

The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel Study Guide

**The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel by Rick
Riordan**

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Contents

The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Section 1: pages 1-8.....	5
Section 2: pages 8-16.....	7
Section 3: pages 17-22.....	9
Section 4: pages 24-33.....	10
Section 5: pages 34-38.....	12
Section 6: pages 39-46.....	14
Section 7: pages 48-55.....	16
Section 8: pages 56-65.....	18
Section 9: pages 66-74.....	20
Section 10: pages 75-82.....	22
Section 11: pages 83-92.....	24
Section 12: pages 93-103.....	26
Section 13: pages 104-111.....	28
Section 14: pages 112-118.....	30
Section 15: pages 120-125.....	32
Characters.....	34
Objects/Places.....	39
Themes.....	42
Style.....	45
Quotes.....	48
Topics for Discussion.....	51



Plot Summary

"The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel", written by Rick Riordan and illustrated by John Rocco is the comic book adaptation of the first book in the "Percy Jackson & the Olympians" series. This fantasy novel follows the journey of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he learns that he is the son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, and is sent on a quest to retrieve Zeus's Master Bolt in order to prevent war between Zeus, Poseidon and Hades which could destroy all of Western Civilization. "The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is an entertaining work of fiction that integrates Greek mythology into modern American society to show how a troubled boy finds his true identity and strength.

During a school field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Percy is attacked by his math teacher, Mrs. Dodds, who turns into a fury from the Underworld, but when Percy questions another teacher about the event, Mr. Brunner insists that there is no Mrs. Dodds. With the school year over, Percy goes home to see his mother, Sally, who announces they are taking a trip to the beach. As Percy and Sally discuss Percy's father at the cabin, Grover, Percy's best friend who is revealed to be a satyr, arrives to warn them of approaching danger, so Sally urges the boys to her car so they can flee; however, on the drive, Sally's car flips, and as they walk through the woods, she is attacked by a Minotaur and disappears. Enraged, Percy rips a horn from the beast before passing out.

Percy wakes at Camp Half-Blood where Mr. Brunner reveals that he is actually a centaur named Chiron. Furthermore, this camp is for the children of the Greek gods who exist and are bound to Western Civilization. Percy is placed in Cabin 11 where all those whose lineage is undetermined are placed, and here, he befriends Luke. During a game of Capture the Flag, Clarisse, the daughter of Ares, attacks Percy near the creek, but when he falls into the water, he manages to defeat her and his injuries are healed, thus indicating he is the son of Poseidon. Chiron explains that this is dangerous since Poseidon, Zeus and Hades took an oath to refrain from siring any more half-bloods because their powerful children affect the human world too much. Additionally, Zeus's Master Bolt, the symbol of his power, has been stolen, and Zeus suspects Percy of being the thief, thus Percy is sent on a quest to find the Master Bolt which Chiron believes was stolen by Hades. Percy has only ten days to retrieve the bolt, else war will be declared on the summer solstice.

Before Percy leaves on his quest with Grover and Annabeth, Luke presents him with flying shoes from Hermes, suggesting they may be useful during his quest. The trio are confronted by furies in New York City, and Percy is attacked by Echidna in St. Louis where he also receives three pearls from Nereid on Poseidon's behalf, to use if he is in danger. Ares offers guidance and assistance at a diner and tells Percy that his mother is alive. When Percy, Annabeth and Grover finally arrive at D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles, they convince Charon to escort them to the Underworld.



In the Underworld, the flying shoes which Grover wears tries to drag him into Tartarus, but Percy and Annabeth rescue him. Percy confronts Hades who accuses him of stealing his object of power, the Helm of Darkness. Objecting, Percy opens his pack from Ares as proof only to reveal the Master Bolt. Hades reveals Sally, offering a trade, but Percy uses Poseidon's Pearls so that he and his friends can escape, promising he will return for his mother.

The trio land in the ocean, and on the beach, they are confronted by Ares who admits his role in the thefts before Percy defeats him in a fight. Percy gives the Helm of Darkness, left behind by Ares, to a fury, asking that she return it to Hades and assure him that there is no need for war. He then returns to New York where he takes the elevator in the Empire State Building to the 600th floor where Olympus floats above the city. Zeus accepts the peace offering, and Poseidon expresses pride in his son for completing the quest. Percy returns to camp where he, Annabeth and Grover are lauded as heroes. Because of his success, Grover is granted a license to search for Pan, the god of the satyrs, and Percy is ecstatic to find that Hades has restored Sally to the world since the Helm of Darkness has been returned. Percy happily leaves Camp Half-Blood with his mother.



Section 1: pages 1-8

Section 1: pages 1-8 Summary

"The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel", written by Rick Riordan and illustrated by John Rocco, is the comic book adaptation of the first book in the "Percy Jackson & the Olympians" series. This fantasy novel follows the journey of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he learns that he is the son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, and is sent on a quest to retrieve Zeus's Master Bolt in order to prevent war between Zeus, Poseidon and Hades which could destroy all of Western Civilization. "The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is an entertaining work of fiction that integrates Greek mythology into modern American society to show how a troubled boy finds his true identity and strength.

