Hazel asks Frank what he had to do. He tells her that he destroyed all the katoblepones. Frank feels that he has changed after such carnage.

In Chapter 21, Annabeth ponders the weird things that have happened to her and Percy since entering Tartarus. They are now following a Titan and stopping every so often to drink firewater to keep them alive. Percy tells her that Bob knows what he is doing. Bob jumped into Tartarus because Percy said his name. He needed him. He was tired of sweeping the palace. Annabeth remembers the story of how Percy met the Titan. He, Thalia Grace and Nico worked together to defeat Bob on the banks of the Lethe. After wiping his memory, they could not kill him. He was gentle, sweet and cooperative. They left him at the palace of Hades where Persephone promised she would look after him. Apparently that meant giving him a broom and making him clean up their messes. She is terrified that Bob will suddenly remember who he is. They would not have a chance against the Titan.

It was a risk to follow Bob through Tartarus, but they had no other plan. Tartarus is a horrible place. Bob stops at a shrine to Hermes. If from somewhere long ago and monsters mainly steer clear. They climb into the crater and enter the circle of columns. Annabeth asks about who is chasing them. Giants and Titans who have been defeated are following. Annabeth thinks of all the Titans and giants she and Percy have fought over the years. Bob tells them to rest.

In Chapter 22, Annabeth has horrible nightmares. She is a small girl again struggling to climb Half-Blood Hill. Luke Castellan held her hand pulling her long. Their satyr guide Grover Underwood pranced up the summit yelling for them to hurry. Thalia Grace is behind them holding back an army of hellhounds. Annabeth stumbles twisting her ankle. Luke picks her up to carry her and she cries as they run toward the camp and leave Thalia to hold off the hellhounds. Annabeth is then older and climbing the summit of Half-Blood Hill where Thalia made her last stand. A tall pine tree stands there. A blast of lightning splits the tree to its roots. In the darkness below stands Reyna, the praetor of New Rome. Reyna speaks with the voice of Athena. She tells Annabeth that she has done well, but the rest of her journey must be on the wings of Rome. I must stand here. The Roman must bring me. The hill shakes and Gaea rises over Camp Half-Blood. Hellhounds pour over the hills. Giants and Cyclopes charge from the beach. Athena tells her to hurry the message must be sent.

She wakes to find they have food. It is burnt offerings from the mortal world to Hermes. They wolf down the food. Bob tells them that they must go. Those following them will be there soon. They can smell the demigods. Percy told Bob that they are going to the Doors of Death. Bob says that they need his help. There are many monsters gathered at the Doors. The Death Mist could hide them. Annabeth takes a napkin from the pile of trash at Hermes altar. She asks Bob what happens if they burn something in the altar.



He does not know. She thinks there is a chance that an offering burned on this altar will appear in Camp Half-Blood. Annabeth writes a note to Rachel their Oracle of Delphi. Bob uses his spear to start a fire. Annabeth lights the napkin and sets it in the altar.

In Chapter 23, Annabeth cannot see in the darkness that surrounds them. They see a monster in a membrane bubble. It is a Titan in golden armor. It is Hyperion. He can summon fiery explosions. Bob is studying Hyperion with a frown of concentration. Their faces are much alike. Hyperion is his brother. He says that he looks like him. Percy asks Bob if they are friends. He says yes. Percy tells him that some monsters are good and some are bad. He says the same goes for Titans. Bob is a Titan and he is good. Some are bad like Hyperion. Bob bursts the blister to keep his friends safe.

In Chapter 24, Annabeth is tired of walking. She feels numb. Annabeth wonders if her message would get to Rachel and if Rachel would be able to get her message to Reyna without being killed. They stop as Bob sees something ahead. Bob says to surround it. The humming got louder shaking the gravel at Annabeth's feet. She makes them wait as Bob raises his spear. The point of his spear hovers an inch above the head of a tiny calico kitten. It rubs against Bob's foot and purrs loudly. Its purrs making the ground vibrate. It likes Bob. Bob picks up the kitten and it climbs on his shoulder. He calls him Small Bob.

They enter a sort of forest with towering black trees. Annabeth's senses go on high alert. She touches a tree trunk and it quivers. Something is moving above them. A creature drops in front of them. It is a wringled hag with batlike wings, brass talons and glowing red eyes. Half a dozen surround them. They are the arai, the curses. They want to curse them.

Analysis

Frank takes on a leadership role when Hazel is dying. He must be the one to save his friends. He has to look past his weaknesses and rely on what he can do in order to help them. Frank focuses on his anger, which is what the god of war is known for. He must embrace this so that he can access the full power available to him.

By accepting the challenge of Mars and Ares and facing the herd of katobleps on his own, Frank obtains the self-confidence he needs to become an asset to the quest and not a liability. The need of Frank's leadership is foreshadowed by Mars, when he talks to Frank on the bridge. Frank's ultimate challenge is yet to come.

Annabeth is wary about trusting Bob. They have lied to him because they are not his friends. Percy wiped his memory clean and thought nothing more about him. Seeing Hyperion reforming and looking so much like him makes Bob pause and ponder. Annabeth sees this as foreshadowing of his getting his memory back and she worries what will happen when he does. He sees them as friends now, but that can change.



Annabeth's dreams are there to guide her to knowledge. She sees what can happen if Gaea is not defended and given a way to unite the two demigod camps. Her dreams are glimpses of a possible future.

Discussion Question 1

What does Frank have to do to get Triptolemus to help Hazel and Nico? Why does Triptolemus not want to help Hazel?

Discussion Question 2

What does Frank have to do to secure the favor of Mars and Ares? How does this challenge affect him?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Annabeth worried that Bob's memory might return? What does she think will happen? How does Bob react to seeing Hyperion?

Vocabulary

Delusional, carnage, repressed, cooperative, callous, inverse, incarnation, resolution, vivid, brandished, regal, dispensed, literally, verge, indistinguishable, awestruck, monotonous, indiscriminately, maliciously.



Chapter XXV - XXX

Summary

In Chapter 25, Hazel is seasick aboard the Argo II. Hecate's pet Gale came to Hazel's cabin in the night. Hazel goes to Coach Hedge since he can talk to animals. She finds him sending a magical Iris-message. Coach answers the door his eyes red. Hazel asks if he is okay. He deflects the question and asks what she wants. She asks if he can talk to the weasel, Gale. Gale says some rude things, but the gist is that she is here to see how it goes. He ushers Hazel out on this note. Hazel wonders what is wrong with Coach Hedge. She had never seen him so shaken.

Hazel believes that she is going to be tested that is why Gale is there. She wonders how she is supposed to learn magic with no training. Frank asks her how she is feeling. Frank is broader and more confident. Hazel had been worried that Frank's personality would change with his appearance. He was, however, the same sweet guy. He thinks Hazel is worried about Nico who spends most of his time at the top of the yardarm. He will not use Percy's cabin. Hazel says that Nico has been through a lot. Hazel thanks him for being kind to Nico. Frank asks why Gale is there and Hazel tells him to observe. The boat suddenly lurches forward.

In Chapter 26, Hazel and Frank tumble over one another. Fetus creaks in alarm and shoots fire. A turtle is eating the oars. It is a giant turtle the size of an island. Jason's sword slides from its skin. Frank's arrows are deflected each shot to its eyes. Piper shots cantaloupes into the water, but the turtle is fixated on the boat. Nico navigates them toward straits lying ahead. Leo shoots jets of fire that shoots them forward a hundred yards ahead of the turtle. It starts after them and they need a distraction. Hazel thinks of Arion and he appears. Hazel climbs on his back and takes Piper with her for her charmspeak. They zip around the turtle with Hazel slicing with her sword and Piper shouting random commands. The sword does no damage and the commands work for only a moment. As soon as Argo II is passed into the straits, Arion speeds after the ship. The turtle cannot make it through the straits. They have ended up in a dead end. Hazel says it is a trap.

An arrow lands in the mainmast. There is a man on the top of the cliff. The arrow has a note. It says that this is a robbery and to send two of their party to the top of the cliff with all their valuables. They cannot use the magic horse or fly. They must climb. A narrow set of steps is carved into the cliff. Hazel remembers a story of a robber who worked with a giant turtle, but she cannot remember the details. This is Hazel's test. Hazel says that she will go and Gale scampers onto her shoulder. Hazel can summon gems and jewels from the ground. Jason agrees to go with her. Hazel summons Jason's sword from the sea where it fell and it flies out of the water into her hand.

In Chapter 27, Jason climbs behind Hazel so that he can catch her if she falls, since he can fly. Hazel feels nervous about Jason watching her back. She cannot get a read on



him. He seems more like a legend than a person. Jason asks if she has had any luck controlling the mist. She admits that she hasn't. Jason says she will get it. Hecate would not have picked her if she didn't believe she had power. Hazel cannot forget that Hera used Jason in her first move in the war against the giants. She dropped him into Camp Half-Blood, which started the chain of events to stop Gaea. She thinks he is the linchpin and will be the final play.

Hazel and Jason make it to the top of the cliff. Ten feet away is a man with a bow and quiver over his shoulder and dueling pistols in his hands. He wore high leather boots, leather breeches and a pirate-style shirt. A red bandana covers the lower half of his face. His name is Sciron. He is a son of Poseidon. He promises that once he has their valuables he will send them right back down the cliff. Hazel remembers that Theseus killed Sciron once. He is back from the dead. Gaea promised him he could stay on the coastline and rob all the demigods he wanted.

Hazel raises precious metals from the ground. Sciron wants the Athena Parthenos. Hazel tells him that the statue will do him no good when Gaea destroys the world. She plans to wipe all mortals and demigods from the face of the earth and let giants and monsters take over. He tells them they can keep the statue, but he demands a show of respect. Before he lets his victims leave, he insists that they wash his feet. His feet are horrible and the smell is disgusting. Hazel takes Jason to the side and tells him that she remembers that Sciron kicks his victims off the cliff. The words that Pluto spoke to her comes back to Hazel. The dead see what they believe they will see. So do the living. She understands what she must do, but she does not like it. They have to let Sciron win.

In Chapter 28, Hazel forces herself to see the scene through Sciron's eyes. If she shows him what he wants to see, he will believe it. Jason takes the multi-surface cleaner to clean Sciron's foot. Hazel summons the Mist as Jason washes Sciron's foot. Sciron slams his foot into Jason and he tumbles over the cliff and is swallowed by the turtle. Alarm bells sound on the Argo II. Her friend's reactions nearly break Hazel's concentration. Sciron tells Hazel that it was an accident. Hazel pleads for him not to kick her. Hazel is able to turn Sciron around, but makes it seem to him that he is facing the sea. When he kicks her she lands on her butt a few yards away. The illusion melts and finds the sea at his back. Jason swoops out of the sky and body-slams Sciron over the cliff. The turtle lunges and snaps Sciron out of the air. Hazel collapses to her knees in dizziness. Pluto appears and tells her that she has done well. She has impressed him. He is able to appear because she invoked him so strongly.

Pluto tells her that when she comes to his house in Epirus she must be prepared. The dead will not welcome her and Pasiphae will not be as easily fooled as Sciron. She passed her first test, but Pasiphae is strong. The Doors of Death are at the lowest level of the Necromanteion. Hazel must make Pasiphae see what she wants to see.

In Chapter 29, The demons tell Percy that they are the arai and he cannot destroy them. Annabeth says that they are the spirits of curses and not to touch them. They serve the bitter and the defeated - the ones who pray for vengeance with their final breath. When



Percy kills one of the arai who attack, he starts bleeding as if pierced by an arrow. He remembers a fight with a monstrous rancher who could only be killed if each of his three bodies was cut through simultaneously. This is how he killed Geryon. The spirits tell him that there are many curses against him and he must choose how he will die. If not, they will rip him apart. One of the demons lunges at Annabeth and she hits it in the head with a rock. The spirit breaks into dust. Annabeth drops the rock saying that she cannot see. Polyphemus cursed her when she tricked him with her invisibility in the Sea of Monsters. He could not see her and now she will not see her attackers.

Bob uses his broom to sweep the arai away from Percy and Annabeth. The arai do not curse Bob because Percy has already destroyed his memory. Annabeth tells Bob not to listen to them. Bob turns to Percy and asks if it was he who took his memory. Percy tells him that he did not want him to be an enemy. He tried to make him a friend. Percy tries to tell Bob that they are his friends. Percy feels like a liar saying this. He had left Bob in the Underworld and not thought about him since. The arai say that Percy cannot even convince himself. The arai ask if he ever visited Bob. Bob says no, but Nico did. He told him about Percy and that he was his friend. That is why Bob helped them. The arai attack and Bob does not help.

In Chapter 30, Percy drags Annabeth slicing through the arai in their path. He brings down dozens of curses on himself, but keeps running. He thinks only of saving Annabeth who follows him blindly. He cuts down black trees that are along their path and they fall crushing demons behind them. He grabs Annabeth before they run off of a cliff. It is too dark to see how far the cliff goes down. The arai surround them. An arai grabs Annabeth and she judo-flips it and uses the weight of her body to crush it. Annabeth gets to her feet and looks stunned and afraid. She calls to Percy and asks why he left her. Annabeth unleashed a curse by someone that Percy abandoned. He punished an innocent soul by leaving her in solitude. Annabeth feels her despair. Annabeth wanders among the demons calling his name. Percy attacks the arai to keep them focused on him and away from Annabeth.

Analysis

Hazel worries about her inability to control the Mist. She knows that she will be tested before she faces what lies waiting for her in the House of Hades. She does not feel that she is ready for such a challenge. The appearance of Gale foreshadows an event that will test Hazel's abilities. She knows that Hecate would not send her pet on an idle visit.

Hazel mistakenly believes that the attack of the giant turtle is her test so she takes the lead in helping the Argo II to escape its clutches. She soon learns that this was not the test at all. Hazel must match wits with Sciron and learn to not only trust in herself, but in her fellow demigods. She is unsure of Jason and during their adventure together she finds the ability to trust him and herself. Trust is an important issue that the demigods must learn. They must learn to trust the abilities and loyalties of their friends and trust in their own abilities. Hazel learns that she must let people see what they expect to see to



make the Mist work. This gives her more confidence in being able to face what awaits in the House of Hades.

Percy's lies come to haunt him when he is faced with the arai. Bob is the only one who can fight them without being cursed, but after learning that Percy is the one who took his memory he stands down. This is what Annabeth feared. She surmised that once Bob learned the truth he would abandon them if not turn against them. She is seemingly proved right.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Gale appear on the Argo II? Why does Hazel believe that she will be tested?

