

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Demigod Files Study Guide

**Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Demigod Files
by Rick Riordan**

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Plot Summary

Percy Jackson & the Olympians – The Demigod Files by Rick Riordan is one in a series of books from the Demigod Files. There are several adventure stories in this book as well as an activities section for young readers.

The book begins with the adventure of “Percy Jackson and the Stolen Chariot.” Percy is in his high school science class when he hears a commotion outside. He looks out the window and sees that a fellow demigod named Clarisse is in trouble. She is fighting off an attack from a vicious flock of huge ravens. He knows that it’s more than it appears. Percy makes an excuse to his teacher and soon comes to the aid of Clarisse. Although reluctant at first to let Percy help her – her father is Ares and his father is Poseidon, two bitter enemies – Clarisse really needs help to fight off the onslaught and allows Percy to join her battle.

Just as Percy suspected, she had more problems than a flock of birds. She had taken her father’s car for a joy ride and her half-brothers had taken it from her. Actually the vehicle looked like a car to humans but it was really Ares’ war chariot equipped with two huge flame-breathing horses. She had to get the chariot back before Ares discovered it was gone. Her brothers, Phobos, the god of fear, and Deimos, the god of terror, were up to no good. They were determined to keep the chariot from her so that she would face the wrath of Ares. The battle between the demigods and the gods is a brutal one. Eventually, Percy and Clarisse are able to outfight and outsmart Phobos and Deimos and return the chariot to Ares before he knows that it is missing.

In another adventure, the demigods are having fun and playing games at Camp Half-Blood until Percy and his friend Beckendorf encounter a huge ant hill that is inhabited by giant ants the size of German shepherds. They are joined by the demigods Annabeth and Silena. Together, they resurrect a huge bronze dragon automaton to fight off the vicious ants that capture and nearly kill Beckendorf.

In his final big adventure, Percy and demigods Thalia and Nico are summoned to Hades by the goddess Persephone to retrieve a stolen sword that gives its owner the ability to summon the dead. Percy and his demigod friends set off on a mission in the Underworld to find the sword. They face many perils and dangers in their trek. They deal with a troll and the goddess of ghosts as well as a raging giant Titan. But, in the end, they find the sword and return it to Hades with the caveat that he not raise it against the gods of the upper world.

The book ends when Percy is summoned for another mission. His human girl tells him to save the world for her. To Percy, that was not at all a light remark.



Percy Jackson and the Stolen Chariot

Summary

Percy heard the sound of squawking birds outside his fifth-period science class on the Lower East Side of New York City. He looked out the window. Clarisse – whom he knew from demigod camp – was battling large vicious ravens. He made an excuse to leave class and ran out to help. She was surprised to see him. She didn't know she was at his school. He uncapped his pen which grew into a three-foot-long bronze sword he called Riptide. He joined Clarisse in the battle, slashing and defeating the ravens. They had a few bruises and scratches; so, Percy shared a bit of ambrosia that he always carried with him. Their wounds soon healed.

Percy demanded to know what was going on. Reluctantly, Clarisse told him that her half-brothers, Phobos and Deimos, were playing a prank on her. She had taken her father's car, or as she called it the war chariot, for a joy ride and now it was missing. Her brothers didn't like anyone taking the chariot from them. So, they stole the chariot and sent the birds after her. Percy was certain that her father Ares wasn't upset with her. When Ares got mad, it was not a pretty sight. If her father had been angry with her, Clarisse would have known about it.

Suddenly, Phobos appeared taunting her that she lost the chariot. Clarisse drew her sword and charged him, but he disappeared. Then, he reappeared on the bench next to Percy. When Clarisse told Phobos that Percy was the son of Poseidon, he was stunned. Poseidon was a sworn enemy of Ares – the father of Clarisse, Phobos, and Deimos. Suddenly, Phobos' eyes glowed. This frightened Clarisse who backed up and fell down. Percy dug his sword into Phobos' neck warning him to stop. Phobos disappeared and reappeared a short distance away. He told Percy that his red glowing eyes frightened Clarisse and warned him that he would discover what frightened him. Phobos disappeared in a yellow vapor. Percy helped Clarisse up and told he'd help her in the battle with her brothers.

Percy and Clarisse took the subway and kept a watch out for a possible attack. Clarisse explained that her brothers were minor gods. Phobos was fear, and Deimos was terror. Percy guessed that the word phobia was named after Phobos who struck fear on a personal level while Deimos freaked out entire crowds. Clarisse was worried about getting the chariot back to the temple which was the Intrepid, an old war ship turned museum, on Pier 86. When Phobos disappeared, he left a clue. He said they'd be over the water at a place with little animals. The zoo – Percy immediately thought.

They took the Staten Island Ferry along with a bunch of tourists. They ran to the front of the ship to see a horrid sea monster rearing his huge crocodile-like head from beneath the water. The monster was as big as the boat. Deimos, dressed in black Greek armor, was riding on the monster's back. He made the monster ram into the boat. The tourists were terrified and falling over each other to get away from it. Percy told Clarisse to get



on his back. They leaped off the boat and dove under water. Percy felt the power of the water. When they surfaced she jumped on Deimos and they both went tumbling off in the water. The sea serpent turned and raced toward Percy who summoned ten thousand gallons of water to crash into the monster. He jumped atop the stunned creature and stabbed him repeatedly until he retreated back into the ocean. Clarisse surfaced and hopped on Percy's back. The water carried them the rest of the way across the bay.

They just made it to the zoo before it closed. They saw that the chariot with fire-breathing horses was parked by the serpent house. A big note was stuck on it that read Official Zoo Vehicle. Percy usually could talk to horses since his father had created them. Suddenly, Phobos and Deimos appeared in the chariot, both dressed in armor. They turned the chariot toward Percy who leaped the fence and landed on a rock inside the otter exhibit. He willed a column of water to douse the charging and fiery horses which stunned and confused them. Clarisse jumped on Deimos and struggled with him just as he was lifting his javelin. Phobos turned the chariot into a turret with a long gun barrel and plowed after Percy who was knocked over by the first blow. However, he recovered and ran into the aquarium.