During a school field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Percy answers Mr. Brunner's questions about the ancient Greek artifacts, and before letting him break for lunch, Mr. Brunner tells Percy "what you learn from me is vitally important, Mr. Jackson" (page 2). As Percy bickers with Nancy who teases him about being dyslexic, Mrs. Dodds ushers Percy inside as she lectures him about hiding and giving her so many problems. Claiming Percy will suffer less pain if he confesses, Mrs. Dodds's face mutates, and she turns into a winged creature, attacking Percy. Mr. Brunner throws Percy a pen, and as he reminds Percy that the pen is mightier than the sword, the pen turns into a sword which Percy uses to cut Mrs. Dodds in half. After she vanishes, Mr. Brunner retrieves his pen, insisting there has never been a Mrs. Dodds at Yancy Academy when Percy questions him about the other teacher. Frustrated while studying at school, Percy leaves his room and eavesdrops on Grover talking to Mr. Brunner about his concerns with Percy being left alone during the summer. Grover also mentions the summer solstice deadline, but Mr. Brunner insists they need to focus on keeping Percy alive for now.

Section 1: pages 1-8 Analysis

At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Brunner questions Percy about what the engraving on an ancient Greek grave marker represents, and Percy responds by telling the story of how Kronos ate his children for fear one would overthrow him, but Zeus escaped when his mother gave Kronos a rock in his stead, eventually leading to the war between the Greeks and the Titans. The conversation about Kronos foreshadows his involvement at a later point in the story. Mr. Brunner asks to speak to Percy alone as they break for lunch, and when Percy reunites with his friends outside of the museum, one day before he either passes sixth grade or gets kicked out of the sixth school in six years, Grover asks if Percy got detention again. Percy explains that Mr. Brunner just reminded him that the class is not pointless and insisted "what you learn from me is vitally important, Mr. Jackson" (page 2). This foreshadows the discovery that Percy descends from Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea. As Percy wishes Mr. Brunner



would lay off since he is not a genius, Nancy teases Percy about being dyslexic, but when she falls into the fountain, she claims Percy pushed her, so Mrs. Dodds ushers Percy inside, yelling at him for giving her so many problems and insisting no one hides from "us" forever. This is followed by Mrs. Dodds's mutation into a fury, foreshadowing the course the narrative will take as it pertains to Greek mythology. Unfortunately, after Percy uses Mr. Brunner pen, which turns into a sword, to vanquish the monster, Mr. Brunner claims that he has never heard of Mrs. Dodds, indicating that either Percy has hallucinated or that Mr. Brunner is hiding something from Percy. At school, Percy gets frustrated as he studies since he can only read Greek, so calling himself a reject, he throws his book. Meanwhile, Grover visits Mr. Brunner because he is worried about Percy and fears Percy should not be left alone over summer break since there was a fury in the school, but Mr. Brunner insists that they will only make matters worse by rushing Percy as he needs time to mature. Grover argues that they may not have time since there is a deadline on the summer solstice, but Mr. Brunner says they will resolve that and allow Percy to enjoy his ignorance while he still can. Grover refuses to fail again; Mr. Brunner knows what that would mean for his future! Assuring Grover that he has not failed yet, Mr. Brunner chides himself for not seeing Mrs. Dodds for what she was, but they need to worry about keeping Percy alive now. Mr. Brunner thinks he hears someone in the hall, but he sees no one when he opens his door because Percy hides around the corner. Ordering Grover back to his dorm, Mr. Brunner insists that the day's events do not grant him a reprieve from tomorrow's final examination. The conversation between Mr. Brunner and Grover indicates that they are hiding something extremely important from Percy, and it also foreshadows the discovery of what the summer solstice deadline refers to.



Section 2: pages 8-16

Section 2: pages 8-16 Summary

After his final exam, Percy storms out of the classroom when Mr. Brunner references his specific learning needs and how he is not normal. When Grover joins Percy at the bus station unexpectedly, he reacts oddly when he notices three old ladies knitting socks, but when he goes to buy a ticket to ride to the city with Percy, Percy sneaks away because he does not want his friend to see his home. At his mother's apartment in the Upper East Side, Percy happily hugs his mother, Sally, ignoring the lectures from his stepfather, Gabe. Sally tells Percy to keep his chin up because they are taking a trip to the beach for several days, and then "all our headaches will be gone" (page 14). At the cabin, Sally tells Percy about how she met his father here, and though his father knew she was pregnant, he had to set sail and was lost at sea. Percy's confession that Yancy Academy will probably not invite him back next year is interrupted by Grover knocking at the door. Grover tells Sally that they need to leave immediately because something is right behind him, so after Percy tells her about Mrs. Dodds attacking him, Sally rushes both boys to her car.