Discussion Question 2

How does Hazel defeat Sciron? How is she able to manipulate the Mist?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Bob not affected by the arai curses? Why does he stop helping Percy and Annabeth?

Vocabulary

Noxious, gist, adamantly, reclusive, morose, extract, carapace, derisively, trajectory, elaborate, reverence, negotiable, nostalgia, incapacitated, invoke, lineage, disintegrated, suppressed, collective.



Chapter XXXI - XXXVI

Summary

In Chapter 31, Percy fights the arai and each time he kills one the dread of another curse settles on him. Some are painful and others are more subtle such as a tic in the right eye. His sword arm grows tired and his vision begins to blur. An arai takes the opportunity to bite him in the thigh. He kills the demon and falls to his knees. The voice of the arai tells him that he has chosen the curse of Phineas. Phineas was an old blind king who Percy had challenged to a contest and the loser drank deadly gorgon blood. Percy is now dying of gorgon's blood and Annabeth is stumbling around blind not able to find him. He calls on Bob to help him. He tells Bob that he is sorry and asks him to protect Annabeth.

He thinks of how he has mistreated people. He should have followed up with Calypso and made sure the Gods had let her leave Ogygia. He cannot blame her for cursing his girlfriend. Percy stands to try to fight the remaining arai, but they explode into dust.

In Chapter 32, Bob uses his broom to slash back and forth to destroy the demons. The arai are gone in a matter of seconds. Bob rescues Annabeth before she blindly stumbles off a cliff. He touches her forehead and her eyes clear. She sees Percy and holds him and cries. Percy wants to tell her that it is all right, but it is not. He feels close to death. Annabeth asks if Bob can fix Percy like he did her eyes. He tries, but can only slow the poison. There is no water in Tartarus to heal Percy. They hear giants in the distance hunting them. Bob says that there is one who can help. He is a giant, a good giant.

In Chapter 33, Jason is fighting wild venti and forgets to hold his breath and the air is sucked out of his lungs. It makes him black out. He has a dream he is on the roof of a tall building in Manhattan. A few blocks away is the Empire State Building – the entrance to Mount Olympus. Jason is with his comrades from Camp Jupiter and they are in full battle armor. In the center of the line stand Reyna. He thinks of how he let her believe they had a future together, yet he had never loved her. He had disappeared leaving her to run the camp on her own. He had returned with a new girlfriend and a group of Greek friends in a warship and had fired on the Forum and run away. He had started a war and left her to handle it.

The door to the roof opens and a satyr and the oracle from Camp Half-Blood, Rachel Elizabeth Dare, appear. The satyr is Grover Underwood. Rachel gives Reyna a message from Annabeth. It tells them that she is in Tartarus and what she needs Reyna to do. A roman leader must return the most important Greek statue, the Athena Parthenos, to Camp Half-Blood to prevent a war. Octavian tries to tell Reyna that it is a trick and they are attempting to lead her to her death. He questions that Rachel is the Oracle of Delphi. The wind shifts and Rachel glows with a green aura when the wind fades the aura disappears. Rachel says that she sees Reyna bringing the Athena



Parthenos to Half-Blood Hill. Reyna asks why they would want peace after their ship attacked the Roman city. Rachel says that they have to work together to defeat Gaea.

Gaea is stirring. She is causing earthquakes and taking human form all over the world. Gaea is everywhere and no one will be safe. Her first targets will be the demigod camps. Reyna agrees to do it for Annabeth and the hope of peace. Reyna knows one place that Jason will go to get an army to face the ghosts in the House of Hades. Jason remembers a conversation that he had with Reyna years ago and knows what she is talking about. Reyna says the Octavian will not launch an attack without her orders. They are not to attack Camp Half-Blood until her return. Jason wakes to find himself hurtling toward the ocean.

In Chapter 34, The demigods did not see Jason fall until the last second so could not form a rescue plan. Piper used charmspeak to yell wake up and the force of it woke him. He is able to summon the wind and get back aboard Argo II. He pulls Leo aside and gives him a new course direction. Jason tells the others about his vision. Jason grew up in Camp Jupiter, but he prefers Camp Half-Blood. He is torn between loyalty to Camp Jupiter and wanting to be at Camp Half-Blood. Jason is looked to as the leader of the group when Percy is not around because he is praetor of the Roman Legion. He is worried about Reyna making the journey alone when they had nearly been killed many times. She is going to a town called Split in Croatia. That is where they are now headed. They are going to visit Diocletian's Palace. Diocletian was the last great pagan emperor. Diocletian's scepter is said to be able to summon the ghosts of the Roman legions.

Nico offers his help getting Diocletian's specter. Jason feels uncomfortable around Nico. His loyalties are unclear. It should only be the two of them because Jason is a son of Jupiter and so is Diocletian and Nico can talk to spirits.

In Chapter 35, Jason notices an angel. They follow him to the palace. Jason tries to find a way to relate to Nico, but cannot find any common ground with him. Nico is from another time and is bitter. He can feel the Roman ghosts around them. They are angry because their temple to Jupiter was made into a baptistery. The emperor's tomb has been turned into a Christian cathedral. If they find the ghost of Diocletian, he will probably not be happy. They catch sight of the angel and follow him down a set of steps. Jason leaves a note for Reyna by a bust of Diocletian.

The winged man is the God of the West Wind, Favonius. He has lead them to the sarcophagus of Diocletian. What they are looking for is not here. His master has taken it. His master is Cupid. He tells Nico that he has been watching him when he would come to this place when he was young. Favonius knew he would return to look upon his master's face. He tells Nico that he needs to face the truth now that the one he cares for most has plunged into Tartarus. Before the palace was Diocletian's Palace, it was the gateway to Cupid's court. They will have to face Cupid to get Diocletian's scepter. Nico says that he is not afraid of a love god.

In Chapter 36, the West Wind carries the two into the sky above Split. He sets them down in the ruins of a Roman town in the mountains. It is Salona, the capital of



Dalmatia. It is where Diocletian was born. It is also the home of Cupid. Nico braces himself against a column his legs trembling. He waves Jason away. The grass at Nico's feet turns brown and wilts. The dead patch spreads outward. Favonius tells Nico that he cannot lie to Cupid. Cupid's voice comes to them, but they cannot see him. He knocks Jason down a set of steps telling him that he has found true love. Nico helps Jason to his feet. Jason deflects an arrow aimed at Nico's chest and it explodes into a nearby wall. Nico tells him that they want the scepter. Jason senses movement behind him and is able to get the god with his sword.

Cupid tells them that only a child of the Underworld can summon the dead legions and only an officer of Rome can lead them. An arrow strikes Nico in the arm. The arrow dissolved and left no trace of blood, but Nico's face shows rage and pain. Jason wants to know what Cupid wants from Nico. Cupid says to tell him why Nico is afraid of himself and his feelings and why he ran from Camp Half-Blood. Why he is always alone. Waves of darkness roll off of Nico and Jason is overwhelmed by hatred and fear and shame. Jason sees images of Nico and Percy Jackson. He sees Percy protecting Nico and his sister and promising Nico to keep his sister Bianca safe. He is the first demigod Nico has seen in action. He believes he is a real hero. He saw when Percy told Nico that Bianca was dead and Nico screamed and called him a liar. Nico had still protected Percy from an attack of skeletal warriors. Jason saw many scenes like this from Nico's point of view.

Nico brings the dead legion up and they attack the god of love. Nico tries to say that he left Camp Half-Blood because of Annabeth. Jason tells him that it is okay. He knows. He is jealous of Annabeth. The fight and denial goes out of Nico. Nico says that he hated himself and he hated Percy Jackson. Cupid appears in human form. Nico says that he had a crush on Percy. That's the big secret. The only way to conquer cupid is to face love. Cupid dissolves into air and in his place is an ivory staff three feet long, topped with a dark globe of polished marble the size of a baseball, nestled on the backs of three gold Roman eagles. The scepter of Diocletian Nico does not want the others to find out about his crush on Percy.

Analysis

Percy feels the curses of many of those he has killed and for the first time thinks about how they must have felt facing death. It makes him contemplate how he has treated people and that he has not been the best person. Percy thinks only of saving Annabeth and does not worry about his own life. His acts make Bob help him. He sees Percy as a good person and he is his friend. He will help his friend. This shows that just because monsters are monsters they are not all bad. Bob wants to be good and so does what is right.

Dreams play an important role to the demigods. It allows them to see the future or see events that are playing out half a world away. Through his dream, Jason is able to know Annabeth has summoned Reyna and that he must let her know where to find the Argo II. The dream also lets him know that they will need the scepter of Diocletian to help in



their quest. As a Roman praetor, he can control the Roman legion and this should include the ghosts of the Roman legion.

Jason must learn to trust Nico and see him as more than the son of Hades. Their quest together to find the scepter of Diocletian gives Jason a better understanding of Nico and how he thinks and acts. The challenge does not help Nico feel like less of an outsider. His admission that he loves Percy makes him feel different and Jason cannot make him see that he can trust him with the truth. Jason feels closer to Nico after the revelation, but Nico still feels alone and ashamed. Admitting the truth makes him steel himself up for the ridicule he feels the demigods will feel for him.

Discussion Question 1

What does Jason see in his dream? How is he affected by what he sees?

Discussion Question 2

What is the scepter of Diocletian? How will it help the demigods in the House of Hades?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Cupid focus on Nico? What does he want Nico to admit? How is Nico affected by his admission?

Vocabulary

Chasm, agonizing, luminously, haggard, dominance, array, talisman, contradict, relevant, chafed, reassurance, askance, trireme, esplanade, hodgepodge, escarpment, façade, transition, crass, brethren, quoit, eons, turbulent, conjured, intercepted, atone, guttural, remnants.



Chapter XXXVII - XLII

Summary

In Chapter 37, Percy has been poisoned by gorgon blood. Annabeth feels helpless. Bob carries Percy. Annabeth is sore and blisters are starting on her skin again. The landscape they travel is downhill, but treacherous. It changes from loose gravel to slime. Annabeth believes they are traveling the length of Tartarus' large intestine. It smells of sewage. Bob is on guard with his spear still at the ready.

Annabeth remembers Aphrodite saying that she promised to make Annabeth's love life interesting. Annabeth has had more interesting than she can take. She wants a happy ending with Percy. All their suffering should lead to a happy ending. She wants to have a normal existence with Percy.

Bob points out footprints. They are from a drakon. He says this means that they are close. Annabeth does not like being at the mercy of a Titan. She has no idea where he is taking them. Annabeth sees a hut made of bones and greenish leather in the distance. Half way to the hut stood an oak tree with a drakon skull encircling the trunk. A drakon charges toward them.

In Chapter 38, The dragon is beautiful and smells good. It is wingless, longer and more snakelike than a dragon. Bob seems unperturbed by the drakon that is assured them that they cannot kill. A giant emerges from the hut and storms toward the drakon. The giant grabs the oak tree pulling it from the ground roots and all. He shoves the tree down the monster's throat. It impales the creature to the ground. The drakon dissolves leaving only scrapes of bone, meat, hide and a new drakon skull ringing the oak tree. The giant is Damasen. He is a peaceful giant and can cure poisons.

In Chapter 39, The giant's hut is cozy. Bob places Percy on the bed. Annabeth is desperate to get a cure for Percy. She questions the giant if he is capable of helping Percy. The giant assures her that it is not even a challenge for his talents. He gives Percy some broth to sip and assures her that after a few hours of sleep he will be as good as new. His payment is a story.

Annabeth tells Damasen about her life and her adventures with Percy. She tells how Percy and Bob met and how Bob's memory was erased. She tells of their quest in the Argo II. She is worried about telling him this because Damasen's mother is Gaea and his father is Tartarus. Damasen was a disappointment to his parents. He tells her that she should be worried about his father. All that they see is the body of Tartarus and he will thwart them. Damasen can obscure their path long enough for them to rest, but they will not make it to the Doors of Death. Annabeth asks the giant to come with them to help, but he cannot. He helped mortals once and that is why he is now in the hut in Tartarus.



Giants are born to answer a certain god. Damasen was created to oppose Ares. Since Ares is the god of war, Damasen is peaceful. He tended his sheep in Maeonia and collected herbs. He would not fight the gods. His parents did not like this. One day a Maeonian drakon killed a human shepherd, a friend of Damasen's, so he hunted and killed the drakon by thrusting a tree straight through its mouth. He used the power of the earth to regrow the tree's roots planting the drakon firmly to the ground. Gaea could not forgive this. She opened the earth and was consumed. He was exiled in the belly of Tartarus, his father, where all the things he does not care for collect. They let him live tending his sheep and collecting his herbs to show him the uselessness of the live he chose. Every day the Maeonian drakon re-forms and attacks so it is Damasen's endless task to kill it.

Annabeth wants him to break his curse by going with them. Damasen knows of no other existence so will not. He does not like that Bob is going to use the Death Mist to hide Annabeth and Percy to get them to the Doors of Death. He believes that they will die, but it is the best plan. Damasen will give them supplies, but can do no more. Annabeth gets some sleep to prepare for the journey ahead.

In Chapter 40, Annabeth awakes to hear a conversation between Damasen and Bob. They are discussing the journey ahead. They say the name Night as if it is evil. Bob is adamant that he must help the demigods. Damasen asks him why. They erased his memory. Titans and giants are the foes of the children of the gods. Bob misses the sun and the stars. He wants to say hello to the stars again. Percy is startled awake by the roar of the drakon. Damasen tells them that they must go. His roar could bring the creatures hunting Percy and Annabeth. He gives them clothes, food and drink for their journey. Annabeth tries again to get Damasen to come with them. She quotes the prophecy of seven, which says that foes bear arms to the Doors of Death. He will not go saying that his curse is there and he cannot escape it. They must leave as those following them can be heard coming. Damasen gives Annabeth a sword to help her through her journey.

In Chapter 41, Piper is aboard the Argo II and it is freezing. She does not think that it is right for the Mediterranean to be so cold in July. Nico believes it is because of Diocletian's scepter that he carries. She knows something happened in Diocletian's Palace that Nico and Jason are not discussing. The scepter is supposed to control the dead. Piper does not think it is the scepter causing the ice storm. She is concerned it is something worse. Hazel and Piper are becoming closer. She is helping Hazel control the Mist by offering her experience with charmspeak. Hazel in turn is going to teach Piper how to fight. Piper sees Hazel as a new friend.