Percy ran through the aquarium and heard the fish all whispering, "Son of the sea god! Son of the sea god!" Suddenly, there was a loud noise. Phobos had turned the chariot into a Harley-Davidson and was coming right at him. His eyes were glowing bright red as Percy drew his sword, determined to face him. But, Percy made the mistake of looking directly into his eyes. Suddenly, Percy was back at Camp Half-Blood and it was in flames. His friends were all begging him to save them. Then he felt the power of the ocean and heard the fish calling to him. It snapped him back to the present. He engaged in a sword fight with Phobos and was finally able to beat him back. He warned Phobos to stay away from Clarisse.

Percy took the motorcycle and followed the trail of destruction to find Clarisse. Fences were broken down; animals were running free. Clarisse was trembling before the towering image of Ares who was railing at her, proclaiming that she had failed him. But, Percy knew it was just an illusion. It was Deimos disguised as Ares. Percy called to Clarisse to stand up to her brother. She finally rose up with her sword and stabbed Deimos in the arm. He immediately exploded into a golden light, his true form, and disappeared.

Percy and Clarisse boarded the chariot and rode across the water surface as Percy willed it to turn into a solid form. They returned the chariot to the Intrepid before Ares knew that it was missing.

Analysis

Although Clarisse and Percy weren't good friends at demigod camp, he felt compelled to help her when he saw that she was being attacked by some huge birds. Percy shows his good character by putting aside their less than friendly relationship and decides to



help someone in trouble. Even though they weren't good friends, they had a lot in common. They were both demigods.

A future conflict is foreshadowed in this first story. Ares, the god of war, and Poseidon, the god of the ocean, are mortal enemies. Percy is the son of Poseidon and Clarisse is the daughter of Ares. The conflict is emphasized when Percy helps Clarisse get the missing chariot back to Ares' temple and Percy tells Clarisse he'd better leave before Ares sees him. Clarisse agrees adding that Ares would probably kill him on sight.

Clarisse is a strong warrior. At first, she had refused Percy's help. But, through his defense of her and the brave front he puts up against her evil brothers, she sees him in a different light. He had risked the wrath of both Ares and Poseidon by getting in the middle of a fight between Clarisse and her brothers.

The reader learns that demigods like Percy and Clarisse are not as strong as gods like Phobos and Deimos, even though they were considered "weak" gods. The word "phobia" comes from Phobos who has the power to strike fear on a personal level. He warned Percy that he would find out what Percy was afraid of and use it against him. Percy's biggest fear is that the Camp of the Half-Bloods where he meets with all his good friends would be destroyed by Phobos and Deimos. Was it a premonition when Percy envisioned the camp in ruins, or was Phobos allowing him to see a vision of the future?

The threat from Clarisse's brothers is real. They have been thwarted thus far by mere demigods and their godly egos must be smarting. Since Phobos has figured out what Percy fears the most, will he and his brother soon be showing up at the Half-Blood Camp ready to wreak havoc, destroy the camp and his friends?

Discussion Question 1

What excuse did Percy make to leave class?

Discussion Question 2

What item did Percy have in his possession that turned into a sword?

Discussion Question 3

As minor gods, what did Phobos and Deimos represent?

Vocabulary

Demigod, ambrosia, overindulge, chariot, scowled, phobia, waterspout, camouflage, disdainfully, javelin, turret, pavilion, parried



Percy Jackson and the Bronze Dragon

Summary

Percy faced his biggest challenge of his life when he had to battle the bronze dragon. It was late June and Percy had just returned to the camp from a quest. Everything seemed normal. He looked forward to another game of Capture the Flag. The night before the blue team, Hephaestus' cabin, had defeated the red team, Ares' cabin, with Percy's help. On the blue team were Apollo, Hermes, and Percy. On the red team were none other than Athena and Ares along with Aphrodite, Dionysus, and Demeter. His friend Annabeth, daughter of Athena, was on the red team, too. Annabeth promised Percy that the red team would prevail that night.

Beckendorf, a lead counselor for Hephaestus, told him that it was obvious that Annabeth liked him. But, Percy wasn't so sure that she liked him for anything more than target practice. Beckendorf told Percy he should ask her to the Fourth of July fireworks.

During the Capture the Flag game, Percy and Beckendorf scouted out the left flank to look for the enemy flag while the Apollo cabin played defense. They were wearing bronze armor that was enchanted and changed to blend into whatever background they passed through. They crossed the river which was the border between the two camps. They heard fighting and saw flashes from some magical weapons. They furtively made their way through the forest. While the creek and the cliffs in the distance remained steady, paths and trees shifted around as they advanced confusing them as to exactly where they were.

Percy was ready to turn back when they encountered the Ant Hill at the edge of a clearing. It was stories high and Myrmekes were crawling in and out of its hundreds of tunnels. Myrmekes were as big as German shepherds with razor-sharp teeth. Some were carrying scraps of metal. Beckendorf whispered to Percy that they loved metal, especially gold. They saw two "ants" trying to drag a large chunk of metal the size of a refrigerator toward the hill. The hunk of metal flipped over and Percy saw that a dragon's head was inside. It looked as though the ants had been gnawing on it.

Beckendorf said they had to stop the ants from getting it to the hill. It was an omen from Hephaestus. Percy didn't know what he was talking about, but he'd never seen his friend so determined. Suddenly, Percy felt a sword at his throat. It was Annabeth. Silena appeared from the woods and congratulated Annabeth for getting the drop on Percy. An invisible hand disarmed him. Percy was focused on what Beckendorf was doing and told Annabeth to come with him. It was not a time to worry about games.

Beckendorf was in trouble. The ants were attacking him and spraying him with poison. Percy started to run to help him, but Annabeth stopped him. The ants forgot about the dragon's head for a moment. Annabeth grabbed it and dragged it away. They had to get help to save Beckendorf. Percy and Silena helped Annabeth tug the dragon's head



further away. Annabeth said they wouldn't kill Beckendorf right away. They had thirty minutes to save him. The Myrmekes paralyzed their prey and softened them up before they killed them. Silena, who had a thing for Beckendorf, was quite worried and began to cry. Annabeth assured her that they would save him.

Annabeth said they could scare the ants by reactivating the dragon automaton – a magical bronze robot that Hephaestus had created. Most automatons were crazed machines that killed. Annabeth was certain that the head belonged to the bronze dragon. At one time the bronze dragon kept the camp safe from intruders. The ants probably dug it up. They could reassemble the dragon even though the ants had made a mess of the head. But, they'd have to find the rest of the dragon and they were running out of time.

