

The Last Olympian Study Guide

The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan

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Plot Summary

Rick Riordan's *The Last Olympian* is the last in a five book series describing the adventures of Percy Jackson, the young half human son of Poseidon. Percy Jackson must lead the other half-blood children of the gods to defend Olympus, which is now at the six hundredth floor of the Empire State Building in Manhattan from the Titan Kronos.

Kronos, who has reincarnated in the body of Percy's old friend, Luke, has sworn an oath of vengeance to destroy Olympus, brick by brick. He has been massing an army of monsters, demigod children, demons, and a few other Titans for a year. If he is successful, the age of the gods will end and a new age of chaos will begin. To distract the gods from their seats of power in Olympus, Kronos simultaneously launches an attack against Poseidon's undersea fortress and unleashes the most fearsome of all monsters, Typhon. Typhon he sends on a mission of destruction from his prison under Mount St. Helens to New York. Typhon is to destroy the gods and Olympus if he is able, but he is just a distraction. Poseidon is embattled in his fortress and will not join the fight. Hades is sulking in the underworld, nurturing a grudge against Zeus for killing the mortal mother of his children. The remaining Olympian gods leave New York to do battle with Typhon, leaving Olympus virtually undefended. The gods believe Typhon to be the main threat, that Kronos would not dare march on Olympus himself. However, Percy has seen in a prophetic dream that Kronos will indeed invade New York, and that only he and his half-blood peers from Camp Half-Blood are left to defend against the invasion. If that isn't enough for the young demigod to worry about, he also has a prophecy telling of a single choice he must make on his sixteenth birthday, which is only a few days away, that will either destroy or save Olympus. On top of that, regardless of his choice, "The hero's soul, cursed blade shall reap."

In order to stand against an overwhelming army and to fight Kronos, Percy accepts the offer of his friend Nico, son of Hades, and bathes in the river Styx. After emerging from the river, his body immortal except for one small point at the small of his back, Percy leads the charge in defense of Manhattan. After a series of brutal battles against overwhelming odds, after slaying several mythical monsters, Percy, Annabeth, and Grover catch up to Kronos in the throne room of the main palace at Olympus.

After fighting Kronos for a while, Annabeth is injured and Percy is disarmed. Kronos, noticing the way Percy is effected by her injury, maneuvers between the two demigods, and threatens to kill her should Percy continue. At this point, Percy gets Annabeth's knife and Luke regains a small bit of control over his body. He begs Percy give him the knife so that he can kill himself. He knows that if Percy tries to kill him, Kronos will be able to stop him. Percy realizes that this is the decision of the prophesy. Can he trust the humanity of his former friend? Percy gives the knife to Luke, who then unbuckles his armor, and stabs himself just below his arm, in the only remaining mortal part of his body. Luke dies, and Kronos, who was not yet strong enough to manifest in his true form, is once again defeated.



Just as Kronos is defeated, the gods march into the palace at Olympus ready to do battle, only to find that the kids have already taken care of it. They set about repairing the damage to their thrones, then the council of the gods meets to discuss aftermath of the war. As reward for their service in the war, Grover is made a Lord of the Wild Council. Annabeth, whose dream is to be an architect, is given the job of redesigning Olympus however she sees fit. Percy, who led the defenders of Olympus and ultimately saved the gods, is granted one wish. The gods offer him immortality and a place as one of them for eternity. He turns this down in order to stay mortal and live his life with Annabeth. Instead of becoming a god, Percy makes the gods swear on the Styx that they will do a better job of claiming their children and getting them to Camp Half-blood, as well as recognizing every god including the minor ones at Olympus.



Chapters 1 and 2

Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

This book begins at the end of a year long war. The Titans have returned from their prison in Tartarus and are waging war on the Olympian gods in Modern day New York City. The magical world is hidden from most mortals by the Mist, but some mortals are able to see through it. Percy and his allies must stop the Titans from destroying Olympus, which is now located at the magical six hundredth floor of the Empire State Building, all the while keeping the battle a secret from the mortal world. The Last Olympian begins in the days before the final battle.

Chapter one opens with Percy Jackson, the half human son of Poseidon, and his human friend Rachel driving through New York to get to the ocean. Rachel has invited him to join her and her family on a vacation to the Caribbean. She wants to talk to him about something, but she refuses to tell him what. Percy would like to go, but he knows that something really big is going to happen. They are interrupted when his friend Charles Beckendorf lands his pegasus on the hood of the car and informs him that it is time to go.

Percy and Charles fly to the cruise ship Princess Andromeda, which is the floating headquarters of the army of Kronos. The plan is to rig the engine room with Greek Fire explosives, escape the ship, then detonate it from about a quarter mile away, destroying Kronos and his invading army. Unfortunately, the plan goes horribly wrong. While setting up the explosives, Percy hears many monsters heading for the engine room. Percy leaves to create a distraction to give Charles time to finish the job. He fights several monsters and a young demigod on his way out, all the while running as far away from the engine room as possible to draw them away. On his way to the emergency rendezvous point, he is intercepted by Kronos himself, who has inhabited the body of one of Percy's fellow demigods, Luke. Kronos tells Percy that he is late, and that he has been expected for some time now. Percy realizes that the whole thing was a trap, and that Kronos has been informed of their every move by his spy at Camp Half-Blood. Percy tries to buy time for Charles to finish the job, but then a giant arrives with the captured Charles, and Percy begins to lose hope. Charles signals to his watch, which is the detonator, letting Percy know that the explosives are ready to go. He mouths for Percy to go and reaches for his watch. Percy jumps overboard and is carried away by the sea as the ship, and everyone on it is destroyed.

Chapter two opens with Percy experiencing a prophetic dream. He and his friend Nico di Angelo, son of Hades, are eavesdropping on two Titan Lords discussing the battle. They admit the the cruise ship was quite an explosion, but that it was no big deal. They discuss future surprizes to come for the gods, and that soon they should be able to destroy Olympus. Nico asks Percy if he really believes he can defeat the Titans without Nico's plan. While Nico's plan is not discussed here, Percy does know what the plan is, and has been avoiding it for over a year.



Percy wakes up in his father's undersea palace. His brother, the cyclops Tyson, confirms that he is ok and that the ship "went ka-boom." Poseidon is busy defending his palace against Oceanus, the Titan of the sea. He has taken on an aged appearance that makes him hard for Percy to recognize. The battle is not going well for Poseidon, but he assures Percy that he will hold out. Percy tells Poseidon about the mishap on the cruise ship as well as his dream, and Poseidon tells him that he must return to Camp Half-Blood. Percy argues at first, but Poseidon eventually convinces him to go.

Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

Throughout the story, Percy acts as narrator, telling the reader what is happening from Percy's perspective. Chapter one opens with the protagonist, Percy Jackson, driving to the ocean with his friend Rachel. Percy is not supposed to be driving, as he is not yet sixteen, but his step dad, Paul, let him borrow the Prius to drive along the beach. Percy describes the ocean as smooth as glass, as if his father had commanded it to be so just for Percy. Percy's father, by the way, is Poseidon. This how we are given knowledge of Percy's past throughout the story, in little moments of exposition like this, when Percy narrates to the reader his inner thoughts as well as what happens around him. The author uses this story of Percy borrowing his step dad's car and taking Rachel for a ride along the beach so they can talk to introduce the reader to Percy and Rachel, and to the fact that Percy is a demigod and Rachel is a mortal who can somehow see the magical world that the other mortals can not.