Piper can see how Leo and Jason have changed on their journey. She can also feel a change in herself. She is worried about what lies ahead. She tells Jason and Leo that she has been thinking about the Prophecy of Seven. She keeps seeing the giant Clytius, whose weakness is fire, but he keeps snuffing out flames wherever he goes. They expect Leo to beat the giant, but she does not know. She quotes the line, to storm or fire the world must fall. It is believed that Jason is storm and Leo is fire. In Greek the



word for world is Gaea so to storm or fire Gaea must fall. It could also mean that one of the boys will defeat Gaea and the other will die.

In Chapter 42, Leo does not like Piper's take on the prophecy. Jason reasons that fire and storm could mean anything and that they should not drive themselves crazy thinking about the Prophecy. Piper worries that Gaea will try to eliminate Leo and Jason so their quest will not succeed. The weather is also bothering her. She suddenly asks Leo to sound the alarm. It does not work because Festus is shut down. She tells them that she is back. The temperature drops fast freezing the sails. Jason is frozen. A funnel cloud lifts up Leo and is shot into the sky. Piper is left on her own with only her charmspeak, a fortune-telling dagger and a cornucopia that shoots ham and fresh fruit. Khione, the goddess of snow materializes.

Analysis

Annabeth and Percy find unlikely friends in Tartarus. Bob trusts Percy and wants to help him. He goes against his fate to help the demigods through Tartarus. He is a Titan and he is meant to kill demigods not help them. He also seeks out those that are more likely to help the demigods on their journey. Damasen is not a typical giant. He plays it safe and wants only to stay where things are familiar. He does not want to upset the balance of his existence, but he helps heal Percy and will not betray the demigods to their followers. Fate plays an important role in his life and he believes he has to adhere to it without deviation. Where Bob refuses to accept his fate, Damasen see no other choice.

The Prophecy of Seven is always in the demigods' minds. They are always trying to decipher what the prophecy means and how each of them plays a part. Piper is concerned that Leo and Jason's part in the prophecy could mean death for one of them. It is unknown if their interpretations are correct because none of them know what the prophecy truly means. If Piper is correct, it could mean that either Leo or Jason could be facing their death at the end of the quest. The demigods do not like this prospect, but are willing to make the sacrifice for their mission. It is their duty to try to stop Gaea and they must do what they can to accomplish this. Sacrifice is an important theme of the novel as the demigods are always ready to risk their own lives to save their friends

Discussion Question 1

Why must Damasen have to fight the drakon every day? Who are his parents?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Damasen accept his curse and not try to run from it? Why does Annabeth get so upset when he will not go with them to the Doors of Death?



Discussion Question 3

How does Piper translate part of the Prophecy of Seven? Why do Leo and Jason not like her interpretation? Is her interpretation correct? Why or Why not?

Vocabulary

Retracted, nostalgia, appalled, deliriously, accentuate, bipedal, hefted, indiscriminately, glowering, diplomacy, perused, ironic, inadvertently, primordial, manifestation, thwart, flotsam, devoid, goaded, intriguing, resilient, quizzical, copacetic.



Chapter XLIII - XLVIII

Summary

In Chapter 43, Piper must fight Khione and her brothers, Cal and Zethes on her own. Piper tries to use charmspeak against them. The brothers are susceptible, but Khione is not. They plan to take the demigods to Quebec. Khione had vowed revenge when they had defeated her in Sonoma. Boreas, their father, is now working for Gaea and has sent them for the demigods. Their powers grow as Gaea awakes. Piper has been promised to Zethes.

Piper asks about Leo and is told that he was sent to a place from which he will never return. Khione is upset that Leo had refused to rule at her side. Piper tries to devise a plan. Khione taunts her telling her that she is the daughter of a useless goddess and she has no purpose or power. The words sting because Piper is thinking the same thing. Piper hears a voice that sounds like her mother telling her that she is berated because she is feared and envied. Piper tells them that she has a secret. They demand that she reveal the secret.

In Chapter 44, Piper takes them to the figurehead. Piper knows she has a power with her charmspeak. She just has to use it to make people do things they want. She places her hands on Festus, the dragon figurehead. She tells Khione and her brothers that Festus is more than a machine that he is a living creature. She uses her charmspeak to bring Festus to life. He takes out the Boreads with one blast of fire. Piper tackles the snow goddess. Piper uses love to counteract the goddess' ice and is able to stab the goddess and she explodes in a miniature blizzard. A wind bomb is left behind and Piper has her hand around it as the winds explode.

In Chapter 45, Percy, Annabeth and Bob are stumbling through the darkness. Percy is sore from the walk, but will not let himself give up. He is worried about Annabeth. She is upset that Damasen would not come with them to help. She feels that they need his help to succeed. He tries to think of good things to keep his spirits up, but can think only of Tartarus. The deeper they travel the harder it is for him to stay focused.

They come upon a woman in a clearing. Her clothes are tattered, her limbs emaciated and her skin leathery green. Her sobs shatter all Percy's hopes. The woman cries as if mourning the death of the entire world. Bob announces that this is Akhlys and she can help them.

In Chapter 46, Percy is not sure how a sobbing ghoul can help them. Her body has the look of a victim of a famine and she is caked in dirt. Her face is utter desolation. She has sunken eyes pouring with tears, her nose is dripping and her cheeks are bleeding as if she clawed herself. She holds the shield of Hercules. Akhlys image is painted on it. Hercules painted it on the shield so that his enemies would see the goddess of misery



in their final moments. She has it because it came to her when Hercules mortal body was burned. It is a reminder that misery overtakes all.

Akhyls controls the Death Mist and Bob believes it is the only way to get to the Doors of Death. Akhyls says that it is impossible. Annabeth tells her that her Death Mist must be useless then. She attempts to antagonize the goddess to get what they want. Percy sees what she is doing and joins in. Akhyls says that the Death Mist is not for helping. It shrouds mortals in misery as their souls pass into the Underworld. It is the breath of Tartarus. Their promise to bring suffering and wailing to Tartarus with the sealing of the Doors of Death makes her agree to help. If they survive the process, they will be able to pass unnoticed among the armies of Tartarus. Bob has disappeared during their talk with Akhyls. He cannot take their path because he is not mortal. They follow Akhyls to experience the Death Mist.

In Chapter 47, Akhyls takes them to the verge of final death where Night meets the void below Tartarus. It is the edge of the earliest darkness, Akhyls mother. Chaos is her father. They are close to nothingness. Percy can feel the void taking the breath from his lungs and the oxygen from his blood. The Death Mist begins to creep around them. Annabeth and Percy look dead. It is painful for Percy to see Annabeth like this. Akhyls tells them that she could not bring them this gift if their true death was not to follow. It is a trap. They are only mist and cannot fight.

In Chapter 48, Akhyls rakes her claws across Percy's chest. Annabeth is able to fight more effectively than Percy. Percy taunts Akhyls calling her happy, delightful and cheerful. Akhyls makes a lake of poison around Percy. Percy uses his power to control water to control the poison and send it toward the goddess. He imagines her nose and throat filling with her own tears. Annabeth calls to him and he realizes that she is terrified of him. She pleads for him to stop. He does not want to stop, but to watch the goddess drown in her own poison. Annabeth's pleas make him stop. He tells Akhyls to leave. She runs away. Annabeth asks him to never do that again that some things are not meant to be controlled. They must get away from the cliff because Akhyls brought them there to feed them to the night. A form vast and shadowy emerges from the void. This is Night.

Analysis

Piper is at a loss when she must fight Khione on her own. She does not believe that her powers amount too much and she has no way of fighting the snow goddess. Each demigod in their turn must learn self-confidence and that they each have something to bring to the quest. Piper's strength is love and she uses that love to bring Festus to life to help save she and her friends. Piper finds her strength in the midst of the fight and once she knows that she can survive on her own she becomes more confidence in her abilities, but also recognizes her weaknesses.

Percy has the same experience when he and Annabeth face Akhyls. He learns that he has the power to control water in any form. His anger makes him fill Akhyls' mouth and



nose with her own tears nearly choking her to death. Annabeth is horrified by this, but Percy is so consumed he does not want to stop. He needs Annabeth to reel him back from the edge. Together, they are more formidable than apart.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Piper feel that she is the weakest demigod? How is her confidence boosted in her fight with Khione?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Akhlys agree to help Percy and Annabeth?

Discussion Question 3

How does Percy defeat Akhlys? Why does this terrify Annabeth? Why does she make him stop?

Vocabulary

Imbecile, chagrined, devising, berated, subtlety, guile, feigned, scoffed, provisions, resolve, dispersed, emaciated, desolation, rheumy, realm, desiccated, insubstantial, inevitability, inevitable, elongated, rifling, fixated, ichor, encroaching, rivulets, anguish, recede.



Chapter XLIX - LIV

Summary

In Chapter 49, Leo is clutching the Archimedes sphere when he is blown from Argo II. While in air, he is able to get duct tape from his tool belt and strap the sphere to his chest. He works furiously tinkering with the sphere and pulling objects from his tool belt to help him. He is able to make a personal helicopter. It explodes and Leo lands on a beach. He loses his sphere on the way down. His helicopter crashed into something for there is broken wooden furniture and china. He finds the Archimedes sphere steaming and charred, but intact in the center of the wreckage. While cradling the sphere, a woman yells at him for blowing up her dining table.

The woman looks like a goddess with a white Greek-style dress with a gold braided belt. She looks fifteen and very angry. She reminds him of every popular girl who made fun of him and he dislikes her instantly. The girl looks to the sky and berates the gods for making her curse worse. They have not sent her a good hero, but a charbroiled runt of a boy.

The girl takes him down by the water and tells him to tell her that he wants to leave. He has to say, I want to leave Ogygia. Leo says it, but nothing happens. A magical raft is supposed to appear to take him away. The girl is disgusted when the raft does not appear and sprints into the grove of trees and disappears. Leo follows her.

In Chapter 50, The path leads Leo to the nicest garden he has ever seen. She has an orchard and a vineyard plus beds of vegetable and herbs. At the back of the garden, is a footpath to a cave opening in the side of a grassy hill. He finds the girl digging in the vegetable garden crying. She tells him to find his own place. She is cursed to stay on the island because her father, Atlas, fought against the gods and she supported him. She was imprisoned on Ogygia. A year ago the gods vowed to forgive their enemies and offer amnesty. Percy Jackson promised her. Leo remembers hearing stories of Percy visiting this island and meeting a goddess who got a major crush on him and wanted him to stay, but eventually let him go. The goddess name is Calypso. She is angry because she did not get off the island. Leo understands why she would not want to see another demigod. She falls in love with whomever the gods send and then they leave. It is her curse. She has been on the island for three thousand years. She believes the gods are mocking her by sending Leo. This makes Leo angry. He tells her that he will leave her alone and build something himself to get off the island without her help. She tells him that if the raft did not appear than that means that Ogygia is closed and Leo is stuck there the same as she is and can never leave.

In Chapter 51, Leo walks the circumference of the island and finds nothing of interest. He worries about his friends and wonders what happened to them. Time is different on the island so he does not know how long he has been gone. Calypso takes pity on him and sends him food and a new set of clothes. Leo makes a lean-to, a campfire pit and a



bench and worktable. He works on the Archimedes sphere. On a walk one day, Leo finds metal straps that Hephaestus must have tossed from his workshop and it happened to land on Ogygia. He makes a forge and begins working on a way to get off the island. Calypso brings him food when he has not eaten for two days. She then brings him clothes. They are the same as the clothes he wore when he first arrived at Camp Half-Blood only resized to fit him. He keeps burning through the clothes she gives him so she made some that are not flammable. They will also expand to fit him.

Leo has made a device that if he can get it to work will allow him to see what is happening with his friends. Calypso tells him that it will not work because the island is hidden, cut off from the world by strong magic. He sets his shirt on fire when he attempts to use it. Calypso sings to see if musical magic will help. Her singing reminds Leo of his best memories. In the mirror, he sees Camp Half-Blood. They are preparing for battle. The scene changes and he sees Roman demigods marching toward Camp Half-Blood. Suddenly there is chaos and two small hairy shapes dressed in mismatched clothes and garish hats dart around whacking Romans on the head, stealing their weapons and cutting their belts so their pants fall around their ankles. The dwarfs from Bologna are working to slow down the Romans as he asked. He then sees Octavian with a Roman standard that shoots lightning. The scene changes to Reyna, the praetor from Camp Jupiter, flying through a storm on a Pegasus. She is being attacked by a wild gryphon and three venti. The mirror goes dark.

Gaea appears to Leo and Calypso. She is not solid. Her eyes are closed. She tells Leo that she tried to save him, but he defied her at every step. It is his fault that he is trapped. Leo's hands burst into flame as he becomes angry. Calypso tells Gaea that she is not welcome. Gaea tries to lure her to help her, but Calypso asks if she is so concerned why she has not visited her in three thousand years. Gaea tells her that Ogygia will be destroyed when she remakes the world. Calypso can join Gaea if she kills Leo. She offers her Percy Jackson as an incentive. Leo is worried that Calypso will take this deal. Calypso tells her that Ogygia is not a prison, but her home and Gaea is a trespasser. Calypso believes that Leo's friends must need him if Gaea wants him dead and she is ready to help.

In Chapter 52, Calypso keeps him busy getting ready for his journey. He asks Calypso if she would like to come with him. She declines saying that if she tried to leave his tiny chance of escape would be no chance at all. A hero can leave, but she cannot. He must escape because the world's fate is at stake. The gods are better than the Titans or the giants. The gods have kept in touch. Hephaestus has visited her often and is a good person. Leo asks her to make a little bag from the flameproof cloth. They joke with one another while they work.

Two nights later, Leo has the guidance console finished. All he needs is a boat. Leo says he will start chopping wood the next day and in a few days can have enough for a small hull. It took him months to build the Argo II, but making a boat to sail from Ogygia seems more daunting. When he had arrived, he could not wait to leave and now he is happy to have a few more days. Leo tells her that he will attempt to come back for her. Calypso says that no one finds Ogygia twice so he cannot come back. Leo says that



with Festus he can find her. As they sit quietly, a large wooden raft floats on the tide and slides to a stop on the beach.

Calypso jumps up and tells Leo to hurry. It is the magic raft and if it works like it is supposed to it will go where Leo tells it to go. He should rig up his guidance device in case the magic is unstable. They work together getting the raft rigged up. Leo questions why the raft showed up because it only shows up for guys she likes. She tells him that she still hates him and not to give her empty promises about returning. She kisses him. Calypso tells him to go and then turns away crying. A breeze catches the sail and he is taken away from the island. Leo tells himself that the kiss did not happen. He could not fall in love with an immortal girl. He tells the night wind that he will come back for Calypso.