They lugged the huge dragon's head with them and followed the ant's trail to a canyon. They saw a glittery bronze pile at the bottom. The gods must have created the crater to unearth the bronze dragon. Hephaestus wanted them to find it. It was easy to roll the dragon's head down the canyon but reconnecting its wiring was another matter. Annabeth pulled out a screwdriver and began to splice the celestial bronze wires. With only minutes to spare, Annabeth completed the re-wiring. She told Percy to turn the dragon's ruby eyes to start the dragon. The dragon's mouth opened, its head turned and steam began to pour from its ears. The dragon seemed confused but finally pulled itself up. It had bronze and gold scales and was encrusted with jewels. Standing at its full height, it was a towering presence.

Just as the dragon focused on Percy Silena reminded it that its purpose was to protect the camp. She told it that Beckendorf, son of Hephaestus had been taken by the Myrmekes and needed its help. Percy and the others led the way as the fire-breathing dragon followed closely behind. When they neared the ant hill, the dragon caught Beckendorf's scent and plowed ahead by itself. The dragon trounced some of the ants and turned them into ant juice. Those who escaped his attack used their telepathic powers to warn the other ants. While the dragon kept the ants at bay, Percy and the others crawled inside the ant hill. They entered a cavern that contained smelly and rancid meat. At the base of one of the piles was Beckendorf trying to pull himself up.

Percy and Silena had to half carry Beckendorf because his legs were still paralyzed. He heard the sounds coming from the dragon. He told the others that the dragon should not have been reactivated without recalibrating it. There was no telling what the dragon might do. As they crawled out of the tunnel, they saw that the dragon was in trouble. It had Myrmekes hanging all over it, biting its joints and spitting acid all over it. The dragon toppled over, and Beckendorf was satisfied to leave it behind. Then, Silena reminded him that it saved his life. He told the others to prepare to run as he shouted to the dragon, "DRAGON! Emergency defense, beta-ACTIVATE!" (55) The dragon flung off the Myrmekes and arcs of blue electricity shot up and down his body. It had renewed power and had either killed or driven back the remaining ants. Beckendorf told the others that it was time for them to run.



The dragon was after them. Beckendorf explained that automatons go wild after having been deactivated for a long period of time. When they approached a huge cliff, Beckendorf told the others to go around to the base of the cliff while he distracted the dragon. They hit a dead end and pulled their swords as the dragon approached. Beckendorf leaped off the top of the cliff and landed on the dragon's back. He opened a panel at the base of the dragon's head and yanked on a wire. The dragon was instantly immobilized.

Everyone congratulated Beckendorf, especially Silena. She happily accepted his offer to attend the fireworks celebration. Just as Percy was about to invite Annabeth to go with him to the fireworks display, her brothers rushed out to arrest Percy and Beckendorf. As they were hauled off to jail, the brothers declared the red team as the winner of the Capture Flag game. When Annabeth left she winked at Percy and told him she'd see him at the fireworks celebration. Percy was confused. Had she just asked him out?

Analysis

By this time, some of the demigods at the Half-Blood Camp probably have a lot of resentment for Percy Jackson. He helped defeat the Ares cabin team at the Capture the Flag event. The gods and demigods on the Ares team were probably ready to get their revenge when the game was set to be played the next day. On the other hand, Percy is obviously admired by the members of his team and, perhaps, members of some of the opposing team – like Annabeth, daughter of Athena, who seems to like him real well. Percy isn't sure of himself and doesn't quite believe that Annabeth could be interested in him romantically even though Beckendorf seems to be quite sure of it and encourages him to ask her out. Beckendorf is the counselor for Hephaestus which is a trusted position with a god and points to Beckendorf's intelligence and good perception.

The demigods look forward to having a good time on the second consecutive night of the Capture the Flag game. They have no idea what challenges they will face as they venture out into the woods to begin their game. Although Percy and Beckendorf are ambushed and temporarily captured by members of the opposing team – Annabeth and Silena, daughter of Aphrodite – they soon are confronted with a much bigger challenge than trying to capture the flag of their opponents.

Annabeth, who is the daughter of Athena (the goddess of wisdom), shows her smarts when she is able to rewire an ancient dragon automaton that had been buried for years. Although the dragon saves Beckendorf from a horrific end, it hadn't been reactivated properly. So, it runs amok. The dragon turns on the four demigods, but the youngsters demonstrate their ability to think on their feet and figure a way out of dire circumstance that portends almost certain death as the fire-breathing dragon automaton is running them down.

These young warriors are accustomed to facing danger that kids their ages back in the civilized world could never cope with. They are gifted with special powers and strengths that are unique to them as children of the gods. Percy is strong and brave and adept



with his sword that he named Riptide. Beckendorf is the counselor to Hephaestus and is wise and knowledgeable about weapons and the automatons. Annabeth, who is Percy Jackson's love interest, is the daughter of Athena, the goddess of wisdom. She is smart and crafty like her mother. Silena is the daughter of Aphrodite, the goddess of love; and, she does not hide her affection for Beckendorf.

The young demigods and demigoddesses make quite a formidable team – one that can face the most insurmountable odds and still figure out a way to survive.

Discussion Question 1

Who was on the red team in the Capture the Flag game? Who was on the blue team?

Discussion Question 2

What was special about the armor worn by Percy and Beckendorf?

Discussion Question 3

Why did the bronze dragon turn on Percy and the others? How did they defeat it?

Vocabulary

satyr, dryad, flank, forges, enchanted, mandible, confiscated, eavesdropping, carapace, chameleon, automaton, splice, celestial, encrusted, telepathic, calibrate, berserk



Chiron's Interviews

Summary

Interview with Connor and Travis Stoll, Sons of Hermes

The favorite prank that Connor and Travis ever pulled was when they painted a mango gold and wrote “For the Hottest” on it and left it outside the Aphrodite cabin. Everyone was fighting over it, trying to claim it. Once they caught on to the prank, the goddesses put permanent make-up on Travis and cursed Connor so that no matter what clothes he put on, they were two sizes too small.

Interview with Clarisse La Rue, Daughter of Ares

Clarisse would most like to pick a fight with Michael Yew from the Apollo cabin. She thinks he’s a real wimp. Other than her father, Clarisse thinks that Lord Zeus is the bravest. Of course, it’s easy to be brave when you have an arsenal of lightning bolts. She plans to have revenge for Percy soaking her with toilet water.