Rachel hints at something important that she wants to talk to Percy about, but before they can get too deep into the conversation, Percy's friend Charles lands a pegasus on the hood of the car, providing a bit of a distraction. It is time to go. The plan is for Percy and Charles to plant Greek Fire bombs in the engine room of the ship. The plan is apparently doomed to fail. Kronos has known for weeks that Percy would be on his way to blow up the ship, and has set a trap to capture Percy and Charles. Kronos tells Percy that there is a spy in Camp Half-Blood, and is about to kill Percy when Charles manages to detonate the explosives. Charles sacrifices himself to complete the mission and save Percy.

In chapter two, Percy has the first of many prophetic dreams. In his dream, Percy finds out that his mission on the cruise ship, the one that cost Charles his life, was little more than a minor set back for the Titans. Nico has a mysterious plan that Percy seems terrified of and Nico once again pitches the plan to Percy during the dream.

Poseidon has taken on an aged, haggard look that reflects the wearied state of his realm. Percy wants to help him fight and defend his palace, but Poseidon knows that Percy is needed elsewhere, and sends him back to Camp Half-Blood.



Chapters 3, 4, and 5

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 Summary

In chapter three, Percy returns to Camp Half-Blood with bad news. He is greeted at the shore by several his friends, including Charles Beckendorf's girlfriend Selina. He delivers the news about the cruise ship explosion and Charles's death. Most of the demigods leave at that point, as no one wants to hear the bad news. Chiron and Annabeth hang around for the detailed report, but Percy asks about the prophesy. Chiron leads Annabeth and Percy to the Big House where the Oracle resides in the attic.

When Annabeth, Chiron, and Percy arrive at the war council, the cabins of Ares and Apollo are arguing over some loot captured during a battle. Apollo cabin seems to have the greatest claim on the loot. Clarisse, the leader of Ares cabin, declares that Ares cabin will sit out the war until she gets the loot and an apology.

Percy reads the Great Prophecy to the war council. "A half-blood of the eldest gods shall reach sixteen against all odds and see the world in endless sleep, The hero's soul cursed blade shall reap. A single choice shall end his days, Olympus to preserve or raze." The prophesy does not bode well for Percy. He has known that there was a prophesy about him making a choice when he turns sixteen, but he did not know the full prophesy. Now it would appear that regardless of his choice, he will die. Percy tells them about what happened on the cruise ship, about the unknown spy in the camp, and about his dream and the state of the war between Oceanus and Poseidon. He leaves out the part about Nico's plan, as he promised Nico to keep it a secret.

To make things even worse, Typhon, most dreaded of all monsters, has been released from his prison under Mount St. Helens. He is heading toward New York and Olympus, wrecking havoc on the nation on his way. The gods are trying to stop him, but so far are not even slowing him down. Chiron tells Percy that Typhon will likely reach Olympus in no more than five days, which is also when Percy will turn sixteen and be faced with a choice that will either save or destroy Olympus, and likely kill him either way. The chapter closes with Chiron dismissing the war council. Everyone has quite a burden to think about.

Chapter four opens with a dream about Rachel. She is throwing darts at a portrait of Percy and is upset at him for being a demigod and bearing the responsibility of the quests. She argues with her father about going to finishing school, and then unveils paintings of a much younger Luke and of the Empire State Building being attacked by Titans. She hopes that the dreams are just dreams.

This morning Percy has the duty of going over the reports and Annabeth has cabin inspection. They decide that since they both hate the jobs pretty much equally, that they should do them together. After inspecting the cabins and going over the reports,



Annabeth tries to drop some hints on Percy about her feelings for him. He tells her about his dream of Rachel and asks what she thinks it means. She gets angry at him and calls him a coward. She makes it sound as if he is acting cowardly about the war, but he wonders if she might mean something else entirely.

After returning from inspection and turning in the reports, Percy and Annabeth join their fellow campers at the burning of Charles Beckendorf's funeral shroud. Percy asks Clarisse to give up her grudge against the Apollo cabin and fight with them. They argue about it until he calls her a big baby and she storms off.

In chapter five, Percy decides to spend some time with his friend and pet, Mrs. O'Leary, the truck sized hellhound. They play fetch with a shield for a while, then she runs off into the woods. When Percy catches up to her, he finds her in a clearing where the Wild Lords of the Cloven Council meet.

Leneus the Wild Lord is arguing with Juniper the tree nymph. Nico di Angelo is also there, and volunteers to take Mrs. O'leary for a walk in the woods so the other three can talk. Juniper is begging Leneus for news of her boyfriend Grover. Leneus refuses to help her, as he sees Grover as a traitor and an outcast. Percy orders Leneus to find Grover, but Leneus flees into the forest.

Nico and Percy and Mrs. O'Leary take a walk and discuss Nico's plan. Nico tells Percy that there is no way the Camp Half-Blood demigods can stand against the Titan army alone, and that Percy must go through with his plan in order to save them. Percy complains that it is dangerous, perhaps even deadly. He has had nightmares about this plan for over a year. Finally, Percy gives in, and accepts Nico's plan to become invincible. At this point, the plan is still not disclosed to the reader. Nico has Mrs. O'Leary shadow travel Percy to Luke's mom's house so they can retrace Luke's steps to make sure they do it right.

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 Analysis

Percy returns to Camp Half-Blood knowing that his friend died for nothing and that there is a spy in the camp. He is greeted at the shore by his fellow campers, who quickly realize that something is wrong. Selina is devastated when she discovers that her boyfriend is dead.

Two of the camp cabins are arguing over a chariot captured in battle. The argument is heated, and actual curses have been cast. The leader of the Ares cabin declares that they will not participate in the war. The war will decide the fate of the world and humanity. These campers have fought and defeated demons, monsters, and other demigods. They all have seen combat, but they are still teens and children, and still react to many things in very immature ways.

The Great Prophecy tells of a time when Percy will make a decision that will determine the outcome of the war. He can either save Olympus, or help destroy it. On top of that, it seems that he will die, regardless of which path he chooses. Chiron has kept the full



extent of this prophesy a secret to keep Percy from feeling pressured about it. Percy now feels the pressure.

Typhon is on his way to New York, leaving a trail of death and destruction in his wake. Most of the gods are fighting him, attempting to at least slow him down, but their efforts seem useless. The meeting ends with the campers feeling worried and down. They all have quite a bit of bad news to digest, and Percy is now worrying about his birthday coming up.

Rachel is upset with Percy. She is both angry at him and afraid for him for the dangerous quests that he must undertake. Her father wants her to attend a finishing school, but she does not want to go.

Annabeth hints at her feelings for Percy. She really likes him, and is upset when he mentions Rachel. When Annabeth calls Percy a coward, she is really lashing out at him for not recognizing her feelings for him.

Grover is considered a traitor because he recognized Pan's death. The other wild lords refuse to accept that the god is dead, and Grover is cast out from their society. Juniper, Grover's girlfriend, is worried about him. Percy knows that Pan is dead, and that the wild lords are in denial, and are treating Grover unfairly.

Percy finally gives in to Nico's plan, which involves bathing in the River Styx to become invincible. In order to do this, they must first retrace Luke's steps and meet his mother.



Chapters 6, 7, and 8

Chapters 6, 7, and 8 Summary

In chapter six, Percy gets to experience his first shadow travel. He loves it. Nico meets Percy at May Castellan's house, and they go to see Luke's mom. May Castellan appears in the doorway and immediately hugs Nico and calls him Luke. Percy is wondering at this, as Nico looks nothing like Luke, but then she apparently forgets all about Nico and hugs Percy, also calling him Luke. May's house is a disarray of Tupperware containers full of old moldy peanut butter sandwiches, mounds of burned cookies, and a sink full of old Kool-Aid containers. Her walls are covered in pictures and cutouts of Hermes. She is clearly insane, and believes that each of the boys in her living room is her son Luke returned to her. They manage to get the story of the last time she saw her son. He appeared not long before he became Kronos to ask for her blessing to bathe in the River Styx. Shortly after giving up that information, her eyes glow green and her voice deepens and she yells that her son is in danger, and begs Hermes to protect him. Nico and Percy, both thoroughly freaked out, leave as quickly as they can.