In Chapter 53, Annabeth is scared of Nyx. She is forty feet tall with black wings and a chariot pulled by vampire horses. The horses want to eat Annabeth and Percy. Annabeth confuses Night and tells her that the brochure does not say much about her. They are on a Tartarus tour and no one mentioned that they would run into Nyx. They did not seem to think she was important. Annabeth knows that Nyx cannot be defeated by two demigods by force. She asks Nyx if any other demigods have come to see her on the tour. Nyx is upset that no one has. Annabeth says that she is not as popular as Day. Percy says that he would love to meet Day. Nyx is disgusted. Hemera is her daughter and Night is much more powerful than Day. Nyx is the mother of all terrors. The Fates, Hecate, Old Age, Pain, Sleep, Death. She is newsworthy.

In Chapter 54, The spawns of Night begin appearing. Annabeth wants to run, but if she runs she would die. Percy is on the verge of panic. Annabeth tells herself that it is just a movie so that she can stay in control. She tells Nyx that they could take a picture for the scrapbook, but they are so dark and not photogenic. Nyx says that even Zeus fears her and the demigods should tremble before her. Annabeth says that they must be going to lunch at one of the restaurants recommended before heading to the Doors of Death. Nyx tells her that the mortals can only reach the Doors of Death through the halls of her palace, the Mansion of Night. It is floating in the abyss three hundred feet below.

Annabeth knows that they will have to jump and to do that they must make it past Nyx and her children. She tells Night that they could get a picture, but a group shot will not work. Nyx should pick her favorite child to be in the picture. The goddess shifts uncomfortably. Annabeth tells her to pick the darkest, the most like her. The children begin arguing about who is the darkest. The place becomes very dark that even Nyx cannot see. They begin scuffling with one another. Annabeth squeezes Percy's hand and asks if he is ready. They jump into the darkness aiming for the doorway of the palace.

Analysis

Leo faces his challenge when he is deserted on the island of Ogygia with Calypso. He is a fixer and must find a solution to every problem, but he does not know how to combat



the magic of the island that keeps Calypso prisoner. When Gaea appears to Leo and Calypso, it becomes apparent that Leo plays an important part in the Prophecy of Seven and it is imperative that he be able to return to his friends. Leo and Calypso work together to make a boat to get him off the island.

Ultimately it is magic that takes him from the island. Calypso has fallen in love with him so the magic raft appears to take him away. Leo does not want to leave her, but must. Leo learns that not every problem has a solution. He could not help Calypso leave the island, but he is determined to find a way.

Annabeth and Percy must keep their wits around the scariest monster they have yet encountered. Annabeth is able to use her wits to trick her and get her and Percy away. Percy must trust Annabeth and jump over a cliff into darkness where they enter Nyx's palace.

Discussion Question 1

Where does Leo end up when he is blown from Argo II? How is he different from the other heroes who have come to the island?

Discussion Question 2

How does Leo get off the island? Why does the raft appear? Why does Leo vow to come back for Calypso?

Discussion Question 3

How does Annabeth defeat Nyx? Why is Nyx so terrifying?

Vocabulary

Intuitively, tranquility, pristine, lair, implement, amnesty, circumference, generic, irrelevant, insufferable, invocation, plaintive, marshal, wistful, daunting, nebula, quasars, excursion, congealed.



Chapter LV - LX

Summary

In Chapter 55, Percy and Annabeth jump and land in the doorway of Nyx's palace. They run with their eyes closed. In the distance, she hears a throbbing sound that feels her with dread. She runs toward it. Percy and Annabeth keep their eyes closed. They do not want to see any of the horrors in the Mansion of Night. As they run, Annabeth begins to hear the sound of flowing water. She begins to runner faster.

In Chapter 56, Percy pulls Annabeth back as her foot hits the edge of a drop-off. He pulls her into an embrace. Percy can sense a river, but they still do not open their eyes. It is the River Acheron. It is the River of Pain, the ultimate punishment for the souls of the damned such as murderers. The voices get into Annabeth's head telling her she is a murderer. She is shown the faces of the demigods who have lost their lives helping in their quest. They tell her to jump in and join them in the river. Percy tells her not to listen. They are telling him the same things. If they get past the river, they should not out of Night's territory. Percy tells her to put her arms around his neck and he jumps to safety.

They are at the heart of Tartarus. In the distance, they see tens of thousands of monsters gathered around a pinpoint in the distance. The pinpoint is the Doors of Death. Bob appears over a ridge. He hugs them. He came another way that is only good for Titans and monsters. They continue to the Doors of Death and hope that the Death Mist will hide them.

In Chapter 57, Jason waits for an audience with the lord of the South Wind. He never knows which god, Roman or Greek, that he will have to speak with. They have been at his palace for five days. They are on the northern coast of Africa. Jason is receiving little help for the repairs on Argo II. The demigods are trying to do the repairs themselves. They cannot repair the more complicated parts of the ship without Leo. Festus is now permanently activated due to Piper's charmspeak. Piper was able to direct the blast of the icy sphere to stop too much damage to the ship, but it pushed them halfway across the Mediterranean.

Nico appears. The hot sun does not affect his pale skin. He tells Jason that they need to leave soon. He can sense that Percy is close to the Doors of Death. He would need them to make it through alive. Nico tells Jason that he will take them to Epirus and help close the Doors of Death and then he is leaving forever. Jason is called into see Lord Auster.

In Chapter 58, Lord Auster is the Roman version of the South Wind. Jason asks for any news of Leo. There is none. The god asks Jason why he is still in his harbor. Jason explains that they do not have his permission to leave and their ship is damaged. They need Leo to fix it unless the god knows of another way. The god tells Jason that he is



like his own sons undecided. He does not need a navigator or Auster's permission. Auster says he needs to choose a direction.

Jason has been struggling with the question of where he belongs. He does not fit in with Camp Jupiter, but if he leaves Octavian could take over and ruin everything he loves about New Rome. He feels guilty even thinking about leaving. He wants to be at Camp Half-Blood with Piper and Leo. It was more satisfying to him being there. He finds his direction and tells the god that they are leaving that day. The god asks he will sail without his engineer and with a broken engine. Jason realizes that he has to take what he wants. He has to control the winds not let the winds control him. He tells the god that he is going to take his venti. They can form into horses and can pull the Argo II and lead them to Leo.

The venti run back and forth working up a frenzy. Jason chooses Greek and the horses change. The god also takes his Greek form. Jason is not afraid any longer. He lassoes the horses with a rope of wind. The god tells him to head toward Malta.

In Chapter 59, Jason has his friends go below deck. He then straddles the figurehead and commands the horses to go. He tells them to head straight to Malta. When they reach their destination, he releases the wind reins and the venti scatter into particles of sand and steam. Jason is exhausted. His arms are blistered from the heat of the wind. Piper feeds him ambrosia. He sees how she has changed since her fight with Khione. She is taking sword fighting lessons from Hazel. She is more tense and determined never to be caught off guard again.

The ship is a half mile from the island. Festus starts the engines, which do not sound good and they slowly make their way to shore. Jason is worried about the prophecy and fears that he or Leo will not come back from the voyage alive. They had to find Leo. He did not want Leo to die for his sake. He hoped they would both make it through the voyage, but Jason has to be prepared. He scans the boats in the harbor and sees a makeshift raft with a machine wired to the rudder. Jason tells Piper to get the others. Leo is here.

In Chapter 60, They find Leo at the top of the city fortifications sitting at an open-air café overlooking the sea. Leo's outfit is identical to the one he wore when he first arrived at Camp Half-Blood. Leo tells them he is fine, but Jason can tell that he is not. He will not meet their eyes. His nervous energy seemed to have drained out of him and was replaced by wistful sadness. Leo was heartsick. Jason notices that the café has a perfect view of the harbor and Leo would have seen the Argo II sail in, yet he sat drinking coffee and waited for them to find him. The ship was the most important thing in Leo's life. Jason wonders why he didn't come running to the docks.

Piper tells Leo how she woke up Festus with charmspeak. The reunion seems subdued and Jason sees how important Leo's sense of humor had been. Leo is wondering why Malta. His raft just kind of ended up there. Frank reads in the brochure that Malta is where Calypso lived. Leo pales at the mention of Calypso's name. He tells them that they should get going. They have work to do. He rebuffs their questions about where he



has been. Jason knows that something happened to him and has something to do with Calypso. He will talk to him later when they are alone.

Nico sees black lightning in the distance. He tells them that the House of Hades is open for business. They hear a rumbling sound. Hazel says that it has begun. Gaea's forces are entering the mortal world. They must make it to Epirus quickly to stop the tide of monsters.

Analysis

Annabeth and Percy know that they cannot defeat Nyx. They have only bought themselves time to get away from her domain. She is too powerful for them to fight and that is why Annabeth must use her wits to save them. She has learned when to stand and fight and when to run to fight another day.

Annabeth and Percy rely on each other's strengths to make it through each part of Tartarus. Annabeth is smart and comes up with plans to get them out of situations that they cannot fight their way out of and Percy uses his strength and power to control water to help them escape over rivers. They keep each other focused on getting to the Doors of Death for they each will not let the other give up.

Jason's challenge has to do with his alliance to the different camps. He is a Roman, but he prefers the Greek camp and their way of thinking. This makes him indecisive because he wavers between the two. He feels loyalty toward the Romans because he is Roman, but he would rather be Greek. To be able to fully control the winds, he must be in control of his own thoughts and beliefs. He makes a decision to go with the Greek side. He feels disloyal to the Roman camp and his decision could have an effect on his position as praetor of the Romans.

Discussion Question 1

How is Annabeth and Percy affected by the River Acheron? What does it make them see?

Discussion Question 2

Why has Nico decided to leave the group once he has taken them to the House of Hades? Why does he feel like an outcast? What is Jason's advice to him?

Discussion Question 3

How does Jason get the Argo II to Malta? How will his decision affect his future at Camp Jupiter?

Vocabulary

Lieu, retrospect, seethed, submission, spectral, suppressed, fickle, sirocco, mirages, legacy, despair, subdued, cue.



Chapter LXI - LXVI

Summary

In Chapter 61, Percy does not like being in the Death Mist. He worries it would cling to him forever. Bob leads them toward the edge of the army waiting by the Doors of Death. He tells them to stay quiet and stay behind him. They would not be noticed. Bob can see them because they are friends, but the others would not be able to. Percy feels like an invader here. He did not belong among these monsters. Percy sees many of the monsters that he killed in the crowd. It makes him realize that monsters would just keep coming and he would eventually become too old and weak to fight them. He would die and the monsters would last forever. It would take time for them to reform, but eventually they would. He feels hopeless. His realization that new demigods would be there to take up the fight fortifies him. There is still hope.

In Chapter 62, A Titan comes toward them. He is Bob's brother, Koios. Koios scoffs at Iapetus, Bob's, appearance. He tells Iapetus that they shall rip the demigod who took his memory to pieces. Bob agrees. Percy stands at the ready in case Bob betrays them. Koios talks about old times and how they held their father down while their brother Kronos cut him to pieces. The demigods dissolved Kronos and there are not enough pieces to put together again. Koios believes that the Titans will rule once Gaea awakens. The giants were first through the Doors to the mortal world.

Percy and Annabeth worry about their friends who will have to face the giants. Bob's other brothers are guarding the Doors of Death. Bob tells Percy that he does not want his past. Annabeth tells him that he is better now. Percy feels for Bob. He wonders if he did the right thing by him leaving him in Hades' palace. Percy says that it is Bob's choice. He should take the parts of Iapetus' past that he wants to keep and leave the rest. His future is what matters.

Bob tells them that the House of Hades is the earth and therefore Gaea's realm. She could send her minions wherever she wishes. So the monsters could be anywhere on earth. Annabeth questions if Gaea can control where they end up. Bob does not know. They top a ridge and see the Doors of Death. Hyperion and Krios flank the doors. Annabeth asks Bob if he can fight them. Bob does not answer, but tells them that they have to hurry.

In Chapter 63, The Doors of Death are the same elevator doors except for the inverted colors as the elevators in the Empire State Building, the entrance to Olympus. It makes Percy homesick. The doors are held down by chains. The two Titans stand at the anchor points. The elevator doors open and Hyperion calls the next group. A dozen Cyclopes rush forward waving tickets and shouting excitedly. Bob tells them that each time the Doors open they try to teleport to a new location. Thanatos made them this way, so only he could find them. The doors are chained so they cannot relocate. Annabeth and Percy must cut the chains.



Bob will have to distract the Titans, while they sneak around and cut the chains. Bob explains the flaw in their plan. Once they are inside, someone must stay to push the button and defend it. The UP button has to be held for twelve minutes will the journey will not finish. Bob volunteers to push the button. He has more of a chance against the monsters. Percy knows that he will have to stay behind to hold the button, while Bob fends off the army of monsters. He would make sure Annabeth got to safety.

In Chapter 64, Hyperion greets Bob. Percy and Annabeth sneak toward the chains. Hyperion jokes with Bob. Hyperion does not like having to guard the doors rather than going through them. He tells Bob to take his place. Hyperion calls Bob weak and he levels his spear at Hyperion's chest. He tells them that a janitor's work is honest work. They follow Kronos blindly and now take orders from Gaea. She favors the giants. Krios agrees. Hyperion tells them to hold their tongues because you never know when Tartarus is listening. The elevators door open and the Titans call for the next group. No one comes forward.

Bob offers to give one of the Titans a break and they begin fighting over which one should get it. Annabeth and Percy are about to strike the chains when an explosion rocks the hillside. Shrapnel rips through Krios and Hyperion. The Death Mist has left Annabeth and Percy. Tartarus appears before them. They have come too far and he cannot stand by and watch their progress any longer. They should be honored because even the Olympians were never worthy of his personal attention, but he will personally destroy Annabeth and Percy.

In Chapter 65, Frank feels that Greece is like a home coming. His ancestor had sailed east with the Argonauts and his descendants served in the eastern Roman legions. Through misadventures, the family ended up in China and then emigrating to Canada in the twentieth century. His only welcome is a flock of harpies that attack the ship. Even the dueling voices of the war gods had subsided in his head. Frank notices that Leo talks more easily with Hazel without stealing wistful, mooning glances that make Frank uncomfortable. Hazel says Leo has met someone. Frank is relieved that Leo is no longer hitting on his girlfriend, but he was worried about Leo.