Interview with Annabeth Chase, Daughter of Athena

If Annabeth could design a structure for Camp Half-Blood, it would be for a temple as a monument to honor their parents. Other than her mother Athena, Annabeth thinks that Zeus is wise in his own way. Hermes is clever and even tricked Apollo once. She admires Artemis for sticking to her beliefs. If she were in a battle, there would be no contest – she’d pick Percy Jackson to be on her side. He wins his battles. Even though she calls him seaweed brain sometimes, she really thinks he’s rather bright but kind of obtuse.

Interview with Grover Underwood, Satyr

Grover’s favorite song to play on his reed pipes is “Muskrat Love.” It’s a love story that not just for muskrats. To him the most beautiful spot in America is Lake Placid in upstate New York. Grover does like eating tin cans because of their nutritional value – they’re filling and loaded with minerals.

Interview with Percy Jackson, son of Poseidon

Seeing his friends is Percy’s favorite part of summers at Camp Half-Blood. He said that the hardest part of being a new kid at school is standing out as an individual before being labeled by the other kids. As many times as he has changed schools, he always makes sure that everyone knows not to pick on him. If Percy had to change his sword Riptide for another magical weapon, he would choose a set of armor that would automatically transition into regular clothes. Percy’s scariest moment was his first fight with the Minotaur when he didn’t even know that he was a demigod. The best advice he could give a kid who thinks he might be a demigod is to pray that he’s wrong. But, if he



really thinks he is a demigod he should find a satyr right away and get to Camp Half-Blood.

Analysis

In this section, the reader gets to know more about the demigods on a personal level. For example, Percy is a loyal friend. His favorite thing about camp is being with his friends. It is also obvious that Percy is not exactly thrilled with being a demigod. He sees the downside of being a combination of a man and a god. In his human life, Percy has had to cope with changing schools often which is something that no kid likes. He never lets himself be defined, and he makes sure that no one thinks he's a pushover.

Annabeth thinks Percy is the best warrior. She also thinks that although Percy is bright, he's a bit obtuse because he's not quick to catch on to other people's feelings. What she's trying to say is that even though she drops hints that she likes him, it kind of goes right over his head.

Discussion Question 1

What prank do the sons of Hermes pull? What happens to them?

Discussion Question 2

Whom does Annabeth consider wise other than her mother?

Discussion Question 3

What is Percy's advice for a kid who thinks he or she might be a demigod?

Vocabulary

archery, mango, rabid, arsenal, obtuse, muskrat, morphed



Percy Jackson and the Sword of Hades

Summary

It was just before Christmas when Percy was taking his English exam in the auditorium at Goode High School when Mrs. O'Leary burst onto stage. She was a "shaggy black monster the size of a Hummer with razor-sharp claws, and glowing red eyes." (85) Mrs. O'Leary was usually at Camp Half-Blood so Percy was surprised to see her at his school trampling over the Christmas tree and decorations on the wintery set on the auditorium stage.

Percy was afraid that the students and teachers would panic. But, Dr. Boring (real name) the English teacher asked who the poodle belonged to. Percy thanked the gods for the Mist which kept humans from seeing things as they really were. Percy told Dr. Boring that the dog was his. Dr. Boring told Percy to get the dog out. Outside, Mrs. O'Leary ran down the street toward the river. Percy could barely keep up with her. She leaped across a fence and into a clump of snow-covered bushes.

Percy drew his sword Riptide and followed Mrs. O'Leary into the bushes. Suddenly a golden deer burst out followed by Thalia, the first lieutenant of Artemis, who had an arrow in her bow and was ready to strike. The deer was the sacred animal of Artemis. Percy and Thalia were good friends but hadn't seen each other in a year. The gods must have wanted them to be together. Suddenly, the deer disappeared in a golden mist and a boy tumbled out of the bushes. It was Nico, Bianca's little brother.

Apparently, the gods had brought all three of them together – for some reason. They were the children of the Big Three – Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. According to prophecy a war between the Titans and the gods was coming. The next child of the three major gods to turn sixteen would make a decision that would either destroy or save the world. The ground opened underneath the three demigods and they fell into darkness.

Suddenly, they were in a garden that was sprinkled with diamonds and gemstones. Nico said it was his step-mother Persephone's garden. Nico warned them not to eat the food of the underworld. It was Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, who had sent for them. Lord Hades has a problem and needed their help. Handmaidens served food, but the demigods wouldn't eat it. The handmaidens would have been pretty if they weren't dead.

The demigods learned that Hades was forging a new sword without Zeus' permission. It would change the balance of power. But, the war with the Titans was coming, Persephone protested. An image that Persephone projected over the table showed zombie weapon smiths working on the sword. There was a key in its base. Persephone said that it was one of the keys of Hades and it could lock or unlock death itself. With a key in the sword, the bearer of the sword could raise the dead. Persephone explained that a demigod had stolen it and it was their mission to retrieve it. Having the children of



the three main gods retrieve the sword and return it to Hades, would put him in good graces with the gods. Persephone equipped the trio with a flower that would lead them to the thief. If the petals fell off it would mean that the perpetrator was close to escaping. Percy wanted Hades to guarantee that he would never raise the sword against the gods.

As they advanced in the Underworld, the flower pointed them toward the Fields of Punishment. They heard a commotion and someone or something was making a lot of noise. It was Sisyphus the troll. His punishment for tricking Persephone was to push boulders up the hill for eternity. Sisyphus told the trio that another demigod who was carrying a long narrow package had passed by. Sisyphus told them to seek out Melinoe who was the goddess of ghosts and of the restless dead. As they walked toward Melinoe's cave, more petals fell from the flower. Percy thought about his mother who was probably sick with worry about where it was.

Suddenly, Nico told the others to draw their weapons. They were being surrounded by daimones, creatures that were part bat and part human. They were the Keres, battlefield spirits that fed on violent death. Nico ordered them back in the name of the son of Hades. But, the Keres smirked at him, telling him that Hades would be defeated by their new master, Iapetus. The demigods fought off the Keres, slashing at them and turning them to vapor. Percy suffered a serious gash to his shoulder. Nico had a bottle of nectar and poured some of the liquid on Percy's wound. The wound began to heal and the pain to lessen; but, Percy remained weak and wasn't sure how much help he'd be in a battle. Only five petals remained on the flower.