When they get back to the hill where Mr. O'Leary was napping, they find a young girl tending a fire. Percy at first thinks that she must be a monster in disguise, but Nico greets her and addresses her as Lady. Percy finally recognizes her as Hestia, the goddess of the hearth, when she summons a meal of epic proportions in front of the boys. They tell her of their visit to May Castellan, and ask her what is wrong with the woman. Hestia explains that she can see through the Mist, but that she went too far. She would not elaborate on exactly what happened, but asked if Percy is going to continue on his quest to bathe in the River Styx. They assure her that there is no other way for Percy to defeat Kronos, especially since he is inhabiting the body of Luke, who has also bathed in the Styx for invincibility. She tells Percy that sometimes the hardest power to master is the power of yielding. She tells them the story of Dionysus becoming a god. When he became a god, she gave up her throne on Olympus for him to keep the peace. Now she is a minor god and is fading into obscurity, but she knows that she did the right thing for the greater good. She sends Percy and Nico and Mrs. O'Leary to Percy's house.

When they arrive at Percy's mom's house, Percy's mom and step dad are awakened and surprised to find a hellhound taking up the entire living room. Sitting around the kitchen table, the four discuss what is happening. Nico and Percy explain what Percy must do to defeat Kronos, and asks for his mother's blessing before bathing in the Styx. Such a thing has only been successfully attempted twice before, and both times the mother had to give her blessing. Percy's mom does not want to give her son blessing to go get himself killed, but his step dad, Paul, helps to convince her that it must be done for the sake of everyone. Percy's mom makes him promise to give her some kind of signal when it is over to let her know that he is alright.



In the beginning of chapter seven, Nico, Percy, and Mrs. O'Leary are standing in front of a pile of boulders, which Nico says is a secondary path to the underworld. Percy finally succeeds in summoning Grover. Grover has been asleep in a tree for about two months. He met up with Morpheus, the god of sleep, walking through New York scouting out the area. He put Grover to sleep and mentioned saving his strength for the main event. Percy and Nico explain the plan to Grover, and get him to play his pipes to open the gate. The gate opens and Percy and Nico and Mr. O'Leary head down the stairs into the underworld, while Grover heads off to find Juniper.

Once in the underworld, Nico tells Percy that they must enter the gates to get something. On the other side of the gates, the furies show up and grab Percy and Nico and take them to Hades's palace. Nico has made a deal with his father. His father will tell him more about his family if he will bring Percy here to talk to him before going to the river. Hades does tell Nico a very little bit about his family, but does not disclose much. He tells both the boys that he will not help Olympus, and that he doesn't care what happens up there. He will sit out the war in the underworld, waiting for Kronos to attack him there. Kronos would be weakened in the underworld, and Nico should have time to train and turn sixteen so that he can be the child of the prophecy. He sends an indignant and betrayed Nico away, and informs Percy that he will also be sitting out the war in the underworld. He sends Percy to a dungeon and promises to check on him in fifty or sixty years.

Chapter eight opens Percy stuck in a magical cell with no doors, no windows, and no vents. He is worried that the room is airtight, since the dead do not have to breathe, and he decides that he probably has fifty or sixty minutes, not years. He falls asleep and has yet another demigod dream. Percy is sitting on the porch at Rachel's vacation house in St. Thomas. Her parents are reading while a private chef makes them omelets. Rachel is looking out at the sea, deep in thought. The scene shifts, and Percy finds himself in St. Louis, under the arch. Typhon is raining down destruction on the city, and has just destroyed a skyscraper. A reporter describes it as structural failure, and that they are unsure whether it was connected to the freak storm. Of course, the normal mortals cannot see Typhon through the Mist, and he appears to be a giant, violent storm system. The gods swirl around him trying to destroy him, but they seem to do little damage. Percy wakes to the sound of his name.

Before he can stop himself, he finds that he has pinned Nico to a wall in the cell, his hands wrapped around Nico's throat. He is angry at Nico for betraying him to Hades, and asks why he should trust him. Nico tells him that he didn't know that Hades would do that. He really thought that Hades only wanted to talk to him. He was tricked too. Besides, Percy has no choice but to trust Nico if he wants to get out of the cell. Percy and Nico flee the dungeon and head for the River Styx, with Nico putting all of the dead guards to sleep. An alarm is sounded, and Percy and Nico must run. Just at that moment, Mrs. O'Leary shows up, and they ride her to the Styx, outrunning the guards with no trouble.

Once they are at the River Styx, Nico explains to Percy that he must prepare himself for the plunge into the river. Percy is confronted by the ghost of Achilles, the first mortal



hero to bath in the River Styx for invincibility. Achilles warns Percy that if he bathes in the river he will become the greatest warrior alive. No mortal would be able to stand against him. He warns him that while his prowess on the field of battle will grow, so will his weaknesses, and that he should abandon his quest. He tells Percy that it is not so much his small mortal physical weakness that he must worry about, but the true weaknesses in his own personality. Percy refuses to give up his quest, so Achilles explains to him how to focus on his mortal core, lest the river tear him apart and he cease to exist.

Percy steps into the river, and is immediately engulfed in the current. The current pulls him away, and he begins to feel himself dissolve. He forgets who he is and all is nearly lost. Percy hears Annabeth's voice, and sees her reaching for him. He remembers who he is, and reaches for her hand. He bursts out of the river, his skin a burned red color. Before he has a chance to decide whether he is alright or not, Hades arrives with an army of the dead.

Percy launches himself at the army and quickly destroys it. It seems that none of the spear men, and none of the rifle men can hit him. He soon lands in the chariot of Hades, and pins him to the ground. Hades escapes, and Percy realizes that his clothes are torn and burned from the spears and musket fire, but that he is unharmed. It would appear that the bath was a success. Percy tells Nico that he owes Percy for betraying him, and that his father owes him for letting him go. He orders Nico to remain in the underworld and try to convince Hades to join the fight. Percy and Mrs. O'Leary prepare for battle.

Chapters 6, 7, and 8 Analysis

All shadows are part of the same darkness, and some people and creatures of the underworld can travel through the underworld from shadow to shadow, almost instantly. This takes a lot of energy from the traveler, but to Percy, shadow travel is exhilarating.

May Castellan is insane. When she tried and failed to bond with the spirit of the Oracle, it left her mind broken. This, added to the fact that she was the lover of a god and that her son has run away, has left her an emotional wreck. She thinks that anyone who shows up is her long lost son, Luke.

When Dionysus became a god, the council was in an uproar. In order to save the gods from civil war, Hestia gave up her throne to Dionysus. She tells Percy and Nico this story to teach them that sometimes the greatest power, and hardest power to master, is the power of relenting.

Once Percy and Nico arrive in the underworld, Nico tricks Percy. He does not mean any harm, but his betrayal causes Percy to be locked in a dungeon to sit out the war. Hades tricked Nico as well. He told his son that if he brought Percy to him, he would tell him about his mother. Instead, Hades only tells Nico a little about his family, and Percy is trapped.



The monster Typhon is destroying most of St. Louis, but the humans can not see this. Thanks to the mist, everyone thinks that Typhon is a violent storm. Nico tries to apologize to Percy, but Percy is not interested in his apology. Nico has betrayed him. Percy only agrees to trust Nico because he has no other choice.

Once at the river, Achilles tries to warn Percy away from his quest. Achilles became invincible when his mother dipped him in the river Styx as a baby. Achilles was a great warrior, but eventually fell to an arrow in the heel. While the heel was his mortal point, where his mother held him, his true weakness was his own arrogance.