Nico navigates Leo toward the temple. Frank goes to find Coach Hedge when they prepare to get the ship into position. Frank hears Hedge talking to someone. He knocks loudly and calls out telling the Coach that they are getting ready for battle and need him on deck. Frank asks him if he was sending an Iris-message. He was talking to his wife. She is pregnant. She is at Camp Half-Blood because they thought she would be safe. Now she is stuck with the Roman's about to attack. Hedge feels helpless in protecting her. Frank tells him that he is protecting her by keeping Gaea from awakening.

Leo takes Hazel and Frank to the side. He asks Frank for the piece of firewood that controls his life. If it incinerates, Frank will die. Frank has changed since his encounter with the cow monsters in Venice. He thinks less of his fate. Frank tells Hazel to give the firewood to Leo. She is reluctant, but hands it over. Leo takes out a piece of white cloth and puts the firewood in the pouch. Leo tells them the pouch is made of fabric that does not burn. He shows them using his clothes. Leo asks Frank to trust him. Leo attempts to



set the pouch on fire and it will not burn. Frank feels a sense of relief. Hazel is hurt when Frank wants to carry the firewood himself. He feels he must take up his own burden and face his fears to help his friends. He needs to step up his game.

Nico raises the Diocletian scepter and it glows with the purple light. Frank is worried about summoning legions of the dead. Jason once told him that the children of Mars had a similar ability. They could call on ghostly soldiers from the losing side of any war to serve him. Frank has no luck with that power because he is freaked out by it. He asks Nico if he has learned to use the scepter. Nico says they will find out, but he will only use it if necessary. Frank suggests that Hedge stay on the ship in case they need air support. Hedge is thankful for him looking out for him.

In Chapter 66, Nico leads the way across the ruins. He warns them that once they pass Underground they may see things that are hard to look at or hear voices trying to lead them astray. They eat barley cakes to protect them from the poison. They come to a tunnel blocked by stone. Hazel places her hand on the rock and it crumbles to dust. A golden chalice awaits them on the stairwell. They must drink the poison to pass. Nico takes the first drink and hands the chalice to Jason. It is passed around until they all have taken a drink. When it is empty it turns to smoke.

Hazel leads the way through the tunnels. Frank hears voices whispering from the side corridors beckoning him to veer off course. Hazel feels that someone is trying to make her underground sense fuzzy to hide what is up ahead. Nico can sense the Annabeth and Percy are in danger. Frank walks behind Hazel in case she needed his help. The war gods argue in his head and he can sense danger close at hand. He hears the voice of one of his ancestors. It tells him to survive, he must lead. At the break, he must take charge. Nico becomes uncertain which way to go and Frank says they should go where the Roman legionnaire ghost beckons. No one else sees the ghost. The floor begins to vibrate and he says they need to get to the exit now. They herd Hazel along to find a safe path.

They hear the roar of monsters from every direction. The army pours into the cavern. A fissure spreads across the center of the room heading straight toward Leo and Hazel. Frank tackles his friends and they skid across the cavern to the edge of the ghost's tunnel. Hazel and Leo scramble into the tunnel that is the only one free of monsters. Another shudder divides the cavern. Jason, Piper and Nico stand on the near side of the chasm surrounded by a ring of Cyclopes and hellhounds. The three will never make it to the tunnel. Frank yells for Nico to use the scepter. Ghosts of the Roman legion fill the air, but they are confused. Jason tries to order them, but to no effect. Frank tells Hazel and Leo to keep going to find the Doors and save Annabeth and Percy. The tunnel is cut off leaving Frank on one side and Leo and Hazel the other. Frank charges toward the monster army.



Analysis

Percy realizes when they are in Tartarus that as a mortal his fight against the monsters is futile. When they are killed in the mortal world, they regenerate and will once again have to be fought. He on the other hand will be gone forever once he dies. It is an unfair advantage of the monsters. It makes him feel that their quest is useless and in the end will accomplish nothing. The only hope that he can summon is the thought that there will always be demigods to fight the monsters. It is the ultimate challenge of the demigods knowing that monsters are eternal and one fight does not mean that they are gone forever. They must seize the moment of victory and not think that in a dozen or a hundred years another demigod will be fighting the same monster.

Bob does not like who he was. He does not fit in with the other monsters. He likes his purpose as a janitor. He feels more fulfilled than he did in his former life. Seeing his brothers makes him realize that he does not want to be Iapetus. He wants to be Bob. As Bob, he has control over who he can become. He does not want to be controlled by his fate.

Frank becomes more of a risk taker when Leo gives him the inflammable pouch for the firewood that controls his lifeline. He now feels that he can take control of his life. It makes him feel free for the first time in his life.

Discussion Question 1

Why does seeing all of the monsters by the Doors of Death make Percy feel useless? What gives him hope for the future?

Discussion Question 2

How does Bob feel about his previous life? How does seeing his brothers make him feel?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Frank take on the burden of carrying his firewood from Hazel? How does it make Hazel feel?

Vocabulary

Seismically, multitude, impudent, conspiratorially, horde, inverted, gilded, manifestation, resilient, emigrating, inhospitable, belligerent, melancholy, nostalgic, undulating, appreciative, originate, astray, tactical, supplications, resonated, pensive, invoked, indistinct.



Chapter LXVII - LXXII

Summary

In Chapter 67, The ghosts are milling around aimlessly as the army of monsters gets thicker. Frank fights his way to his friends. He is shot with an arrow. He cannot change shape because of the pain. The dead legionnaires part when Frank tells them to move. He questions why the Romans would listen to him if they did not listen to Jason. Then he realizes that Jason is not quite Roman anymore. The legionnaires recognized this. The friends fight together. Frank gives orders to the Romans and some listen. His rank keeps him from being able to control the army. Nico tells Jason to promote him. Jason resigns his post as praetor and gives Frank an emergency field promotion to praetor. Frank's thoughts clear and he takes control of the situation.

Frank's forces begin to take control of their side of the cavern. Frank gives orders to the other demigods and they gladly follow his orders. Frank leads the charge to gain control.

In Chapter 68, Frank is later told that during the battle he glowed red with the blessing of Mars. Javelins could not touch him. Rocks were deflected and even with the arrow in his arm, he never felt so full of energy. The dead legions follow his commands without question. An empousa rakes her claws across his chest, but he feels no pain. He is the leader of the legion and doing what he was born to do. The demigods win the battle. Frank snaps the point of the arrow and pulls it out of his arm saying that he will be fine. Piper tells him that he was amazing, terrifying, but amazing.

Frank tells the legion that they fought well and dismisses them. Once his adrenaline drains away, Frank is exhausted. They must find a way to get to Hazel and Leo. Nico tells them that something is happening to Annabeth and Percy and they must go now. Frank knows another way to get to their friends, but it will not be fun.

In Chapter 69, Annabeth stares up into the face of Tartarus and contemplates her death. Her voice will not work. She feels the army of monsters around her. Percy drops his sword. Tartarus tells them that their fear smells wonderful. Bob levels his spear at Tartarus and tells him that he has no right to meddle. Bob attacks Tartarus, but does not disintegrate like his brothers. He tells Tartarus that he does not control him. Small Bob, the kitten, turns into a saber-toothed tiger. The tiger and Bob attack Tartarus. Tartarus yells that he will add Bob's soul to his armor where he will slowly dissolve over and over in eternal agony. Bob tells Annabeth and Percy to take the Doors and that he will deal with Tartarus. Tartarus orders his monster army to destroy Annabeth and Percy.

In Chapter 70, Annabeth cuts the chains on the Doors, while Percy drives back the monsters. The Doors open. Bob and Small Bob continue to attack Tartarus. Tartarus is not used to fighting in a humanoid body so is at a disadvantage. Annabeth keeps the Doors open with her foot while she fights. She yells for Percy to join her. He tells her to



get in the elevator and he will hold the button. Annabeth refuses. She will not leave him, but does not know what to do. Bob is showing signs of fatigue and Tartarus is becoming more comfortable with his body. Percy wants to help Bob as Tartarus gets the upper hand. Annabeth knows that they are no match against the god. They are both about to move to help him, which would close the Doors and leave them trapped in Tartarus when a booming sound makes them stop. Damasen comes riding the Maeonian drakon. He tells Annabeth that he took her advice and chose a new fate.

In Chapter 71, Tartarus asks Damasen what he is doing there. He tells his father that he wanted a worthy opponent and Damasen is one of the giants he is so proud of. He wished him to be more warlike so he has come to destroy him. The drakon takes out the army that tries to stop Damasen. Percy gives Bob and his tiger cover to back away by bursting blood vessels along the ground to splatter the monsters. Bob limps to the Doors. He tells them to go and he will hold the button. Annabeth makes Percy get into the elevator. They hate leaving Bob and Damasen behind, but they must to survive. Bob tells them that they must go. They cannot defeat Tartarus just buy Annabeth and Percy time to get away. Annabeth tells him that they will remember he and Damasen as heroes and will tell their children. Bob tells them to tell the sun and stars hello for him. He tells them to hold the Doors closed on their side because their passage will be resisted.

In Chapter 72, Percy and Annabeth hold the doors closed. As the elevators ascended, they shook and tried to open. Percy is upset that they left Bob and Damasen. Annabeth has learned that the hardest test for a child of Athena is not facing combat, but making the decision to step back and let someone else take the brunt of the danger. She cannot protect everyone she loves. Percy vows to tear Gaea apart with his bare hands. Annabeth worries if they will be able to defeat Gaea. She knows that there will be more sacrifices before that happens.

Analysis

Jason's decision to throw his lot in with the Greeks affects his ability to lead the ghosts of the Roman legions. Some of the ghosts listen to Frank, but his rank is too low for him to control the army. To survive, Jason must give up his leadership and pass it to Frank. Frank takes on this new role with a vengeance. As the son of the god of war, he was born to fight and he is able to strategically take out his enemy and yet protect his friends. Jason, Piper and Nico form a new respect for him and the leadership gives him confidence.

Annabeth and Percy learn what it is like to face a god and find that they have no power to defeat him. They must rely on the strength of Bob, a Titan and Damasen, a giant to distract Tartarus so that they can escape. Seeing the intimidating god in person makes Percy doubt their ability to defeat Gaea.

Another challenge of the demigods is watching others sacrifice their lives for them. Percy and Annabeth are devastated by having to leave Bob and Damasen behind in



Tartarus while they make their way to safety. Watching others die so that they can continue their quest, is a heartbreaking experience and makes them feel guilty.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Frank have to take charge of the Roman legion? Why will they not listen to Jason?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Piper call Frank awesome, but terrifying? How is he affected after the battle is over?

Discussion Question 3

Why do Percy and Annabeth have to leave Bob and Damasen behind in Tartarus? How does this affect them?

Vocabulary

Respite, shrouded, deflected, stupor, dormant, disintegrated, depleted, eviscerate, translucent, enamored, phalanx, realm, persistent, ascended, carnage.



Chapter LXXIII - LXXVIII

Summary

In Chapter 73, Hazel cries and screams when the tunnel collapses cutting her and Leo off from their friends. She cannot move the debris because it could bring down the complex on them. Leo tells her that Frank can take care of himself. She knows he is right and that they must carry on. She apologizes to Leo if she ever led him on by thinking he was his grandfather, Sammy, her first boyfriend. Leo says that she and Frank are good together and hopes they have a chance to be happy. Hazel leads the way through the tunnels. She chooses the way that feels most dangerous.

The polecat Gale finds them and scurries up Hazel to her neck telling her she is late. Hazel can sense a powerful presence ahead. They end up in a room that reminds Hazel of the Pantheon in Rome except the walls are carved with scenes of death. Hazel's underground senses are blocked. The Doors of Death are fifty feet away from them chained to the floor. They cannot see anyone in the room, but a voice talks to them. Hazel focuses and can see the giant Clytius by the Doors. Pasiphae appears in the room. Hazel asks Leo to let her take charge. The sorceress radiates power. Gaea has allowed Pasiphae the honor of dealing with the demigods, but Clytius is insurance. Pasiphae was the wife of Minos. He was too proud to make sacrifices to Poseidon so the gods punished Pasiphae by making her fall in love with her husband's prize bull. She had given birth to the Minotaur—half man, half bull. Minos was rewarded. He was made a judge of the dead in the Underworld.

Pasiphae hates demigods and gods. Gaea has promised her any demigods who survive the war so she can watch them die slowly in her new domain. The Doors of Death makes a chiming noise and the UP button glows green. Pasiphae says the Doors are in use and will open in twelve minutes. All the giants are accounted for in the mortal world and in place for the final assault. It is someone unauthorized. Clytius will handle them. When the chime sounds again someone on this side has to push the UP button or the Doors will fail to open and whoever is gone will disappear. Clytius could also let them out and deal with them himself. They need a set of demigods to sacrifice to Gaea at the Feast of Hope in Athens. They will see which set are alive in twelve minutes.

In Chapter 74, Hazel feels confused. Hazel is in the cavern standing a few feet from Pasiphae, but the Mist enfolding Hazel makes her lose her sense of reality. Corridors and walls appear that were not there before. It is an allusion. Pasiphae is remaking the Labyrinth. The maze will spread under the earth while the mortal world is leveled. They run as a row of spikes shoot upward. Hazel believes they are in the same cavern being made to run aimlessly back and forth while Pasiphae and Clytius watched. Hazel needs to know what Pasiphae most desires. She realizes that she had to make the maze more dangerous and more spectacular to make Pasiphae focus on the traps rather than the direction the Labyrinth was leading. Hazel grabs Leo's hand and they jump into a pit that looks fifty feet deep. When they land, the pit is a three-inch crack in the floor. Hazel



begins to bend the Labyrinth where she wants it to go. She makes the maze take her to the center of the room. The tunnel closes in leaving them standing on a ledge. Hazel takes Leo's hands and they jump. She bends her will in redirecting the Labyrinth. Hazel creates a chute and they land in the cavern on top of Pasiphae.

Pasiphae gets out from under the demigods. Clytius stands with his back to them watching the Doors. Hazel estimates that they have thirty seconds before the elevator dings. Hazel has to make Pasiphae see what she most fears. She taunts Pasiphae telling her that demigods always get the best of her. She opens a trapdoor under her feet and the sorceress falls into the pit. The elevator dings, but Clytius steps back from the controls rather than pushing the UP button. Leo throws a screwdriver slamming it into the UP button. The Doors open and Percy and Annabeth spill out, limp. Clytius stops them from going to their friends. Leo attempts to fight Clytius, but falls to his knees clutching his throat. Clytius does not like fire, but Leo's flames are not strong enough to trouble him. Hecate comes to help the demigods.