Iapetus was a Titan and the brother of Kronos and the father of Atlas. He had been cast into Tartarus along with his brothers. The demigods feared that he could be unleashed with the sword of Hades. They came upon the River Styx which was black with dangerous, fast-moving rapids. As weak as he was, Percy knew it was up to him to get them across. He willed the water to flow out of their way. Percy was almost too weak to cross himself but was urged on by the others. He tripped and was almost engulfed by water until he shouted "Dry!" causing a protective layer of air to form around him.

Melinoe first appeared before them in different forms – first as Thalia's dead mother and then as Nico's mother who was also deceased. Percy saw through it – Melinoe was taunting them. Thalia aimed her arrow at Melinoe. As it struck her, she disappeared in a mist. The last petal fell off the flower. Then, they encountered Ethan Nakamura, son of Nemesis. He had the unfinished sword that bore the golden key. Standing beside him was the Titan named Iapetus who told the demigods that he would destroy them.

A vicious battle ensued between the demigods and the Titan and Ethan. In the struggle, Percy wound up in the River Lethe. He prayed to Poseidon that his protection would hold. He sank to the bottom and was still dry. In the end, Iapetus was defeated. Percy cast a spell on the Titan convincing him that his name was Bob and that he was his friend. The demigods delivered the sword back to Hades but before he would give it to him, Percy made him take an oath not to use it against the gods. The demigods realized



that it was Persephone who ordered the sword be made and that her action had angered Hades.

Percy and Thalia told Nico goodbye. He was staying behind to get closer to his father. As for Percy and Thalia, they returned to civilization and decided to have a couple of cheeseburgers at their favorite diner.

Analysis

Percy Jackson is yet again called into action. Lord Hades of the vast Underworld needs his help, his intelligence, and his physical prowess. Since Percy is known for his quick-thinking and fighting skills, he is recruited to retrieve Hades' sword which was stolen by another demigod, identity unknown. As Percy and his fellow demigods trudge through the eerie Underworld, they encounter nearly insurmountable challenges and in the end it is a battle of good versus evil. Percy, along with the demigods Thalia and Nico, have to deal with creatures that are half human and half bat, a rouge demigod and a giant Titan who is ready to unleash his venom on the world with the stolen sword of Hades.

Hades himself is not depicted as particularly evil. He is the lord of the Underworld, yet he seems to have scruples. It was not he, but his scheming wife Persephone, who ordered the illegal sword to be forged. Persephone is obviously after power and wants to walk the earth again apparently not satisfied with her role as Queen of the Underworld. The sword will unlock the dead and allow them to roam the earth. Since she is the goddess of restless spirits, she apparently sees herself as controlling her legion of the dead on earth when she is able to have the power of the sword of Hades at her disposal.

But, Percy sees that returning the sword to Hades and Persephone could bring chaos to the upper world and to the gods. Much to Persephone's consternation, he makes Hades swear to not lift the sword against the gods. Thus, Persephone's plan is thwarted. She will remain in the Underworld with Hades who does not seem to be on the power trip that his goddess wife is on.

Once again Percy shows his powers in controlling the water and using it as a means to survive and a path to victory. He also proves that he is smart and brave as he faces the giant Titan who is determined to destroy him. Percy is able to enchant the giant and convince him that he is really a guy named Bob and that he is Percy's friend. By this trickery, Percy is able to get in complete control of the evil Titan who wants to control the upper world and using the sword of Hades to do so.

Discussion Question 1

What is the magical Mist of the Gods? How does it impact humans?



Discussion Question 2

How did Percy's powers over water help him to survive the mission to recapture the Sword of Hades?

Discussion Question 3

Who ordered the sword of Hades to be forged? What did Hades have to vow in order for Percy to return it to him?

Vocabulary

topiary, prophecy, veranda, handmaiden, hemlock, millennia, humanoid, vaporize, talon, pestilence, minion, doomsday, dissipated, eons



The Last Olympian

Summary

Rachel, Percy's human friend, invited him to their vacation house in St. Thomas. He was tempted to go, but he was "on call for a mission. Also, he was going to turn sixteen the next week. According to prophecy, bad things would happen. He told Rachel he really wanted to go with her, but he could not. Even though Rachel was a mortal, she could see through the Mist. She knew the war with Kronos was on the horizon. Rachel blurted out that she wanted to talk to Percy but then clammed up. Spending a lot of time with Rachel that summer had been a good break from the goings on at the camp. Just when Rachel was about to kiss Percy, he was distracted by a dark form that was swooping down upon them. It was Blackjack the Pegasus with Beckendorf on his back. He was coming to let Percy know that it was time to go. Rachel kissed Percy and told him to go save the world for her.

Percy hopped on Blackjack behind Beckendorf. Beckendorf promised not to tell Annabeth about Percy's goodbye scene with Rachel.

Analysis

Percy doesn't have the time to be a normal sixteen-year-old boy because he's a demigod and a prophecy about huge events surrounding his upcoming sixteenth birthday looms over him. He has responsibilities far beyond any normal boy his age. While he enjoys the pleasures and relatively easy life of a mortal, his duty to his gods and his fellow demigods will always come first. Rachel may have told him to save the world in a light and off-hand manner, but to Percy that goal is real. It is up to him and the demigods to save the earth.

Discussion Question 1

Why wasn't Percy able to accept Rachel's invitation to visit her family's vacation home?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Percy not looking forward to his sixteenth birthday like most of his peers?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Beckendorf tell Percy that he won't tell Annabeth about Rachel?

Vocabulary

Pegasus, drachma, faltered, hypothetically, ingenious



Characters

Percy Jackson

Percy Jackson is a demigod. He is the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea. As such, he has some powers over the ocean and rivers. He can will water to redirect itself out of his path and he can use it as a weapon. When he is battling with a huge sea serpent, he summons up 10,000 gallons of water to slam the monster and send it back into the deep ocean.

Percy is considered bright and the best warrior by many of his fellow demigods. In his human life, he always carries a special pen with him. When he is needed in battle, he whips his pen out and uncaps it. A three-foot-long gleaming sword emerges. He affectionately calls his pen Riptide.

Percy's favorite place on earth is at Camp Half-Blood. It is the camp where all his demigod friends gather to play and practice their battle skills. He likes the camp because he can be himself and doesn't have to worry about hiding who he really is and the special powers he has when he is in the human world.