While in the river, Percy loses focus on his mortality and is almost destroyed. It is the image of Annabeth that pulls him back to himself. After battling the army of the dead, Percy orders Nico to remain in the underworld and try to convince his father to join the other gods in the fight.



Chapters 9 and 10

Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

Percy emerges from the underworld and contacts Annabeth. All of the remaining campers meet them at the Empire State Building, and they head up to seek audience with Zeus. Hestia shows Luke a vision, and then before she can answer any of his other questions, Hermes arrives. Hermes tells Luke that Athena has already informed them that Typhon is merely a distraction and that a trap will be sprung on Olympus. He was sent back to meet the demigods. Hermes is angry with Annabeth for not saving Luke when she had the chance, but Percy deflects his anger a little when he blames Hermes for abandoning Luke and his mother. Hermes is tempted to strike Percy down, but cannot because he bears the curse of Achilles. He tells Percy that he is in the hands of the Fates now, and then he leaves to rejoin the battle against Typhon.

After Hermes leaves, another demigod shows up and leads Percy and Annabeth to a ledge overlooking Manhattan. There is no sound from the city below. At first, they think that everyone is dead, but then Percy realizes that Morpheus has put the entire island of Manhattan to sleep, and that the battle was about to begin.

As chapter 10 opens, Percy and his demigod allies go down into the city to prepare for battle. He sends Mrs. O'Leary in search of Grover, and sends groups of campers to every entrance into the city.

Percy and Annabeth leave the other campers to their duties, and go off to activate the automatons. Percy dives into the bay where the two rivers merge, and begins insulting the river gods to get their attention. The gods arrive and discuss killing Percy, but he bribes them with a sand dollar to sink all of Kronos's forces on the rivers, and keep any more from getting in that way.

Percy comes up from the rivers to find Annabeth on her phone. One of the campers is calling in for reinforcements. The invading army is too strong in that area, and is being led by the Minotaur.

Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

Hermes is angry with Annabeth, but Percy deflects his anger back onto himself by accusing Hermes of abandoning his wife and child. Hermes knows that he had no other choice but to allow the prophesy to take its course, and to let Luke find his own path, but he still feels guilty about it.

As preparations for battle are made, it is clear that Percy is the undisputed leader of the defenders of Olympus. He orders the campers to split up and reinforce the various bridges into the city, then heads out to activate the automatons and to recruit the river gods in his quest. The river gods would like nothing more than to kill Percy for insulting

them, but cannot as Percy has bathed in the Styx. The accept his offer of the sand dollar to cleanse them, and the demigods have two new powerful allies.



Chapters 11 and 12

Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

Percy and Annabeth ride their pegasi to meet the defenders and fight the Minotaur. Percy kills a few monsters, then engages the Minotaur in single combat. Percy makes short work of the Minotaur, then chases the remaining monsters back across the bridge. On the other side of the bridge waits reinforcements, including Lord Kronos himself.

Kronos attacks Percy, confident that he will have no trouble with him. Very quickly Kronos learns that Percy bathed in the Styx. They fight for a short while, then Percy destroys the bridge. Kronos and his army retreat until dusk.

Percy races to the Plaza where the demigods have set up a battle camp. Annabeth is injured gravely after she takes a knife that would have killed Percy. A son of Apollo heals her, but she will still need rest. She tells Percy about a chance she once had to either convince Luke to change his mind, or at least kill him. She tells him that she thinks Luke is only a stepping stone for Kronos, and that he will soon assume his true form and be pretty much unstoppable.

Percy must rest up to continue the battle that night, and he has more dreams. He dreams that Nico tries to summon his mother's spirit. Nico sees the events that ended with his mother's death, his being frozen in time, and the destruction of the Oracle. The dream shifts to Rachel. She is writing Greek in the sand, and becomes worried. She races back to the beach house and makes a deal with her dad. If he will fly them back to New York so that she can help Percy, then she will go to the finishing school. Mr. Dare agrees, and Percy wakes up.

Thalia comes to get Percy. A Titan has arrived under the flag of truce. He has a message from Kronos.

Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

After a brief battle with the monsters and then one with Kronos himself, Percy shows the Titan forces that he has bathed in the River Styx just as Luke had, and that they would not be able to defeat him. Kronos reveals the weakness of his human form. He must rest each day until night fall, else be too weak to maintain his control over Luke's body and mind.

Annabeth manages to defend Percy's weak spot, but is gravely injured in the process. Rachel is afraid for Percy, and now has some information about the prophecy that Percy must know. She makes a deal with her father. Rachel's father happily agrees to take her to New York so she can warn Percy, but she must go to the finishing school as soon as summer is over.



Chapters 13 and 14

Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

The Titan Prometheus meets with Percy and offers him terms of surrender. He tells Percy that they can not hope to defeat the Titans, and that if they continue to resist, they will all die and Olympus will still be destroyed. He tells Percy that if he surrenders he and all the survivors will be spared. He will also grant them another great advancement, one that the gods would not let them achieve on their own. Percy counter offers that if Kronos will surrender, and return to Tartarus, that Percy promises not to destroy him. Prometheus gives Percy Pandora's box, which is really a pithos. He tells Percy that if he changes his mind, all he has to do is open the jar and release Hope. Once he gives up Hope, Prometheus will know that they are surrendering, and they will be spared while Olympus is destroyed.

Once again Percy must rest. The curse of Achilles may make him invincible on the battle field, but it also tires him much faster. As he sleeps, he dreams of the undersea battle against Oceanus. The battle is going poorly for Poseidon. The armory where Percy's brother is working is compromised, and he and his fellow cyclops take up arms, and with the battle cry "PEANUT BUTTER!", they roar off to battle. The scene shifts and Percy sees the Big House at Camp Half-Blood as it was in the nineties. Luke's mom tries to become the new Oracle, despite Hermes's warning that she should not. They do not know of the curse, and so they let her. She cannot take the spirit of the Oracle, of course, and she is left insane, with the images of prophesy swirling in her mind.

Percy is awakened by Annabeth, ready for battle. They head out for the park, where Hyperion is leading an invasion force. Percy, with the help of the satyrs, defeats Hyperion, and turns aside his army.

Kronos unleashes a giant flying pig, but Percy awakens more automatons and the pig is defeated. Percy flies upon Blackjack to the north, to rejoin the main battle.

Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

Prometheus, the god who gave man fire, gives Percy Pandora's Box, which still contains Hope. Prometheus is trying to convince Percy that the gods of Olympus are not worth saving, and that he should join the Titans. Some of what Prometheus says is true, but Percy knows that if Olympus is destroyed, then so will mankind be destroyed. Prometheus leaves, but once more offers Percy the truce. If he gives up Hope, then the Titans will spare him.

Each time that the Titans mount an attack, Percy shows up and defeats them. He outsmarts Hyperion, and orders some automatons to bash the flying pig to death. However, while the curse of Achilles has made him invincible on the battle field, it also

takes more energy from him and he must rest often. While Percy is now a great warrior, he is only one man and can't be everywhere at once.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

The demigods and wild spirits battle the armies of Kronos to their best abilities, but the numbers are simply overwhelming. Soon, Kronos has pushed the defenders into a tight ring around the Empire State Building itself, the defenders completely surrounded. Just as it seems that all is lost, Chiron shows up with somewhere around five hundred centaurs from around the nation. Kronos army is surprised and turned aside, and Kronos once again retreats for the day.

Percy is magically transported to a birthday party somewhere in the Midwest. Dionysus explains to Percy that the gods need them to defend Olympus on their own. He explains that the gods, as manifestations Man's beliefs, need humanity to believe in them enough and care enough to defend them. He warns Percy to beware the coming surprises, and sends him on his way.