In Chapter 75, Clytius is not troubled. Last time they fought Hecate had Hercules and Dionysus with her. These demigods are worthless. Hazel imagines her friends behind her and they dissolve and reappear at her feet. White Mist surrounds them. Hecate says the Hazel is just as formidable as Hercules and Dionysus. Hazel screams and gems fly toward the giant punching through his armor like buckshot. Her energy is fading, but she is determined to help her friends. Clytius tells Hazel that Hecate sends acolytes like her to do her bidding. She does not take any risks. She is faithless. Annabeth awakes and points out the chains holding the Doors. Hazel must cut the chains, but she has to get past Clytius. Hazel charges catching him by surprise and is able to go between his legs. She is able to cut the chains to one side of the door. The giant hits her slamming her into the wall. She feels bones crack. Hazel makes herself stand.

Leo tries to feed ambrosia to Percy, but Percy and Annabeth are in no shape to fight. Hazel throws her sword at the Doors shattering the chains and collapses. Frank, Jason, Nico and Piper enter the room swords drawn.

In Chapter 76, Clytius is attacked from every direction. Leo shoots fire, Frank and Piper jab at his chest and Jason flies to the air kicking him in the face. Nico uses his Stygian blade to drink in the darkness that attempts to surround them. Percy and Annabeth are on their feet, but are not needed for the fight. They are able to shatter his breastplate. Clytius falls to his knees and drops his sword. Hecate steps forward. Clytius says that his brethren have risen. Gaea waits only for the blood of Olympus. It took all of the demigods to defeat him and he is nothing compared to Gaea. Hecate burns him turning his body to ashes. Hecate tells Hazel to lead her friends out. She tells them to speed their way to Athens. The giants have all risen stronger than ever and Gaea is on the verge of waking.

The friends rejoice being together once again. Nico tells Hazel that she would make their father proud. Jason calls on Frank to get them out of the tunnels. He says that he cannot ask another favor of the dead. They made it to Leo and Hazel by having the spirits lead them through the passages of the dead. Hazel helps Nico use shadow travel



to get them out of the tunnels. They grab hands and appear on the hillside overlooking the River Acheron. The sun is just rising. Nico realizes he is holding Percy's hand and quickly lets go. They collapse on the ground from exhaustion. They exchange stories. The Argo II makes its way to the demigods. Coach Hedge is standing at the prow with him is Reyna.

In Chapter 77, They lower the Athena Parthenos statue onto the hillside. Reyna is upset because she lost her Pegasus Scipio after arriving. It had been poisoned by the claw marks of gryphons. She had to put the horse out of its misery. He had been a loyal friend. Reyna approves of Frank's promotion to praetor. Reyna said that she did what was necessary in traveling the ancient lands alone. Reyna must find a way to get the Athena Parthenos to Camp Half-Blood. Nico says that the statue is a powerful symbol and a Roman returning it to the Greeks could heal the historic rift and even heal the gods of their split personalities.

Piper has been seeing bad things in her dagger Katoptris. The Roman legion is almost within striking distance of Camp Half-Blood and they are gathering reinforcements: spirits, eagles and wolves. Reyna is angry that Octavian did not listen to her. Piper said she also saw images of a possible future where the camp is in flames with Roman and Greek demigods lying dead and Gaea is there. Percy does not see how they can defeat Gaea. She is so powerful. He tells the group that Reyna will take the statue and they will continue to Athens. They have fourteen days to make it to Athens to stop Gaea from waking. They question how Reyna is supposed to get a forty-foot statue to Camp Half-Blood before the Roman's attack the Greek camp. Frank offers to go with her, but Reyna will not let him. He is one of the seven in the prophecy. Nico says that he is not. He can transport the statue with shadow-travel. He can make short jumps of a few hundred miles each time. He will be weak so Reyna will have to defend him and the statue. Reyna says she would feel better taking a third person to help fend off monster attacks. Frank suggests Coach Hedge. He also has connections in Camp Half-Blood and keep the Greeks from attacking them.

Nico goes to rest before they depart. Hazel is worried about him. Jason assures her that Nico will be okay. Percy is worried that if Gaea needs two demigods to wake that they are playing into her hands by going to Athens. Annabeth tells him that Athens is where their battle lies. They cannot avoid it. Trying to thwart prophecies never works.

In Chapter 78, Percy finds Nico tying ropes around the pedestal of the Athena Parthenos. He thanks him for leading the others to the House of Hades. He also convinced Bob that Percy could be trusted. He saved their lives being nice to Bob. Nico says that he does not need to be thanked. Percy knows that Nico must have strength to make it through Tartarus on his own. He would not have made it through without Annabeth. Reyna, Coach Hedge and Nico disappear with the Athena Parthenos.

The Argo II sailed after nightfall. They decide to go by sea to avoid mountain spirits. They follow the routes that Greek heroes had taken in ancient times. Percy enjoys being on the water. He is still haunted by visions of Tartarus as is Annabeth. She says they must make Bob and Damasen's sacrifices worth it by defeating Gaea. Leo tinkers with



Festus' brain muttering about a crystal and an astrolabe. Piper and Hazel practice swordplay and Jason and Frank talk in low tones at the helm. Percy tells Annabeth that they have a good crew. He says hello to the stars for Bob.

Analysis

Hazel has to face her challenge in the House of Hades. She must manipulate the Mist to save Leo and herself. Hazel does not see herself as a sorceress, but she must use magic to defeat Pasiphae's Labyrinth. Hazel must embrace who she is so that she can gain full control of the Mist.

The giant Clytius is another challenge. He is a formidable foe and it takes most of the demigods fighting together to bring him down. He scoffs at them and tells them if it takes so many just to defeat him that they have no chance against his mother, Gaea. This thought echoes Percy's thoughts as he and Annabeth faced Tartarus. It makes the demigods quest seem like a lost cause.

The demigods' powers have grown during their quest to reach the House of Hades and they are more confident in their abilities. Each has faced challenges that they have had to overcome and have learned something from the experience. It remains to be seen if this will help them to defeat Gaea as they sail to Athens.

Discussion Question 1

How does Hazel defeat Pasiphae? How does she use magic?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Clytius not affected by Leo's fire? How is Clytius defeated? Who comes to help the demigods?

Discussion Question 3

Who helps Reyna take the Athena Parthenos to Camp Half-Blood? What are each of their reasons for accepting the mission?

Vocabulary

Embellished, consolidated, brash, indestructible, disdain, repellant, domain, indignities, gauntlet, flatulent, extricate, waning, reverberated, formidable, acolytes, incapacitate, obscurity, elated, dispelled, jubilation, intervened, optimal, wan.



Characters

Percy Jackson

Percy Jackson is the son of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. Percy is able to control water and has a pen that turns into a sword, Riptide. Percy is deeply affected by his time in Tartarus. He is poisoned by gorgon blood and must be carried by Bob, the Titan Iapetus, through Tartarus to get a cure. Bob takes he and Annabeth to Damasen, a giant, who helps the demigod.

In the Underworld, Percy learns that he can not only control water in rivers and lakes, but also in the human body. He uses the tears of Akhlys, the Greed goddess of misery against her by imagining her tears filling her nose and throat. This terrifies Annabeth and she pleads with him to stop. She tells him that some things should not be controlled. Percy does not want to stop, but concedes to Annabeth's wishes.

Percy is devastated when he and Annabeth must leave Bob and Damasen to fight Tartarus. He knows that there is nothing that he or Annabeth can do to help in the fight. Tartarus is a powerful god that could crush them with a thought, yet he does not want to leave their friends behind. He feels that he is deserting them. Their fight with Tartarus also makes him question how they plan to defeat Gaea. She is a powerful goddess and they are just demigods. After seeing the power of Tartarus and how they did not even compare makes their quest seem futile.

After hearing the stories of their friends and how they have become more powerful and more self-confident, Percy feels better about their quest, but still has his doubts of their success. He worries for his friend's lives. He does not want to see anyone else have to sacrifice their lives for this quest.

Annabeth Chase

Annabeth Chase is the daughter of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. Annabeth uses her wits to get her out of tight situations. She must use this gift many times to help her and Percy make it alive through Tartarus to the Doors of Death. Annabeth loves Percy and seeing how Tartarus affects him hurts her. She uses her love to help her travel through the perils and sustain her as they go against their toughest enemy.

Annabeth uses her wits to defeat Nyx, the goddess of the Night, mother to all the terrors. It is a frightening experience, but she is able to keep her wits and trick Nyx and her offspring and give her and Percy a chance to escape. Percy is awed by her ability to think on her feet and get them out of tight situations. Her ultimate change in Tartarus is learning the lesson of when not to fight, but to turn and run. Annabeth must make the decision to leave Bob and Damasen to fight Tartarus so that they can return to the mortal world. She is devastated by the decision, but it is the only way that she and Percy will survive.



Annabeth must make Percy leave their new friends to their fate. She worries that this act will affect their relationship because Percy is adamant about not leaving them behind, but she knows it is the only thing that they can do. She grieves for the loss of their friends that they sacrifice for their own chance to live. Percy does not blame her and their relationship is strengthened by their treacherous journey into the underworld.

Jason Grace

Jason Grace is the son of Jupiter, the Roman version of Zeus, the king of the gods. Jason has control of the wind. Jason is conflicted by his loyalties. He is Roman, but he prefers Camp Half-Blood to Camp Jupiter. This conflict leads him questioning his loyalties and where he belongs. His girlfriend, Piper, is Greek and he wants to be with her once they finish their quest, but he feels disloyal to his Roman camp for thinking these thoughts. Jason must make a decision of where his loyalties lie before he can take control of the full force of his powers.

Jason must make a decision if he is to control the venti and help his friends make it to Malta to rescue Leo so that he can repair their ship and continue their journey to the House of Hades. Jason ultimately chooses the Greeks and is able to use the venti to pull the Argo II to Malta. This choice makes him unable to control the ghosts of the Roman legion as praetor. They can feel that he is not quite Roman anymore. Jason must relinquish the title to Frank.

The decision to follow his heart and throw in his lot with the Greeks frees Jason from his indecision and he is able to control the wind in its wildest form. This makes him stronger and more powerful. It also makes him more secure in who he is and what he wants.

Frank Zhang

Frank Zhang is the son of Mars, the Roman version of Ares, the god of war. Frank is able to shape shift. Frank's lifeline is controlled by a stick of firewood. If the firewood burns completely, he dies. It is a burden on him. Leo takes this burden away when he brings back a pouch that is inflammable to protect the piece of wood. This allows Frank to release his worries and become the true son of Mars. Once he, Jason, Piper and Nico are separated from Leo and Hazel in the tunnels of the House of Hades, Frank takes charge. He is the only one able to control the ghosts of the Roman legions that Nico conjures with the Diocletian scepter. Jason promotes him to praetor so that he may lead the legion into battle.

During the battle, Frank glows red with the blessing of Mars. He is able to drive back the hordes of monsters that are in the tunnels and they die swiftly by his sword. Piper calls it an amazing and terrifying experience. The demigods readily take orders from Frank as the battle ensues and in no time all the enemy has been killed. After the fight, Frank is exhausted once his adrenaline is gone. His friends are amazed by his fighting expertise. Knowing they must get to Hazel and Leo to help Percy and Annabeth, Frank asks the



help of the ghosts to find them a way to them. They are able to travel the way of the dead to get to their friends in time to help defeat Clytius.

Frank is changed by his experience in the tunnels. He finds the courage to believe in himself and steps up when his friends are in danger. He does not worry about his fragile lifeline, but focuses on the battle and strategically takes out his enemy. Percy can see a change in Frank when they return to the mortal world. He seems stronger and more self-possessed. The battle leads him to believe in himself and shows that he is a leader.

Hazel Levesque

Hazel Levesque is the daughter of Pluto, the Roman version of Hades. She has an innate sense of the underground and is able to bring gems out of the soil. Hazel also is a budding sorceress. Hecate teaches her about the Mist and tells her to practice to control it because she will need it in the House of Hades.

Hazel guides the demigods through the tunnels of the House of Hades. She and Leo are cut off from the others and must journey to the Doors of Death to save Percy and Annabeth. Hazel must garner all of her strength and have the courage to believe in herself to defeat Pasiphae. She traps Hazel and Leo in a Labyrinth and Hazel must use all of her wits and conjuring of the Mist to find their way out. She also must fight Clytius to protect Leo, Percy and Annabeth. She is not strong enough and is saved by the arrival of Jason, Frank, Piper and Nico who with the help of Leo battle Clytius and win.

Hazel takes charge during the encounters in the House of Hades and is able to strengthen her powers. She becomes a powerful sorceress that can conjure what she wants from the Mist to defeat her enemies. Hazel is able to display her strengths and is shown to be a force to be reckoned with.

Leo Valdez

Leo Valdez is the son of Hephaetus, the Greek god of fire, crafts and blacksmiths. He is mechanically inclined and is able to build the Argo II and make any repairs that are needed to it. He also has control of fire. Leo is the humorous one of the group and helps alleviate the tension of serious situations with humor.

Leo flirts with Hazel even though she is with Frank. This changes when he is swept off Argo II by Khione and taken to the island of Ogygia. There he falls in love with Calypso, but he must leave her to continue his quest with his friends. Leo is heartbroken by having to leave her, but vows to come back for her even when she tells him that he will never be able to find the island once he leaves. Leo becomes more solemn after this experience and does not flirt with Hazel anymore. He shows more respect for her relationship with Frank.



It is thought that Leo is the demigod who must face Clytius because he can encompass fire and Clytius' weakness is fire, but Leo's fire is useless against him. It is not hot enough to hurt him.

Piper McLean

Piper McLean is the daughter of Aphrodite. She is able to charmspeak, which makes others do what she wants them to do. She also carries the horn of plenty, which shoots food. She can see events that are happening or will happen in her dagger, Katoptris. Piper learns that her charmspeak is more powerful than she believes when she is able to use it to wake the mechanical figurehead dragon, Festus who helps her defeat Khione and the Boreads.

Piper teaches Hazel how to be able to control the Mist by showing her how she uses charmspeak. In turn, Hazel gives her lessons on sword fighting so that she will be better prepared for a fight. Before battling Khione and the Boreads, Piper felt next to useless stacked up to the powers of the other demigods. The encounter helps her to realize her power and how to use it.