Although Percy is bright, he's a little slow in matters of romance. Annabeth, daughter of Athena, has a crush on Percy and drops a few not-so-subtle hints. But, he doesn't get it. He wonders why she would be interested in him. He tangles with another female demigod named Clarisse, but helps her in her hour of need. At first, she resists his help because Ares, her father, is a bitter enemy of Percy's father, Poseidon. Clarisse admires Percy as a skilled warrior.

Beckendorf

Charles Beckendorf is a demigod who is also the chief counselor to the god Hephaestus. He's probably Percy Jackson's best friend. He tries to encourage Percy to ask Annabeth to the Fourth of July fireworks celebration because he knows that Annabeth has a thing for Percy. Beckendorf is a big guy who wears a permanent scowl. He is muscular, and his hands show the wear and tear of working long hours on the forges. In the human world, he had graduated from high school and had been accepted at NYU and would attend in the fall.

During the Capture the Flag game at the Half-Blood camp, Beckendorf and Percy take the most dangerous assignment. They venture into the woods to scout around for the enemy flag. Beckendorf is an inventive fellow. He had devised a suit of armor that would automatically transition to match whatever background that he and Percy happened to pass through.

Beckendorf gets into trouble when he is captured by the giant ants. But, Percy and Annabeth are able to save him before the ants have him for dinner. Right when Rachel,



a human, is about to kiss Percy, Beckendorf swoops down from the sky on Blackjack, a black Pegasus, to tell Percy that he is being summoned by the gods for a new mission.

Clarisse

Clarisse is a demigod who is the daughter of Ares. She becomes acquainted with Percy at Half-Blood Camp, but she is not friendly with him there. She comes to admire him much more when he saves her from her malevolent brothers.

Phobos

Phobos is a weak god and the son of Ares and half-brother to the demigod, Clarisse. Phobos is the god of fear and is able to hone in on the specific fears of a person and exploit them. The word phobia is named after Phobos.

Deimos

Deimos is a weak god and the son of Ares and half-brother to the demigod, Clarisse. Deimos is the god of terror whose power is the ability to frighten large groups of people at once.

The Myrmekes

The Myrmekes are huge ants the size of German shepherds. They paralyze their prey and soften them up before they kill them.

The Keres

The Keres are creatures that are half-human and half-bat. They are battlefield spirits that feed on violent death.

Persephone

Persephone is the Queen of the Underworld. She summons Percy and two other demigods to Hades to find the Sword of Hades which was stolen by an unknown demigod.

Nico

Nico is the son of Hades. His step-mother is Persephone. After Nico, Thalia, and Percy recover the Sword of Hades, Nico bids goodbye to his demigod friends. He wants to stay with his father Hades and get to know him better.

Annabeth

Annabeth is a demigod and the daughter of Athena. She is a good friend of Percy Jackson and, in fact, is sweet on him. But, she comments that he is too “obtuse” to realize when a girl is interested in him.



Symbols and Symbolism

The Mist

The Mist was a magical veil that prevented humans from seeing things as they really were. This is a metaphorical representation that men often do not see things as they are; rather, they see them as they want them to be.

The War Chariot of Ares

Ares was the god of war. His vehicle was the War Chariot which was powered by two flame-breathing horses.

The Prophecy

In the story about the sword of Hades, there was a prophecy that a war was coming between the Titans and the gods. The next child of the major gods who turned sixteen would make a decision that would save or destroy the world.

Riptide

Riptide is Percy Jackson's magical sword. It is contained in his ink pen. When he pulls off the cap of his pen, the three foot-long sword appears and he is ready for battle.

The Keys of Hades

The Keys of Hades can lock and unlock the dead. Hades wife, Persephone who is the Queen of the Underworld, plotted to forge one of the keys into a sword so that whoever wielded the sword could unleash the dead.

The Bronze Dragon

The Bronze Dragon was a huge powerful robot created by Hephaestus to guard the Half-Blood Camp. When not maintained properly, most of these automatons became crazed machines that killed.

The Golden Deer

The Golden Deer appeared from a clump of snowy bushes. The Golden Deer was a sacred animal of Artemis.



Persephone's Garden

When Percy and the demigods were summoned to the Underworld they magically appeared in Persephone's Garden which was bedecked with diamonds and gemstones. Its lively appearance was misleading and in sharp contrast to the dead world the demigods had entered.

Capture the Flag

The Capture the Flag game was one of the favorite pastimes of the demigods at the Half-Blood Camp. Opposing teams tried to capture the flag of one another.

"Muskrat Love"

"Muskrat Love" was the satyr Grover Underwood's favorite song. He liked to play it on his reed pipes and claimed that it was a love song for everyone, not just muskrats.



Settings

Half-Blood Camp

Half-Blood Camp is the camp for demigods, the half-caste children of the gods. Percy Jackson loves the camp. He lives in fear that the camp and his friends at the camp could be destroyed.

Intrepid

The Intrepid is Ares' temple. Located on Pier 86 in New York City, it is an old war ship turned museum.

The Ant Hill

When playing the Capture the Flag game, Percy and his fellow demigods are confronted with the huge anthill of the Myrmekes, vicious ant-like creatures that are the size of German shepherds.

Goode High School

Percy was a student at Goode High School in New York City. He was in the auditorium of the school in his freshman year taking an English exam when he encountered Mrs. O'Leary, a shaggy black monster the size of a Hummer.

Hades

Percy and two other demigods are summoned to Hades by the goddess Persephone to find the Sword of Hades which was stolen by an unknown demigod. The river Styx runs through the Underworld; its rapids are swift and black and eerie.



Themes and Motifs

Loyalty

A theme that is present in all the stories contained in Percy Jackson & the Olympians – The Demigod Files is loyalty. The protagonist, Percy Jackson, is a demigod who must balance the life of an ordinary teenage boy who lives and attends school in New York City with his other self – the self that possesses powers only the son of a god could have. While he enjoys his time with his friends and classmates, he is always “on call” for a mission from the gods. When Rachel, a girl he spent many summer hours with, invites him to her family’s vacation home, he is tempted by the offer but cannot accept it. His first loyalty is to the gods he serves.