As Percy and Annabeth and Chiron discuss the battle, a helicopter appears. It is Rachel and her family, but the human pilot has fallen asleep and the helicopter is on its way to a terrible crash landing.

Annabeth and Percy fly to the helicopter to rescue Rachel and her family. Annabeth manages to land the helicopter, and Rachel is pulled out. She is the only one in the helicopter who did not fall asleep under the spell of Morpheus. Rachel delivers a few disturbing messages and then Chiron, suspecting that she may have the gift of prophecy, takes her aside to talk.

Percy sleeps again, and dreams of Nico trying to convince Hades to give up his grudge against Zeus and to go help the gods fight Typhon. The scene shifts and Percy sees Kronos in council with Prometheus and Ethan. He seems weaker, and it is plain that his power over Luke is wavering and his decision making is being influenced by the mind of his half human host.

Kronos summons a drakon to fight the defenders. He knows that since a child of Ares is destined to kill this drakon, and that Ares cabin is sitting out the war, that they will not be able to defeat the drakon. Percy and Annabeth make a good effort of it, but they are not the ones destined to kill the beast. Ares cabin arrives, led by Clarisse, and fight the beast. The drakon sprays poison in Clarisse's face, and she falls. At that point, the real Clarisse arrives in camp attire. She is very upset that someone has stolen her armor and tricked Ares cabin into fighting. She is angry that the girl got herself killed. Clarisse kills the drakon, then goes to the fallen girl. They can all tell that she will die from her wounds, and that the armor thief was Selina.



Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

Chiron's centaurs are party animals. They are wild and crazy, and go into battle with Nerf guns and novelty items, wearing t-shirts and party hats. Their silly happiness, and lack of concern about the danger of battle is almost as effective as their bashing of the enemy.

Dionysus tells Percy that the gods are not abandoning humanity. They must fight their battle, and let Percy and his fellow humans and demigods defend Olympus. The gods are a product of Man's belief and without that belief, they can not exist. The gods need for humanity to believe in them and save them from the Titans.

Percy and Annabeth must rescue Rachel, who informs Percy that he is not the hero in the prophesy. This confuses Percy, but Chiron takes Rachel aside to talk to her about prophesy.

Selina steals Clarisse's armor and leads the Ares cabin to battle. She fails to defeat the drakon, and is killed in the attempt. Her sacrifice does lead to the fall of the drakon. The real Clarisse has followed Selina and the Ares cabin and is enraged at the drakon for killing her friend. Without Selina, Clarisse would not have even been on the battlefield. Without the rage caused by Selina's death, Clarisse would not have defeated the drakon.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

As chapter seventeen opens, Percy, Annabeth, and Clarisse are hovering over Selina. Selina admits to being the spy. She then dies. They decide that she will be remembered as a hero, who led Ares cabin into battle, leading to the defeat of the drakon. No mention is to be made of her being the spy.

Percy, Grover, and Annabeth head up to Olympus to prepare for the final battle. Percy sits in his father's throne, inspiring the wrath of Poseidon. Percy explains that it was the only way he could think to get his father's attention, and pleads with Poseidon to abandon his sea palace and fight with the other gods. Finally, after some arguing, Poseidon gives in and pledges his help to the other gods. Meanwhile, Kronos is leading his army to the doors of the Empire State Building.

Kronos advances on the building. The defenders still outside were no match for the Titan lord and his army. Now, Kronos is faced with his son, Chiron. He swats Chiron aside as if he were nothing, but before he can advance on the building, Nico and Hades arrive with an army of the dead.

Kronos refuses to fight the god, and instead collapses the magical barrier around Manhattan and surrounds only the Empire State Building. Kronos enters the building. Outside, people begin to wake up, and inside the barrier, the two armies clash once again. Percy's mom and step dad take up arms and help with the defenses. Percy's mom and Nico assure him that they can handle the troops outside, so Percy, Annabeth, Thalia, and Grover race for the elevator.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Before Selina dies, she reveals that she was the spy. She and Luke were close before she fell in love with Charles, and she didn't think that she would get anyone hurt. Afterward, she was afraid to stop, lest Kronos reveal her as the spy or kill her. Percy decides that while she made a mistake, she ultimately saved the day. Selina will be remembered as a hero, and no word is to be spoken of her as the spy.

Percy takes a big risk sitting on his father's throne, but it is a necessary risk. If Percy can not get Poseidon to abandon his undersea palace and help the other gods, all will be lost.

Nico is finally able to convince Hades to give up his grudge against the gods, and join the fight. They arrive with an army of the dead just in time to turn the tide of battle. Kronos refuses to fight the god, and instead goes into the Empire State Building to destroy Olympus. While the armies fight outside, Percy and a few of his companions must take the battle to Kronos.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

Percy and his companions exit the elevator to a grisly scene. The city of Olympus lies in ruin, and they can hear Kronos yelling as he continues destroying buildings on his way to the throne room. A statue falls on Thalia, and Percy, Annabeth, and Grover must continue on their own.

Once they arrive in the throne room, Ethan Nakimura informs Kronos of their arrival. Kronos and Percy fight while Annabeth and Ethan fight. Grover plays his reed pipes and works his wild magic throughout the throne room. The battle takes Percy and Kronos too close to one of the thrones, which goes into defense mode and electrocutes Kronos. Percy tries to talk to Ethan, and eventually must get through to him, because Ethan charges Kronos while he is down. Ethan's sword shatters on Kronos's invincible body, and Kronos opens a split in the floor, dropping Ethan to his death. Annabeth and Grover both attempt to stop Kronos and are injured. Kronos, noticing how much Annabeth's injury worries Percy, decides to take the fight to her.

Annabeth confronts Kronos, and makes an appeal to Luke. She tells him that he had promised never to hurt her. Kronos begins to lose his grip on Luke, but retains power. Kronos strikes Annabeth in the face, and the violation of Luke's oath is enough to snap Kronos's hold over him. Luke begs Percy to give him Annabeth's knife so that he can kill himself. He knows that if Percy attacks him, that Kronos would be able to defend. However, Luke knows where his weak spot is, and Luke can do it with his own hand. Percy realizes that this is the decision that he was prophesied to make, and that the cursed blade was Annabeth's knife, and that Luke was the hero whose soul it would reap. Percy gives Luke the knife, who then unbuckles his armor and stabs himself. Kronos is defeated, and before Luke dies, he makes Percy promise that he would not let it happen again. Just as Luke dies, the gods march into the throne room ready to do battle.

Luke is wrapped in a burial shroud of his father, Hermes, and is carried away by the Fates. The gods set about repairing the throne room, which doesn't take very long. Zeus makes the top of the Empire State Building glow blue, as a signal to Percy's mom that all is well.

After the gods finish repairing their thrones, Hades and Poseidon are welcomed into Olympus, and the gods meet in council. After much discussion and thanking Hades and Poseidon for helping to turn the tides of battle, they get to the demigods. Grover is made a Wild Lord of the Cloven Council. Annabeth, who has always wanted to be an architect, is granted the privilege and duty of redesigning Olympus. Percy is offered any one wish that he wants. Zeus assumes that Percy will ask to be made a god, and offers to do so. Percy turns down Zeus's offer to be made a god, and makes the gods swear on the River Styx to obey one promise to him. Percy makes the gods promise to claim



all of the children, of all of the gods. They are to be brought to Camp Half-Blood by the time they are thirteen, and each god will have a cabin. The minor gods and the peaceful Titans must be granted amnesty and be allowed to live in peace. The gods agree, and Percy leaves the throne room with a Cyclops honor guard cheering him on.

Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

Kronos is taking his time destroying Olympus. He has waited thousands of years for this day, and he is determined to make the most of it. Kronos has slain several minor gods and is destroying each building as he comes to it. He has sworn to destroy Olympus, brick by brick, and that is exactly what he is doing.

When Annabeth is injured, it is clear that Percy is worried about her. Here, his feelings becomes clear to Kronos, who decides to go after Annabeth to weaken Percy. Luke had sworn to never hurt Annabeth, and the strength of his feelings for her is enough to temporarily break Kronos's hold over him when he attacks Annabeth.

Luke knows his own weakness, and knows that if Percy tries to kill him, that Kronos will defend himself. Percy must now choose if he will trust Luke. Percy finally understands the prophecy. The decision that must be made is Percy's decision to trust Luke. Trusting Luke saves Olympus, where not trusting Luke would have cause its destruction. The hero who loses his life is Luke, who proves himself a hero by sacrificing his own life to stop Kronos, and the cursed blade was the knife that Luke gave to Annabeth, which he now uses to kill himself.

Hades is now welcomed into the council of Olympus, and all past offenses are forgiven. He is greeted by the other gods as a brother. The demigods and Grover are rewarded for their efforts, and Percy is offered a choice. He is to be granted one wish. Zeus assumes that Percy will want to be a god, as that is what Zeus feels is the greatest honor. Zeus is slightly offended when Percy rejects the offer, but agrees to honor what ever request Percy makes. Percy knows that this whole war could have been avoided if the gods had behaved differently. They rarely acknowledge their human children, which makes them feel outcast. They rarely treat the minor gods with any respect, which makes them feel like outcasts, and their human children even more so. If Ethan did not feel that his mother, Nemesis, did not get the respect that she deserved, he would not have awakened Kronos. If Luke did not feel abandoned by his father, Hermes, he would not have gone down the path that led to Kronos taking over his body. Percy makes the gods swear to recognize their children, and send them all to Camp Half-Blood. He also makes them swear to recognize all of the minor gods, and to pardon the Titans who did not fight against them.



Chapters 21, 22, and 23

Chapters 21, 22, and 23 Summary

Percy finds Hermes waiting watching an Iris Message of newscasts. They talk about how the mortals didn't even realize that the world almost ended. They talk about Luke, and Percy assures him that in the end, Luke knew his destiny and died a hero. Hermes thanks Percy and comments that the god might even learn a thing or two from Percy.

Percy then runs into Athena, who is also waiting to talk to him. She asks him why he remained mortal. Percy admits that he could not leave Annabeth, and Athena warns him not to mess up.

Percy then finds Annabeth, and they head down to see Percy's parents. His parents are worried, but relieved to see him. Percy assures them that everything is going to be alright, but then Nico runs in and tells Percy that Rachel has stolen Blackjack and left for camp.

Percy and Annabeth arrive at camp too late to stop Rachel from taking the spirit of the Oracle. Rachel becomes the new oracle and delivers a new Great Prophecy. Grover and Juniper are reunited and go for a moonlit stroll on the beach. Percy and Annabeth talk and then kiss, but the other campers were listening and watching, and grab the couple up and carry them to canoe lake and throw them in. Percy gets the last laugh by creating an air bubble on the bottom of the lake and getting an underwater kiss.

Camp runs late this year, almost to the beginning of school. Construction on the other cabins goes very well, and many new demigods arrive at camp. Percy sees his father on shore fishing, and gets some quality family time in. Eventually, it is time for everyone to go home. Rachel is going to the finishing school, and says her good-byes to Percy and Annabeth. Percy will be going back to school in Manhattan, and Annabeth will also be attending a boarding school in Manhattan. She needs to be close to Olympus to oversee the rebuild, but Percy is glad that she is staying close to him, too. They discuss the prophecy, but in the end all they can do is guess. It is time to leave, and Annabeth challenges Percy to a race to the road and they race off. For the first time, Percy doesn't look back.

Chapters 21, 22, and 23 Analysis

Hermes is amazed at how the humans could actually believe that everything that happened was simply a terrible freak storm. He feels guilty about what happened to Luke. Percy tells him that Luke knew that Hermes loved him in the end, and died a hero, but this does not make Hermes feel any better about losing his son. Hermes admits that even the gods might be able to learn from Percy.



Rachel ends up being the new Oracle, and realizes that this was why she was drawn to Percy. She realizes that she and Percy are not meant to be together, but that Percy and Annabeth are. Percy now knows this, and he and Annabeth have their first kiss.

So far, at the end of summer, the gods are keeping their promise. Construction on the houses of the other gods is going well, and new demigods are arriving in droves. Poseidon admits that the gods may not be able to keep their promise forever, and reminds Percy that he would never have been born if it were not for a broken promise. Rachel must go off to finishing school, but will return next summer. Percy and Annabeth are both staying in New York and will be able to see more of each other. In the end, Percy is able to move forward without looking back.



Characters

Percy Jackson

Percy Jackson is the half-human son of Poseidon and a human woman. Percy lives a double life. During the school year, he is a normal teen, but during the summer, he attends Camp Half-blood as a demigod hero. He has feelings for a mortal who can see through the Mist, as well as a fellow demigod. This conflict of emotions about two girls, both of whom have feelings for him also further divides the halves of his double life. The conflict between the two girls does for a time define his relationship to both of them. After returning to Camp Half-blood after a mission that went terribly wrong, Percy shown a prophesy that says on his sixteenth birthday he will make a decision that will either save or destroy Olympus. The prophesy also tells of the death of a hero, who Percy believes is himself. Throughout the war Percy grows stronger and more confident, at one point even bathing in the River Styx to become invincible. He and Annabeth grow closer together, eventually even admitting to themselves and everyone else that they are in love. While Percy is the hero of this story, he is not arrogant or greedy. He gives credit to the other heroes, even his enemies, and even turns down immortality in favor of an oath from the gods to take better care of their children.

Luke Castellan

Luke Castellan is the demigod son of Hermes and a human woman. Luke discovered and rescued Annabeth from the life of a homeless runaway, and was Percy's friend while at Camp. Luke's mother was able to see through the Mist, and thought that she was meant to become the new Oracle. The spirit of the Oracle failed to take to May Castellan, and she became insane. She saw a prophesy of her son becoming evil and trying to overthrow the gods. After Hermes left Luke and May, Luke became frightened of his mothers fits, and angry at his father for leaving him. He runs away from home and bathes in the River Styx to become invulnerable and loses his sense of humanity. He is possessed by the spirit of the Titan Kronos who must use a human body until he is strong enough to manifest in his true form. Luke is used by Kronos to mount an attack on Olympus, but at the end Luke regains just enough control of his own body to kill himself and defeat Kronos. Luke's journey takes him from a frightened and angry little boy to the tool of a monster and ultimately to the hero who saves man and gods alike from the fury of Kronos' vengeance.

Annabeth Grace

Annabeth Grace is the half-human daughter of a human father and the goddess Athena. She was discovered and rescued from a life as a runaway by Luke and still has feelings for him. Eventually, she realizes that her love for Luke was the love of a sister for a brother and that she was truly in love with Percy.



Ethan Nakamura

Ethan Nakamura is a demigod child of Nemesis, a minor god. He is angry that the minor gods are not recognized and given the proper respect by the major gods. This anger allows Kronos to turn him against his fellow demigods.

Mrs. O'Leary

Mrs. O'leary is a hell hound that Percy inherited. She is now his faithful companion, much like any other boy and his dog. Of course this boy's dog is the size of a semi truck!

Grover Underwood

Grover is a satyr who has been outcast by the Wild Council. He is also a good friend to Percy, and helps to defeat Kronos in the final battle, thereby earning back his place amongst his peers, and even a spot on the Wild Council itself.