Coach Hedge

Coach Hedge is a satyr who is there to guide the demigods on their quest. He secretly married his girlfriend before the quest began and is worried about his wife as war approaches Camp Half-Blood. His wife, Mellie, is a cloud nymph and pregnant with their child. Hedge is torn between his duty to guide the demigods and his duty to protect his wife. Frank gives him suggest that Coach Hedge go with Nico and Reyna to help protect them on their journey to take the Athena Parthenos to Camp Half-Blood. This gives him the opportunity to return to his wife without feeling that he is deserting the demigods.

Nico de Angelo

Nico de Angelo is a son of Hades. He has traveled through Tartarus on his own and found a way back to the mortal world. He feels that he does not belong in the modern world because he is from a different era. He also feels that as a son of Hades he is looked down upon by the other demigods. Nico feels like an outcast so does not let anyone get close to him. He is a loner.

Nico does not want to get hurt so he keeps people at a distance. Jason tries to tell him that to make friends he has to be willing to trust someone and confide in them. He finds this difficult. He also feels different because he is gay. He likes Percy and has to admit this to Cupid in Jason's presence. Nico is mortified by this admittance and believes that Jason will tell the other demigods and they will think less of him. He is ashamed of his feelings and knows that Percy will never have feeling for him. Nico is jealous of Annabeth's relationship with Percy and leaves the quest to help Reyna so that he will not have to be around Percy because it hurts him to see him with Annabeth.



Gaea

Gaea is the Greek earth goddess. She is mother of Titans, giants, Cyclopes and other monsters. She wants to awaken so that she can reshape the earth and have a world where the monsters will rule. She is using the Doors of Death to bring the monsters from Tartarus to the mortal world to put her plans in place for her waking.

Hecate

Hecate is the goddess of magic and crossroads. She controls the Mist. Hecate teaches Hazel about the Mist and tells her that she must learn to control it in the coming battle in the House of Hades. She comes to the aid of the demigods in the House of Hades in their battle against Clytius. Once they have him defeated, she destroys him.

Clytius

Clytius is a giant who Gaea created to thwart Hecate's magic. He is able to absorb magic. He protects the Doors of Death in the House of Hades and the demigods must fight him to gain control of the doors. His weakness is fire, so it is believed that Leo must be the one to go against him, but his fire turns out to be too weak. It takes most of the demigods fighting together to defeat him. He is destroyed by Hecate after the fight.

Triptolemus

Triptolemus is the god of farming. He helped Demeter when she was searching for her daughter, Persephone and she rewarded the mortal by making him the god of farming. He helps cure Hazel when she is poisoned by the katobleps. Frank has to fix Triptolemus' chariot before he will help. Triptolemus tells them that when they arrive at Epirus they will be offered a chalice to drink from that is filled with poison. They have to drink it to make it through the House of Hades. He tells them to make cakes out of barley and eat these before stepping into the House of Hades and it will absorb the worst part of the poison. It will allow them to connect to the world of the dead without killing them.

Bob/lapetus

Bob/lapetus is a Titan. In a fight with Percy in Hades' realm lapetus fell into the River Lethe and lost his memory. Percy renames him Bob and gives him to Hades to take care of. Hades uses Bob as a janitor for Tartarus. Bob guides Percy and Annabeth through Tartarus to the Doors of Death. He believes that Percy is his friend because Nico visited him often and convinced him that Percy was his friend. Bob has memories of being lapetus, but does not like the memories. He likes being Bob. He feels that as Bob he has a purpose. Bob goes against his fate and fights Tartarus to save the Percy



and Annabeth. He sacrifices his life to hold the elevator button for twelve minutes until they are safely through the Doors of Death.

Sciron

Sciron is a robber who ambushes people and as a toll forces them to wash his feet. When they kneel down to do as he asks, he kicks them into the sea where they are eaten by a giant turtle. The demigods are able to outwit him.

Pasiphae

Pasiphae is the wife of Minos. When Minos did not give the proper sacrifices to Poseidon, the gods punished him by making Pasiphae fall in love with his prized bull. She gave birth to the Minotaur, half-man and half-bull. She hates the gods and demigods for their treatment of her. She is working for Gaea and uses her magic as a sorceress to attempt to trap Leo and Hazel in her version of the Labyrinth. Hazel is able to defeat the Labyrinth and to conjure a hole in the floor that Pasiphae falls into.

Reyna

Reyna is the praetor of Camp Jupiter, which is the training ground for Roman demigods. She receives a plea from Annabeth Chase that Reyna has to take the Athena Parthenos statue to Camp Half Blood, which is the training ground for Greek demigods. Annabeth had a dream that showed this was the only way to prevent war between the Roman and Greek camps. Annabeth is sure that Reyna is the one who needs to take the statue. Reyna travels to Greece to meet up with Jason Chase, her former co-praetor, to get the statue. She has to battle many monsters along the way, but she finally meets up with the crew of the Argo II. Reyna learns that Octavian, who had been left in charge of the Roman demigods while she was gone, was marching on Camp Half-Blood against her wishes. Nico de Angelo offers to help Reyna get the statue to Camp Half Blood by shadow travel. Coach Hedge is nominated to go with Nico and Reyna to help fend off any monsters they are sure to encounter.

Cupid

Cupid is the Roman god of love. He torments Jason Chase and Nico de Angelo when they seek him out in order to find Diocletian's scepter, which will allow them to control a ghost army. Cupid gets Nico to admit that he has always been in love with Percy Jackson. Once Nico admits it Cupid disappears and the scepter appears.



Damasen

Damasen is a giant. He is the son of Gaea and Tartarus. He was born to oppose Ares so he is peaceful for a giant. His parents banished him to Tartarus after he killed a drakon who had killed one of his human friends. Damasen's fate is to fight this drakon everyday and smash it with an oak tree which then takes root in the ground. This is how he killed it in the mortal world. Damasen heals Percy of his gorgon blood poisoning. He also comes to help when Tartarus takes humanoid form to fight the young demigods. He goes against his fate and fights his father so that his new friends can escape Tartarus and continue their quest to stop Gaea from waking.

Khione

Khione is the Greek goddess of snow. She hates the demigods and attacks the Argo II. She blasts Leo Valdez up into the air and he ends up on Calypso's island. She freezes everyone except Piper McLean. Khione and her brothers are working for Gaea and plan to make the demigods into ice statues. Piper is going to be blown away on the Argo II to the ends of the earth. Khione does not see Piper as a threat since she is the daughter of Aphrodite. Piper manages to foil Khione's plan by awakening the dragon figurehead Festus. The dragon vaporizes Khione's two brothers with fire. Piper drives her dagger into Khione's chest and kills her.

Calypso

Calypso is a goddess nymph. She is the daughter of the Titan Atlas. She helped the Titans during the war with the gods. For that she was sent to the island of Ogygia from which she can never leave. During her time there young heroes have come and gone leaving her alone. Leo Valdez is sent to the island by Khione, the Greek goddess of snow. When a hero wants to leave the island a magic raft appears to take him away. Calypso is angered that the gods have sent Leo to her island. She does not like him and tries to make the raft come for him. It will not, so Leo is stuck with her. He has to build his own boat in order to get back to his friends. In their time together Leo begins to have feelings for Calypso, and she eventually begins to enjoy having him around. She helps him with his project, though it means that he will leave her. One day a raft magically appears and Leo wants Calypso to come with him. She refuses and he promises that he will come back for her.

Auster

Auster is the Roman god of the south wind. He helps Jason discover that he has the power within him to control venti, air spirits. He lets him use four venti to pull the Argo II to Malta. Auster knows that this is where they will find their missing friend, Leo Valdez. The god also shows Jason that he has been fighting with whether he is Greek or



Roman. The fact that the demigod finally decides he is Greek is what allows him to control the venti.

Hyperion

Hyperion is one of the twelve Titans. He is the Titan lord of the east and brother to Bob/Iapetus. He is one of the two Titans that is guarding the Doors of Death when Percy, Annabeth and Bob arrive there. He recognizes Bob, but does not see Percy or Annabeth. Percy has faced Hyperion before and almost died himself in order to kill the Titan. Hyperion grumbles about having to guard the elevator and wants Bob to take his place so he can go to the mortal world. Bob gets Krios, the other guard, and Hyperion to fight over whose place he will take on guard duty. Hyperion is killed along with Krios by the god Tartarus, after the latter Titan makes a remark that angers him. The god then appears before Percy, Annabeth and Bob ready to kill them as well.

Krios

Krios is one of the twelve Titans. He is the Titan lord of the south and brother to Bob/Iapetus. He is one of the two Titans that is guarding the Doors of Death when Percy, Annabeth and Bob arrive there. He is responsible for holding the elevator button for twelve minutes to insure that those inside reach the mortal world. Bob gets Krios and Hyperion, the other guard, to fight over whose place he will take on guard duty. Krios makes the mistake of calling Tartarus a stinking pit. This makes the god angry so he kills both of them and then appears before Percy, Annabeth and Bob ready to kill them as well.

Tartarus

Tartarus is the husband of Gaea and the father of the giants. He is the spirit of the abyss and as Percy and Annabeth make their way through Tartarus they cannot help, but notice that they seem to be making their way through the body of the god himself. The god appears before Percy, Annabeth and Bob when the two Titans, Hyperion and Krios, anger him, which results in their deaths. Tartarus decides that he will deal with Percy and Annabeth himself since they had made it all the way to the Doors of Death. Bob fights Tartarus in order to help Percy and Annabeth escape. Damasen the giant arrives riding a Drakon and takes over fighting his father, Tartarus, while Bob holds the elevator button for Percy and Annabeth. As the elevator doors close, Tartarus is still fighting Damasen.



Symbols and Symbolism

Argo II

Argo II is a ship built by Leo. It can sail and fly. It is named after the ship that carried Jason and the Argonauts to find the Golden Fleece. The figurehead is a bronze dragon name Festus. The demigods use the ship on their travels. The ship is Leo's pride and joy and he does not like when bad things happen to it.

Camp Jupiter

Camp Jupiter is the training grounds for the Roman demigods. It is located in the hills of California. The demigods learn about their powers and are around people just like themselves. It gives them a place where they feel that they belong.

Camp Half-Blood

Camp Half-Blood is the training ground for the Greek demigods. It is located on Long Island, New York. The demigods learn about their powers and are around people just like themselves. It gives them a place where they feel that they belong.

Water

Water is a symbol of purification. Percy is able to control water. His father, Poseidon, is the Greek god of the sea. Percy uses water to help him beat his enemies and overcome adversities.

Fire

Fire is used by Leo to fight his enemies. His father, Hephaestus, is the Greek God of fire. It is believed he will use fire to help bring down Clytius who guards the Doors of Death. The demon does not like fire.

The Mist

The Mist is the supernatural veil that obscures the world of myth from the sight of mortals. It deceives humans and demigods into seeing monsters as harmless animals or gods as regular people.



Doors of Death

Doors of Death is the doorway to the House of Hades. There are two sides to the door. One is in Tartarus, the Underworld and one is in the mortal world. The demigods must stop the monsters from entering the mortal world through the Doors of Death. Percy and Annabeth must also find the Doors of Death in Tartarus so that they can make their escape from the Underworld.

Athena Parthenos

Athena Parthenos is a giant statue of Athena. Reyna must take the statue to Camp Half-Blood to prevent a war between Camp Half-Blood and Camp Jupiter. It is an important gesture that a Roman demigod will bring the most famous Greek statue to the Greek Camp.

Diocletian's scepter

Diocletian's scepter is able to summon the dead. Nico is able to summon the ghosts of the Roman legions to help the demigods fight the monsters in the House of Hades so that they will not make it to the mortal world. Frank leads the ghosts in the fight as a Roman praetor, commander of the army.

Labyrinth

Labyrinth is an underground maze. It was originally built by Daedalus to hold the Minotaur. Pasiphae to trap Hazel and Leo so that they cannot thwart the plans of Gaea. Hazel is able to beat the maze, but Percy does not like that the Labyrinth is back in use and can be used by the monsters to travel underground.



Settings

Italy

The demigods travel to Italy to obtain things to help them on their journey through the House of Hades. Over the mountains, they are attacked by mountain gods who try and thwart the demigods' quest. They stop in Bologna to get Triptolemus' almanac so that they can take it to him and he will tell them how to pass into the House of Hades. Once they have the almanac, they travel to Venice to give it to Triptolemus. Triptolemus does not trust the children of Hades and does not want to help the demigods. Frank must earn the respect of Mars to get a serpent to fix Triptolemus' chariot before he will help them. Venice is populated by katobleps that have taken over the city. Frank rids the city of the entire population of katobleps.

Tartarus

Tartarus is the body of the god Tartarus. Annabeth and Percy travel the length of his body to his heart to the Doors of Death. They are guided in their journey by Bob, a Titan. Tartarus is humid and hot. They must drink firewater to keep alive. Percy and Annabeth face many dangers in Tartarus. They only survive because of his indifference. Once they make it to the Doors of Death, he appears in humanoid form to keep them from escaping. Tartarus is an unpleasant experience for them and haunts them once they escape. They must leave their friends Bob and Damasen behind to perish and this sacrifice weighs heavy on their hearts.

Greece

The demigods must go to Greece to find the House of Hades. It is under a hillside in Epirus. Nico guides them to the House of Hades. Hazel is their guide through the tunnels. Frank feels like he has come home because his ancestors fought in Greece. The demigods face many dangers in the tunnels under the Greek hillside. They must fight Gaea's monster army to make it to the Doors of Death to save Percy and Annabeth. Frank and Hazel take the lead in the tunnels. Frank takes command of the ghosts of the Roman legion and leads the fight against the monster army. Hazel must fight the sorceress and giant that protect the Doors of Death.

Ogygia

Ogygia is the island where Leo lands after being blown from the Argo II by Khione. Ogygia is the home of Calypso. She was exiled to the island because she plotted against the Gods. Calypso does not like her solitude being disrupted. Her fate is to fall in love with the heroes that are sent to the island and then they leave her. Leo is not the usual type of hero that lands on the island. He knows that Calypso is out of his league



and that she wants him gone so the magic raft does not come to take him away. The only way that the raft will come is if Calypso does not want him to leave.

Croatia

Jason and Nico go to Diocletian's palace in Croatia to obtain the scepter of Diocletian. It is said to be able to summon the ghosts of the Roman legion. The demigods need it to help them in their coming battle against the monster armies of Gaea. Nico must face Cupid to obtain the scepter and in doing so must admit a secret that he has kept for a long time. Jason leaves Croatia knowing Nico a little better and is more sensitive to his feelings of being an outsider. Nico is crushed by his revelation and scared that Jason will tell the others. He still does not trust anyone.