Loyalty to his missions and his fellow demigods has top priority over everything else – including his personal relationships. When he looks out the window of his science class and sees Clarisse fighting off an onslaught of huge vicious ravens, he doesn’t hesitate. He is being called to duty. He knew Clarisse from Half-Blood Camp. While he didn’t get along with Clarisse there and she didn’t seem to like him, it didn’t matter. Adding another layer of complexity to the situation, Clarisse is the daughter of Ares while Percy is the son of Poseidon. Both fathers are two powerful gods who are bitter enemies. However, Percy sets that all aside. What mattered most to Percy was that a fellow demigod was in trouble and he felt duty-bound to help her.

In another story, Percy and two of his fellow demigods are summoned to Hades by the goddess Persephone to retrieve a stolen sword. His first thought is the welfare of the gods. Hades had been forbidden to have any weapons. When Persephone ordered that the Sword of Hades be forged without Zeus’ approval, she thereby broke the centuries-old agreement. Although Percy had to follow the orders of the goddess Persephone, he vowed not to return the sword unless Hades, god of the Underworld, took an oath not to lift the sword against the other gods.

Percy lives with the burden of being a demigod, and he is always looking over his shoulder for threats or perils that may beset the gods. His loyalty to the gods takes precedence over everything else in his life.

Duplicity

Percy Jackson is a demigod. His mother is human and his father is Poseidon, the god of the sea. As such he is often torn between two worlds. At one moment he is a fifteen-year-old student in his science class and the next he is wielding his magical sword named Riptide, while fighting off an assault by a flock of menacing ravens.

Percy is an able warrior, considered by many of his peers to be the most fearsome among the demigods. However, he is part human. Inherent to the human condition are doubt and uncertainty. While he has power over water and the ocean, on more than



several occasions he demonstrates his lack of confidence that his powers will be effective. A god would not have such doubts. In one sequence, he prays to Poseidon that his powers and skills will help him succeed and survive his challenge.

Percy is devoted to the gods he serves; but, he also has strong emotional attachment to humans. As he ventures across the vast Underworld in search of a missing sword, he thinks about his mother. It is Christmastime. It hurts him to think of how she must be worrying about where he is and if he is safe. When he is wounded on his mission, he thinks of basketball and Christmas dinner to distract him from his pain. His human girlfriend, Rachel, invites him to her family vacation home in St. Thomas. He'd like to go but he's "on call" for a mission so he must decline her offer. Just when Rachel is about to kiss him, Beckendorf summons him for their next mission. Rachel wistfully tells him to save the world for her. Percy knows her statement was said in a light matter. However, to him and the demigods, saving the world is not a light matter at all.

In addition to the battles Percy Jackson must fight and the monsters he must face, there is always a tension within him between the gods he serves and the humans in his life whom he loves.

Tenacity

Percy Jackson was dedicated to the gods and to his missions. He faced many dangers and perils in his adventures, but he succeeded in his missions because he was extraordinarily tenacious by nature. He would not give up on his assignment no matter what the danger or the seemingly insurmountable odds against success. When he scurried to help the demigod Clarisse to fight against an onslaught of powerful ravens, he knew that there was more to her dilemma than a flock of black birds. He volunteered to help her but didn't know exactly what he was getting into.

Clarisse's mission was to get Ares' War Chariot back from her mischievous half-brothers, Phobos and Deimos, who had taken it from her. He vowed to help her and had to face a sea monster, frightening and enchanted images of the end of his friends and camp, a WWII turret, a Harley-Davidson, and the relentless assault and trickery of the brothers. But, Percy proved to be more tenacious than those minor gods and ultimately drove them away. When he plunged underwater with Clarisse on his back, he summoned the power of the water to get them to safety. Others would have given up under such adverse and perilous conditions, but Percy stayed the course and saw his mission through.

When Percy was summoned to the Underworld to find the missing Sword of Hades, he was badly wounded. Although Nico poured the nectar of the gods on his wound and Percy survived his injury, he was weak and ill. When his friends encountered the River Styx, Percy knew that it was up to him to get them across it. Ignoring his condition, he forced himself to stand. He summoned the power of Poseidon to command the water to subside and allow his friends to cross.

Without Percy's persistent nature, many of the missions of the demigods would have been thwarted and they would have failed the gods they served.



Styles

Point of View

Most of the stories in *Percy Jackson & the Olympians – the Demigod Files* by Rick Riordan are written in the first-person narrative from the perspective of the protagonist, Percy Jackson. Writing from this point of view allows the reader to have insight into the inner thoughts, fears, and intentions of the main character.

One section which contains the interviews that the god Chiron conducted with some of the demigods is the exception. Chiron asks questions which are directly answered by the various demigods that he interviews. For example, Chiron asks Annabeth which demigod she would recruit to fight on her side. Without hesitation she blurts out “Percy Jackson.” She also lets it slip that he’s a little obtuse in the area of romance because he doesn’t seem to catch some hints that she drops.

The adventure stories are told from Percy’s perspective. As brave and confident as Percy seems on the exterior, the reader learns of his vulnerability and his doubts about whether he can stand up to the challenges that he encounters. In “The Sword of Hades” Percy is flung into a dark river. He prays to Poseidon for protection and is not at all sure that he will survive. When Clarisse’s brothers steal Ares’ war chariot from her, Percy is thwarted again and again. Though he senses defeat at times, he is able to summon all his powers and wisdom to defeat them.

Percy Jackson reveals in his adventure stories that he has the powers of a god and he also possesses the vulnerability and fragility of his human nature.

Language and Meaning

As expected, the stories of *Percy Jackson & the Olympians – the Demigod Files* by Rick Riordan have many references to Greek gods. Percy Jackson is the son of Poseidon. He is also a demigod which means his mother is human. Percy has inherited some of his father’s powers and can summon the sea to help him in his battles and defend him against exotic creatures and monsters. There are many other demigods who are friends of Percy’s. Annabeth is another demigod whose mother is Athena and her father is human. Clarisse’s father is Ares and Selina’s mother is Aphrodite.

There are many magical references in these stories about demigods. For example, Percy carries his pen around with him at all times. He’s never without it. He doesn’t have it with him to take notes. When he he’s faced with danger or must do battle, he uncaps the pen which turns into his gleaming three-foot-long gleaming sword that he named Riptide.