Chiron

Chiron the centaur is a son of Kronos and teacher of the demigods at Camp Half-Blood. He was also the trainer of Achilles, another hero who bathed in the Styx to become invulnerable in battle.

Kronos

Kronos is the Titan father of Zeus. He has reincarnated in the body of a young demigod who has bathed in the Styx and has launched a campaign against Olympus.

Blackjack

Blackjack is a Percy's friend and Pegasus.

Nico

Nico is the half human son of Hades. He is twelve years old and is one of Percy's friends at Camp Half-Blood. He is the one who convinces Percy to bathe in the River Styx to become invulnerable.



Rachel Elizabeth Dare

Rachel is Percy's mortal friend, who is not blinded by the Mist. She can see the monsters and gods and knows that Percy is a demigod. She eventually becomes the new Oracle.

Tyson

Tyson is a cyclops. He is also the younger brother of Percy Jackson. He eventually becomes the general of the cyclops army.



Objects/Places

Olympus

Olympus is the home of the gods and the seat of their power. Olympus has been moved from Greece to the six hundredth floor of the Empire State Building in Manhattan, New York.

Demigod

Also known as half-blood, a demigod is the result of a god mating with a human. The demigods are mortal, but can see through the Mist and have some powers from their god parent.

Mist

The Mist is a magical barrier that protects mortals from seeing what is really going on around them. Some humans are able to see through the Mist, and see the monsters and gods.

Backbiter

Backbiter is Luke Castellan's magic sword.

Riptide

Riptide is the magic sword of Percy Jackson. When not in sword form, it magically appears in his pocket as an ink pen.

Camp Half-Blood

This is the hidden camp where demigods train to be heroes.

Automations

The automations are giant statues around New York that can be activated to fight for the demigods.



Underworld

The underworld is the kingdom of Hades and the home of the dead.

Elysium

Elysium is the uppermost part of the underworld and is the resting place of those who prove themselves to be heroes.

The Isle of Blest

the Isle of Blest is a section of Elysium reserved for great heroes. Upon arriving at Elysium, a hero may chose to stay there, or be reincarnated to try for Elysium three times. On the third time, they are allowed into Blest for eternity.

Shadow Travel

Shadow travel is a method of travel by which creatures of the underworld jump from shadow to shadow.



Themes

Vengeance

Many of the characters in this story are on a quest for Vengeance. Indeed, if it were not for the vengeful quests of these character, there would be no story. Some of these individuals are lucky and give up their Vengeance. Nico is angry that his father, Hades, hides the truth about his family from him. His anger at his father leads him to dangerously summon the dead spirit of his mother. He eventually sees her death, and understands his father's hatred of the other gods. Hades seethes in rage over the murder of his mortal lover, who is also Nico's mother. He curses the Oracle for foretelling the event, and abandons Zeus and the other Olympians for the murder, content to allow Kronos to destroy them. Both Nico and Hades do eventually come to terms with each other, and the other gods. While forgiveness may not have occurred, at least they are no longer enemies and can work together to save Olympus. However, not all of the characters seeking Vengeance were so lucky.

Ethan, son of Nemesis the goddess of revenge, wants Vengeance on the gods for not recognizing his mother and respecting her as a god. She has no place on Olympus. At camp, he is lumped in the Hermes house with the rest of the unclaimed demigods. This makes him feel unimportant and unwanted. He feels like an outcast. He feels abandoned by the gods, and feels that no one really respects him or takes him seriously. Ethan's search for Vengeance causes him to free Kronos. Luke seeks Vengeance against his father Hermes and the the other gods because he feels abandoned and unclaimed by his father. He is angry at his father for leaving him with his crazy mother. His search for Vengeance leads him to bathe in the river Styx making him invincible, and also allows Kronos to take over his body. Kronos seeks Vengeance on the Olympian gods. They overthrew him and imprisoned him in Tartarus. He has sworn to kill the gods and destroy Olympus brick by brick. His search for Vengeance and his impatience to get his Vengeance causes him to overextend himself before his power is fully mature. This allows Luke to regain some small control over his own body, and ultimately leads to the defeat of Kronos. As these last three progress on their respective quests for Vengeance, they all descend deeper into anger and hatred. They become careless and uncaring and will do anything to get their revenge on the gods. This dark path of Vengeance does ultimately mean the end of each of them.

Hope

Just as Vengeance drives the antagonists of this story, so does Hope drive the Protagonist and his allies. If at any point in the story Percy or the other demigods give up Hope, then all is lost. It is Hope that drives Percy to rally the demigods and wild spirits to defend Olympus from the Titans. Alone and without the gods to back them up, these mortals must stand against immortal Titans and their strongest cohorts, who outnumber them many times over. Several times throughout the war Percy is offered the



choice to surrender and be spared, or to continue to fight and die. All he must do, as Prometheus tells him, is to give up Hope. Although tempted on many occasions to give up Hope and surrender, Percy chooses Hope each time, and presses on.

In the final battle between Percy and Kronos, it is Annabeth's Hope that Luke is still basically a good person, and is still in there somewhere that leads her to throw herself between Kronos and Percy. She hangs on to Hope and believes that Luke will remember his promise to never hurt her. When the already tired and overextended Kronos tries to kill Annabeth, Luke manages to regain enough control over himself to stop Kronos from killing her. When Luke begs Percy to give him the knife so that he can kill himself, Percy does not give up Hope, but trusts in Luke's humanity and gives him the knife, leading to the defeat of Kronos and the salvation of Olympus, the gods, and mankind. Even after the battle, Percy does not give up Hope of a better future. He turns down the impressive gift of immortality and godhood, instead securing an oath from the gods. According to the oath, they will claim all of their children and make sure that they get to go to Camp Half-Blood for training and that each god gets a cabin and respect.

Pride

It is the Pride of the major Olympian gods that cause most of their problems. In their Pride, they refuse to acknowledge the minor gods and fail to claim all of their human children. As a result, many of the unclaimed children as well as the children of minor gods become angry and feel abandoned. This causes some of the young demigods to free Kronos, who leads the Titans, the angry demigods, and hordes of monsters on an attack against Olympus.

In his Pride, Poseidon refuses to leave his great undersea palace to fight alongside the other Olympians. He knows that if Olympus is destroyed that he too will die, but he cannot tear himself away from his prized possession, his palace that took so long to build. Eventually, he heeds the advice of his son Percy and lets his undersea palace fall in order to help save Olympus. He realized that allowing his Pride in his palace to rule him would have allowed Olympus, the gods, and eventually the world to be destroyed.

Luke's Pride keeps him from seeing his terrible mistakes even as he makes them. He feels that as a child of a god, that he deserves respect and acknowledgment. He bathes in the River Styx, becoming invincible. The ancient warrior Achilles tries to warn him that as an invulnerable warrior, he must beware the greatest weakness of all, his arrogant Pride. Achilles admits that his heel was only his physical weakness, but that ultimately his Pride got him killed. Luke ignores Achilles's warning, and is eventually possessed by the spirit of the Titan Kronos. While Luke does finally learn the terrible consequences of being ruled by Pride, it is not in time to save his own life, or the lives of all those lost in the war.

As the hero, Percy must also beware of the dangerous pull of his Pride. He is the leader of the demigods, and the leader of the entire defensive force for Olympus. With the gods away fighting Typhon, he is pretty much the one left in charge of Olympus. He also



bathes in the River Styx, becoming invincible. He also hears Achilles's plea to beware his Pride and to turn away from the path he has chosen. In the end, as an invincible hero and leader of the demigods, Percy must look to the advice given by the goddess Hestia, and be willing to yield. By controlling his Pride and yielding to give Luke the chance to be the hero, he makes the right choice and saves Olympus.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is the first-person perspective. Percy Jackson is the narrator, telling the story from his memories and feelings. Percy knows of only the events that occur around him, his own feelings, and what is revealed to him through prophetic dreams.