Themes and Motifs

Good vs. Evil

One of the classic themes of this novel is good versus evil. There is the larger picture of the seven demi-gods Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase, Jason Grace, Piper McLean, Hazel Levesque, Frank Zhang and Leo Valdez fighting to keep the goddess Gaea from awakening. Gaea plans to awaken then destroy the gods of Olympus. She will rule the earth along with her monster children, the giants. The seven young demi-gods must work together in order to stop Gaea and prevent her from sacrificing two demi-gods in order to achieve her resurrection.

Gaea's evil forces, which include a motley crew of monsters, Titans and lesser gods are already wreaking havoc around the world and doing their best to prevent the demi-gods from succeeding. The young people must fight numerous battles and win against enemies who are usually stronger and deadlier than they are. The demi-gods know that they may be defeated in the end, but they have to try their best to keep evil from destroying the people and the world that they love. They will do whatever it takes to stop Gaea and her evil army.

There are also two examples where good triumphs over evil in the form of monsters that choose to be good in direct defiance of the way they were born. Damasen the giant and Bob the Titan were both born to be evil and fight against the gods of Olympus. Damasen was a child of Gaea and Tartarus, but he rejects his mother and chooses to help Percy and Annabeth. Damasen has always been a disappointment to his parents and cared more for tending sheep and collecting herbs than killing things. Bob was known as Iapetus until Percy erased his memory and then he became Bob, the less dangerous Titan. When his memory returns and Bob realizes what he had been in the past he decides for himself that he prefers being Bob and thus chooses to be good over evil.

Sacrifice

Sacrifice is a theme of the novel. Each demigod is ready to sacrifice themselves to protect their friends. Percy is willing to stay in Tartarus to push the elevator button so that Annabeth can make it to safety. He knows that he will not survive the monster attack, but he cares more about her safety than his own. Annabeth will not let him make this sacrifice because he is important to her.

Bob and Damasen sacrifice themselves to save Percy and Annabeth so that they may continue their quest to keep Gaea from waking. The two change their fates by teaming up with the demigods. Even though Titans and giants are enemies of demigods, the Titan and giant help Percy and Annabeth to escape from Tartarus. They know that



fighting Tartarus will mean their death, but they willingly sacrifice their lives for what is right.

Reyna sacrifices her Pegasus and loyal friend, Scipio, during her summons by Annabeth. Her trip is a dangerous and treacherous one. Scipio takes on too many wounds and she must put it out of his misery. She is heartbroken by this act, but it had to be done.

Fate

Fate is a theme of the novel. The demigods are journeying to stop the waking of Gaea because of the prophecy of seven. They believe it is their fate to stop Gaea from waking. This leads them to put themselves in dangerous situations and risk their lives to fulfill the prophecy. They do not think of not continuing the journey for they fear what would happen if they do not fill their intended roles. They would not be able to live with themselves if something horrible happened or someone lost their lives because they did not follow the prophecy.

Damasen does not believe that he can escape his fate. He does not know any other way to live. When Annabeth tries to get him to rail against his fate, he will not travel with the demigods to the Doors of Death. He believes his place is in his swamp in Tartarus. He knows it and is scared to leave it. Damasen ultimately bucks against his fate and fights his father to help the demigods escape Tartarus.

Bob goes against his fate as a Titan to help Percy and Annabeth. He does not like what remembers of being a Iapetus. He feels that as Bob he has a purpose that he did not have before he lost his memory. He helps the demigods because it is the right thing to do and he does not want to be trapped by his fate.

Trust

Trust is a theme of the novel. The demigods must trust one another in order to fulfill their mission. They have to rely on their friends to watch their backs and step up when the occasion calls for it. Jason trusts that Frank will be a good leader of the legion when he gives him the promotion to praetor. Frank in turn knows that his friends will listen to him and trust in his leadership during the battle in the House of Hades.

Nico finds it hard to trust anyone. He has always been on his own and cannot bring himself to trust someone enough to confide in them. Jason tells him that he will always be alone until he trusts someone and allows them to be his friend. He wants to help Nico feel that he is not an outsider. His attempts to get Nico to trust him do not go well because Nico feels different from the rest of the demigods. He feels that he must keep his secrets close. When Jason discovers one of his secrets, he fears that he will tell the others and closes himself off more. He does not trust that Jason will keep his secret. Even when he keeps the secret, Nico cannot let go of his sense of being out of place. This leads him to feel that he does not belong on the quest to defeat Gaea.



The demigods trust that Reyna will get their messages and come to Greece. She trusts their judgment and goes against her legion to travel through the forbidden lands. She knows that they would not summon her without good cause and if it can obtain peace between the two camps she is ready to face the challenge. Reyna is entrusted with the Athena Parthenos, the most famous Greek statue of all time, even though she is a Roman. They put their faith in her to deliver the statue to the Greek Camp and stop a war. They trust that she is up to this task and will fulfill it no matter what it entails.

Friendship

Friendship is a theme of the novel. The demigods are Roman and Greek yet they work together in their quest to thwart Gaea and keep her from waking. It is through this friendship that they will save the world from her rampage. The Roman and Greek demigods generally do not get along, but as the seven from the Prophecy of Seven they have had to come together and have found that each has their own skill to offer. Working together has made them trust one another and become friends. Each will do anything to help out one of the other demigods.

Friendship makes them stronger in a fight for they care about their friends and will do whatever it takes to keep them alive. It gives each the courage to find their inner strength and overcome their insecurities to believe in themselves. Frank finds the courage to lead the Roman legion because he has to protect his friends. Hazel finds the courage to believe in herself and save she and Leo from the Labyrinth. She also fights Clytius even though she has been injured to protect her friends.

Friendship leads Bob to help Percy and Annabeth through Tartarus. Nico has visited Bob and told him that Percy is his friend and by helping them they become good friends. Percy and Annabeth are devastated when Bob sacrifices himself to protect the Doors of Death so that they may escape. They found him to be a true and honorable friend even though he is a Titan. They learn that friends can come in any form.



Styles

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person. The story is told by seven different narrators so that the reader is able to know exactly what a particular character is thinking when they are facing one of the many challenges that continually occur in this novel. All seven characters are of equal importance to the quest they are on. They all have their own role to play and the reader is allowed to experience these first hand rather than only through one character's limited point of view. The reader also gains first-hand knowledge of the doubts and fears that plague each character as well as seeing them overcome what they see as their weaknesses.

The story is told through exposition and dialogue. It follows Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase as they travel through Tartarus, switching viewpoints as the two encounter each new harrowing situation. The novel also follows the larger group of characters Jason Grace, Piper McLean, Hazel Levesque, Frank Zhang and Leo Valdez as they travel aboard the Argo II. The point of view switches between these characters as each one has to face an ordeal that only they can overcome. There is a lot of dialogue between characters. The novel's focus is on the bond between the seven main characters and their interaction with one another allows the reader to get to know them and to learn to care about them as well as empathize with their struggles and celebrate their victories. The inner dialogue of the young heroes shows their strengths. It also allows the reader to know how the characters feel about one another.

Language and Meaning

The language in this novel is very modern and youthful since the main characters are all teenagers. The novel easily appeals to younger readers who will readily identify with the main characters. The young heroes use expressions and terms with which a young audience can relate and appreciate. It makes the reader feel as if they are reading about kids who could be their friends and contemporaries.

The language of the novel sets apart the world of adults and kids as well as demi-gods and gods. While the demi-gods are less formal in their speech and speak more like normal mortal teenagers, the gods and goddesses they encounter are more formal in their language. The gods speak to the young heroes as an adult would generally speak to a child. The demi-gods have been disappointed too many times by the god's behavior or the fact that they have tried to kill them that they do not speak to them with the respect a child usually owes an adult. Generally the main characters use sarcasm and wit to tease and anger any gods or other enemies that cross their path.

Humor is a large part of this novel and helps the reader to connect with the characters through their zany senses of humor. It also makes the story more of a pleasure to read



and keeps the storyline from becoming too dark and scary. The author often makes the gods as well as the heroes other enemies into less scary beings by showing them in a humorous light. The heroes often attempt to inject humor into their dealings with frightening enemies in order to make themselves brave enough to face them.

Structure

This novel is comprised of seventy-eight chapters, each ranging anywhere from three to fifteen pages. Each chapter has a name that refers to the character narrating that particular chapter. The character generally has to face some enemy or meet a certain challenge within the chapter or chapters they narrate, thus it is necessary for the reader to witness the occurrence through their point of view.

The novel has a main plot, which is that all of the characters must make their way to the Doors of Death and work together to close them. The two subplots follow the character in two different groups. Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase have to make their way through Tartarus, avoiding danger and enemies in order to make it to the Doors of Death. At the same time Hazel Levesque, Leo Valdez, Frank Zhang, Jason Chase and Piper McLean have to fly or sail the Argo II to make it to Greece in order to reach the Doors of Death through the House of Hades. At times some of these characters have adventures on their own and then reunite with the group, such as when Leo is sent to Calypso's island from where he eventually escapes and is later found by his friends in Malta.

The novel's pace is fast. The characters must face a large and seemingly endless number of enemies throughout the novel. The action keeps the reader engrossed and moves the story along quickly. It is very easy to read since all of the characters are modern teenagers who speak simply and with a great deal of humor.



Quotes

As a child of Pluto who has returned from the dead, you understand the veil between worlds better than most. You can control the Mist.

-- Hecate (IV paragraph 3)

Importance: Hazel learns that she has an important role to play when they reach the House of Hades. She needs to realize that she is more powerful and important than she believes she is. The fate of her friends and possibly the world rests on her defeating the witch in the House of Hades. She is the only one who can do it.

He is the void that consumes all magic, the cold that consumes all fire, the silence that consumes all speech.

-- Gaea (IX paragraph 2)

Importance: Leo learns that Clytius is a formidable foe and he will be waiting for the group when they get to the House of Hades. Leo's fire is useless against the giant, but the demi-gods will have to find a way to defeat him to save themselves and the world.

I am Bob, Percy's friend!

-- Bob (chapter 16 paragraph 7)

Importance: This is how Bob introduces himself to Annabeth. He is a Titan and having a Titan say that he is a friend of a demigod is a powerful statement. They are enemies. Bob has lost his memory and has become kind and gentle. The fact that he sees Percy as a friend is news to Percy. The last he saw of Bob was when he left him in the care of Hades after having erased his memory. This statement surprises and delights the demigods. A Titan friend in Tartarus is a godsend.

Your greatest test is yet to come. When you face the armies of Gaea at Epirus, your leadership—

-- Mars (chapter 20 paragraph 3)

Importance: This quote foreshadows Frank's leadership in the House of Hades. He has shown his worth to Mars and has been rewarded. His new found confidence will help him take charge when he needs to do so, and their success in the House of Hades could rely on his leadership.

I'm sorry , Bob. I should've been honest with you. Please...forgive me. Protect Annabeth.

-- Percy (chapter 31 paragraph 5)

Importance: Percy sees how he has mistreated Bob and apologizes. He wants him to protect Annabeth, but does not worry about his own life. Before he dies, he wants Bob to know that he has not treated him fairly and it was wrong of him to make him think that



they were friends. He does not like that he lied to him and does not want Annabeth to suffer for his lies.

I had a crush on Percy," Nico spat. "That's the truth. That's the big secret."
-- Nico (chapter 36 paragraph 3)

Importance: Nico feels like an outsider to the group of demigods because of being from another time. His crush on Percy gives him another difference and one he believes that they will ridicule. He is from a time when homosexuality was not accepted so he expects them to hate him. He feels ashamed of his feelings. Cupid wants him to admit his feelings so that he will not be hampered by them. Nico, however, cannot let go of his hatred for himself.

Figure out a way to break the cycle! Find another fate.
-- Annabeth (XL paragraph 4)

Importance: Fate is important to the characters in the novel. They all believe in fate and that they cannot escape what has been foretold. Annabeth wants Damasen to rail against his fate. She feels that fate is not something to just accept, but to change. Damasen believes that fate is fate and cannot be changed. He knows no other way of life so does not believe that he can change his life. Annabeth gives him the courage to think of a different outcome to his life.

But the whole quest started with us finding Hera and waking that giant king, Porphyron. I have a feeling the war will end with us too. For better or worse.
-- Piper (XLII paragraph 2)

Importance: Leo, Jason and Piper began the quest together. Piper feels that their part in the quest is an important one. She believes that Jason or Leo will be the one to save the world, but is unsure which one. It may also mean the death of one of them for the other to succeed. This revelation is disheartening to the three friends, but they must be ready to face anything and this includes their deaths.

You do choose how to live your life. You want to trust somebody? Maybe take a risk that I'm really your friend and I'll accept you. It's better than hiding.
-- Jason (LVII paragraph 9)

Importance: Jason wants Nico to see that he has friends that he just needs to learn to trust them. The demigods are there for him and will help him if Nico will let them. Nico has been on his own so long it is hard for him to trust anyone, but himself. He is used to being a loner. Jason wants Nico to feel a part of the team and that means knowing that everyone else has your back.

I have a feeling I'm going to need to step up when we're in the House of Hades. I need to carry my own burden.
-- Frank (LXV paragraph 13)



Importance: Frank wants to take responsibility for his life and to become the leader he needs to be. To do this, he must carry the firewood that controls his life line. If the piece of wood is consumed, Frank's life will end. He knows that to become a leader he must be ready to face his death. He cannot ask anyone to protect it for him. This act shows that Frank is ready to take his place as a prominent demigod who is destined to help save the world.

I figure the universe is basically like a machine. I don't know who made it, if it was the Fates, or the gods or capital-G God, or whatever. But it chugs along the way it's supposed to most of the time.

-- Leo (LXXIII paragraph 13)

Importance: This quote shows how Leo thinks. He is practical and sees things in a mechanical way. He is a fixer and likes to think of the universe as something that can be fixed. He does not understand all of the workings of the world, but he likes to believe that it works as it should and if something goes wrong it can be fixed. At the moment, the universe is experiencing a moment when it needs some adjustment and the demigods have to figure out what their role is in making it right.

It does not end. My brethren have risen. Gaea waits only for the blood of Olympus. It took all of you together to defeat me. What will you do when the Earth Mother opens her eyes?

-- Clytius (LXXVI paragraph 5)

Importance: The demigods struggled to keep all of Tartarus from coming to the mortal world. It took them all together to defeat Clytius and he is not anywhere as powerful as Gaea. Clytius does not believe they have the power to defeat the Earth Mother. It gives the demigods a glimpse of how difficult the approaching battle will be.