Clarisse has two half-brothers who are gods; but, they are considered weak gods – meaning their power is limited and narrow. Her brother Phobos is the god of fear. The



word “phobia” comes from Phobos’ name. Phobos can sense what frightens a person most and then use it against the person. He determined that Percy was most afraid of something happening to his friends and to the Half-Blood Camp. He used enchantment to make Percy see images of the camp on fire and in ruins. Clarisse’s brother Deimos is the god of terror. His power is stronger than that of his brother since he can frighten entire crowds or cities of people.

The Mist of the gods is used to make humans think that they see things that aren’t really there. Clarisse took her father’s war chariot with two fire-breathing horses, but the Mist made the chariot appear as a car to humans. The Mist eliminates a lot of explaining on the part of the demigods.

The tension of a demigod who lives between two worlds is expressed in many episodes by using charming and humorous ways.

Structure

Percy Jackson & the Olympians – the Demigod Files by Rick Riordan is structured in basically five unnumbered chapters. The stories are stand-alone and are not in a specific sequence, although the same protagonist and many of the same characters appear in each story. Since each story is a stand-alone adventure, there is a resolution at the conclusion of each story and no lingering questions about the outcome remain. The last adventure is an exception because it is a “sneak peak” at the next book in the series.

One of the sections contains a series of interviews of the demigods collected by the god Chiron. The individual demigods are asked about many things including their favorite pranks, favorite song, and who the best warrior is among the demigods.

There is a map of Camp Half-Blood where the demigods gather for fun and sport. It is located off Long Island Sound. The map shows where the amphitheater, the cabins, and the climbing wall are located. A graphic of Annabeth’s camp trunk displays the many items that she brought with her to camp.

The book begins with a letter from author Rick Riordan to the demigods in which he tells them to read the book carefully because their own adventures are just beginning. There is also a photo gallery and short bio of some of the gods such as Zeus and Poseidon and demigods including Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase. There is also a section with word games including a crossword puzzle and word search.



Quotes

You know how teachers tell you the magic word is please? That's not true. The magic word is puke. It will get you out of class faster than anything else.

-- Percy (Chapter 1 paragraph 5, Page 6)

Importance: Percy makes up an excuse to leave class so he can help Clarisse who is outside battling large ravens.

They're minor gods. . . Phobos is fear. Deimos is terror. . . Deimos is bigger and uglier, I guess, He's good at freaking out entire crowds. Phobos is more like person. He can get inside your head.

-- Clarisse (Chapter 1 paragraph 7, Page 12)

Importance: Clarisse is telling Percy what he's up against in the battle with her half-brothers. Clarisse's evil half-brothers, Phobos and Deimos, were trying to get Clarisse in trouble with their father Ares. Percy was trying to help Clarisse get Ares' chariot back to his temple before he discovered it was missing. Her brothers were bent on stopping them. They conjured up the sea monster as one way to try to stop them.

The monster was at least as big as the boat. It was gray and green with a head like a crocodile and razor-sharp teeth.

-- Percy (Chapter 1 paragraph 3, Page 14)

Importance: This episode sets up the conflict between Ares and Percy because Percy's father, Poseidon, and Ares are mortal enemies.

We averted our eyes as Deimos exploded into golden light—his true godly form—and disappeared.

-- Percy (Chapter 1 paragraph 12, Page 26)

Importance: This passage is an example of the kind of powers that Percy Jackson is up against as a demigod fighting with gods.

He'd been working on a secret weapon for the two of us—bronze chameleon armor, enchanted to blend into the background. If we stood in front of rocks, our breastplates, helms and shields turned gray. If we stood in front of bushes, the metal changed to a leafy green.

-- Percy (Chapter 2 paragraph 5, Page 37)

Importance: This passage underscores the magical powers that the protagonist and his friends possessed.

Its sides were plated with bronze and gold scales, encrusted with gemstones. Its legs were the size of tree trunks and its feet had steel talons. It had no wings – most Greek dragons don't – but its tail was at least as long as its main body, which was the size of a



school bus.

-- Percy (Chapter 2 paragraph 1, Page 50)

Importance: The bronze dragon automaton that had protected the camp had been resurrected by Annabeth and the others to save Beckendorf from the Myrmekes. This passage underscores some of the dangerous and exotic creatures that Percy and his band of demigods co-existed with in Camp Half-Blood.

My old granny goat used to say, 'Two cans a day keep the monsters away.

-- Grover (Chapter 3 paragraph 3, Page 73)

Importance: Grover Underwood is a satyr who was interviewed by Chiron about what he likes to eat. Since he's part goat, he was asked if tin cans were really tasty. This passage is indicative of the light and humorous nature of this section and in many senses the entire book.

If I'd known what was coming, I would've called in sick. I could've avoided an army of demons, a fight with a Titan, and a trick that almost got my friends and me cast into eternal darkness.

-- Percy (Chapter 4 paragraph 1, Page 85)

Importance: This quote sets the premise for "Percy Jackson and the Sword of Hades" and foreshadows what is in store for Percy and his fellow demigods.

I wasn't happy when the flower pointed us toward the Fields of Punishment. . . .the flower seemed to like the harshest, evilest part of the Underworld.

-- Percy (Chapter 4 paragraph 6, Page 102)

Importance: The flower given to the demigods by Persephone was guiding them through the Underworld. They could not avoid the eerie areas that the flower led them to because they had to follow it because it would bring them to the missing sword.

As we walked, I tried to think about positive things: my favorite basketball players, my last conversation with Annabeth, what my mom would make for Christmas dinner – anything but the pain.

-- Percy (Chapter 4 paragraph 6, Page 123)

Importance: Percy is trying to cope with his injury during the quest to find the missing sword. He thinks of better times and the people he loves to distract him from his pain and his mission in the Underworld.

So many ghosts, my young demigod. They long to be unleashed. When Kronos rules the world, I shall be free to walk among mortals both night and day, sowing terror as they deserve.

-- Melinoe (Chapter 4 paragraph 6, Page 123)



Importance: Melinoe, the goddess of ghosts and restless spirits, warns the demigods how her power will be increased when the Titans win the war against the gods.

Still, something big was supposed to go down any day now. I was 'on call' for a mission. Even worse, next week was my birthday. There was this prophecy that said when I turned sixteen, bad things would happen.

-- Percy (Chapter 5 paragraph 8, Page 146)

Importance: Percy had to turn down his human girlfriend's invitation to go to her family vacation home in St. Thomas. The gods would be summoning him for a mission and a prophecy was looming about his upcoming birthday. This is a teaser for the next book in the series.