The author tells the story mostly through dialogue with other characters, but also relies heavily on Percy's personal thoughts and feelings. The use of dialogue with other characters, and the view into Percy's feelings and private thoughts helps to tell the story of Percy's growth from a boy into a man and leader of his people.

Setting

This story takes place in either present time or at least the very near future or very recent past. Most of the story takes place in New York. However, this New York is not as we think it is. In this story, the magical world of spirits and gods and monsters is veiled from humanity by the Mist. To most humans in this story, the world is much as it is in reality. However, for Percy Jackson and his comrades, New York is the new home of Olympus and the gods.

Language and Meaning

The language of this story is informal. The author tells this story as one might imagine a sixteen year old Percy Jackson might tell it to a friend his own age. The book is written for young adults, and therefore the language is not very hard to understand.

The language of this story is not very physically descriptive, but the author does make an effort to vividly describe how the characters feel about the events in the story. This does not serve to vividly create a world in the mind of the reader, rather, the author focuses on character development, creating memorable living characters. Percy tells the story in an almost sarcastic way as if he is trying to make light of the situation to mask his real fear and worry.

Structure

This novel is comprised of twenty-three chapters, spanning three hundred and eighty-one pages. The chapters are of varying length, and are both numbered and named. The chapter names reflect some event that will take place in the chapter.



The obvious plot is the battle between Good and Evil, or the battle between Tyranny and Freedom. Percy Jackson and his fellow demigods must defend Olympus from the Titans, else the gods and the world as we know it will be destroyed. In this sense, Percy is successful, and Good does triumph over Evil. There is a secondary plot, though not quite so obvious. Percy is a young boy who has great power and must learn to use it responsibly. This novel tells the story of Percy's growth from a boy to a man, and a leader of his people.

The entire book, up until the final chapter, spans only a few weeks. However, since the majority of the book is dedicated to battle scenes, the story still moves at a quick pace. The final chapter finishes up the summer, and leaves the characters to go about their separate ways for the school year, promising more adventures for the summer to come.



Quotes

"A shame to kill you now, before the final plan unfolds. I would love to see the terror in your eyes when you realize how I will destroy Olympus."

Chapter 1, page 23: Kronos boasts to Percy after a brief battle.

"Percy, Beckendorf chose a heroic death. You bear no blame for that. Kronos's army will be in disarray. Many were destroyed."

Chapter 2, page 39: Poseidon reassures Percy that the cruise ship mission that cost his friend his life was not in vain.

"All of you can fight this war without Ares. Until I get satisfaction, no one in my cabin is lifting a finger to help. Have fun dying."

Chapter 3, page 34: Clarisse makes a disastrous declaration to war council.

"This whole thing with Beckendorf and Silena. It kinda makes you think. About...what's important. About losing people who are important."

Chapter 4, page 72: Annabeth drops Percy a hint about her feelings.

"They're no match for the Titan army, you know that. This comes down to you and Luke. And there's only one way you can beat Luke."

Chapter 5, page 86: Nico tries once again to convince Percy to go along with his plan.

"Sometimes the hardest power to master is the power of yielding. Do you believe me?"

Chapter 6, page 102: Hestia gives Percy some advice.

"Waiting things out, yes, that's correct. When's the last time Olympus ever helped me, half-blood? When's the last time a child of mine was ever welcomed as a hero? Bah! Why should I rush out and help them? I'll stay here with my forces intact."

Chapter 7, page 125: Hades informs Percy that he has no plans to help the other gods.

"Do not do this. It will make you powerful. But it will also make you weak. Your prowess in combat will be beyond any mortal's, but your weaknesses, your failings will increase as well."

Chapter 8, page 133: Achilles tries to convince Percy to abandon his plan to bathe in the Styx.

"Not dead, Morpheus has put the entire island of Manhattan to sleep. The invasion has started."

Chapter 9, page 163: Percy explains why no one is moving in Manhattan, and announces the beginning of the battle.

"We shouldn't expect any help coming in."

Chapter 10, page 168: Annabeth makes the discouraging announcement that the young demigods are on their own.



" So you had the courage to visit the Styx. I had to pressure Luke in many ways to convince him. If only you had supplied my host body instead...But no matter. I am still more powerful. I am a TITAN."

Chapter 11, page 191: Kronos admits that he would rather have had Percy instead of Luke.

"Luke said Kronos would use him as a stepping stone. Those were his exact words. Kronos would use Luke, and become even more powerful."

Chapter 12, page 201: Annabeth reveals that Kronos might only be in Luke's body a short time.

" I give you this as a reminder of what the gods are like. Keep Elpis, if you wish. But if you decide that you have seen enough destruction, enough futile suffering, then open the jar. Let Elpis go, give up Hope, and i will know that you are surrendering. I promise Kronos will be lenient. He will spare the survivors."

Chapter 13, page 228-229: Prometheus gives Percy the "gift" of Pandora's box, and asks him to surrender.

"You are a very nice maple tree."

Chapter 14, page 248: Grover comments on the imprisoned Hyperion after he is defeated in battle.

"Luke promised he'd never let me get hurt. He said...he said we'd be new family, and it would turn out better than his."

Chapter 15, page 264: Annabeth explains that Luke would never hurt her.

"I don't know its meaning. But i know it's important. You have to hear it. It said, Perseus, you are not the hero."

Chapter 16, page 278: Rachel delivers a message, telling Percy that he may have misunderstood the Great Prophecy.

"All my fault, the drakon, Charlies death...camp endangered—"

Chapter 17, page 296: Selina confesses to being a spy for Kronos before she dies.

"Yes, we'll handle the army. You have to get Kronos!"

Chapter 18, page 319: Nico assures Percy that they can handle the army outside.

"Brick by brick! That was my promise. Tear it down BRICK BY BRICK!"

Chapter 19, page 323: Kronos destroys the city of Olympus on his way to the throne room.

"In the name of the Council, we swear by the River Styx to grant your reasonable request as long as it is within our power."

Chapter 20, page 352: Percy secures an oath from the gods.

"Percy Jackson, you might just teach us a thing or two."

Chapter 21, page 359: Hermes comments on the possibility of change, even for three thousand year old gods.



"I accept this role. I pledge myself to Apollo, God of Oracles. I open my eyes to the future and embrace the past. I accept the spirit of Delphi, Voice of the Gods, Speaker of Riddles, Seer of Fate."

Chapter 22, page 366: Rachel becomes the new Oracle.

"I'll see you soon, Percy. And remember, know which fish are big enough to land, eh?"

Chapter 23, page 378: Poseidon gives Percy some fatherly advice.



Topics for Discussion

Discuss vengeance. Which of the characters hold a grudge and are on a personal quest for vengeance. What are their reasons? How do these various vendettas affect the characters and the story?

Just as vengeance drives the antagonists of this story, so does hope drive the protagonists. How does hope keep Percy and his allies going? What are their hopes?

The gods, Titans, and many of the demigods are full of pride. How does this pride effect the gods and their relationships with each other and their children? What are the costs of this pride?

What is the main plot of this story? Are there any subplots and if so, then what will happen?

Discuss prophecy. How does prophecy drive this story and its characters?

Many of the conflicts in this story are a direct result of betrayal. In this story, who has been betrayed by whom and what happens as a result?

After Percy defeats the Titans, Zeus offers to make him a god. Why does Percy refuse his offer? What does he ask instead and why?

Discuss point of view. What is the point of view of this novel? Why might the author have chosen this point of view?