Section 2: pages 8-16 Analysis

As the exam ends the next day, Percy warns Mr. Brunner that it probably is not good, but he did his best. When Mr. Brunner tells Percy not to be discouraged since Yancy probably is not that best place for his specific learning needs but he should not be ashamed that he is not normal, Percy storms away angrily. Again, this indicates that Mr. Brunner is hiding something from Percy while also showing Percy's defensive nature about his differences. Percy is joined at the bus station by Grover who chides him for leaving without saying goodbye, but Percy asks if Grover is looking for more furies since he overheard Grover's conversation with Mr. Brunner. Grover claims he was simply worried about his friend for hallucinating demonic math teachers since there is no Mrs. Dodds, but Grover starts to panic when he notices three old ladies staring at Percy as they knit socks, especially when one snips her strip. Telling Percy to wait so he can buy a bus ticket and ride into the city with him, Grover returns to find Percy and the old ladies gone. On the bus, Percy thinks that he does not want Grover to see where he lives, again showing his insecurities, and when he gets home to an apartment in Manhattan's Upper East Side, Sally, Percy's mother, greets him, foreshadowing her role in the narrative. They happily hug to celebrate their reunion as Sally's husband, Gabe, bellows for bean dip. Sally informs Percy that they are going to the beach for three days, and while she makes Gabe's bean dip, Gabe lectures Percy about returning his car without a scratch, even though Percy is only twelve years old and will not be driving. This shows the horrific home life that Percy has and also foreshadows how Percy's life will change during his trip to the beach as Sally tells him that their troubles will disappear. As a storm rages outside, Percy and Sally huddle in the cabin, with Percy complaining about the weather, but Sally is happy because this place has good



memories for her since it is here that she met Percy's father and they spent the entire summer together. He knew she was expecting a baby, but he had to set sail and was lost at sea. When Sally notes that Percy has a lot of his father in him, Percy asks if his father was stupid too, warning his mother that Yancy probably will not invite him to return next year. Sally insists that they will figure something out, causing Percy to ask if she will send him away again because she does not want him around or because of Gabe, noting they both deserve better than Gabe. This shows Percy's contempt and dislike for his stepfather. Sally protests that she has to send Percy away because they told her it would be too dangerous to keep him close; it is either boarding school or the place his father wanted him to go. Percy is confused that his father had a school picked out when he never even met his son, but Sally clarifies that it is more like a camp where his father said Percy would be safe; however, Sally might have to tell him goodbye for good if he goes there. This conversation further foreshadows the discovery of Percy's paternal heritage. Following a knock at the door, Sally forbids Percy from answering the door, but he ignores her to find Grover on his doorstep. Grover has been searching all night for Percy, and he tells Sally that they need to leave now because it is right behind him. Percy is distracted by the sight of his best friend with the legs of a goat, but Sally asks Percy what happened at school, and when he tells her about the bat-lady that everyone said never existed, Sally orders Percy and Grover to the car right away! The last part of this section serves to illustrate several things. First, Sally obviously knows something about Percy which she has not told her son yet. She also recognizes the danger behind what she knows. Additionally, Grover's appearance with goat legs indicates that he is a satyr, further foreshadowing the integration of Greek mythology in this narrative.



Section 3: pages 17-22

Section 3: pages 17-22 Summary

In the car, Percy notes that his best friend is a donkey from the waist down, but Grover rebuffs that he is a goat. He really is Percy's friend though, because most satyrs would trample him for such an insult. When Percy questions Grover about satyrs being from Greek mythology, Grover asks if Mrs. Dodds was a myth too. He admits that she existed, explaining that they used mist to make everyone forget her in hopes that Percy would think he imagined her; however, what is chasing them now is way worse than Mrs. Dodds. Just as Sally pleads that they will make it the last mile to camp, their car flips. Since Grover is injured, Sally tells Percy they will carry him, promising that they have just a little farther to go until Percy will be safe. Percy asks what is coming as he and Sally drag Grover from the car, but a beast appears in the woods, looking a bit like a bull. Sally tells Percy to take Grover toward the tall pine tree at the edge of the property line, insisting he does not stop until he reaches the farmhouse on the other side of the hill. Percy objects to leaving his mother, but she insists that she will be fine because it is not her that they are after. As Percy drags Grover away, he turns when Sally screams as the beast grabs her by the throat. She disappears, so Percy rushes back and snaps a horn from the beast's head, causing it to disappear just before Percy passes out on the ground next to the horn.

Section 3: pages 17-22 Analysis

During the drive, Percy learns that his best friend is a satyr, half human and half goat, and Grover also admits that Mrs. Dodds was real; she is a fury from the Underworld, and Mr. Brunner used mist to make everyone forget, hoping Percy would think he has imagined the whole thing since the mist does not work on him. This begins to fulfill the foreshadowing regarding Percy's involvement with the world of Greek mythology. As Sally rushes toward safety, her car flips and they are attacked by a Minotaur which kidnaps Sally. Sally's insistence that the monster is not after her foreshadows the important role that Percy must play in the following events. After Sally disappears, Percy demonstrates his bravery and loyalty by attacking the monster and breaking one of its horns off before he passes out, and this foreshadows his encounters with many more monsters throughout the narrative.



Section 4: pages 24-33

Section 4: pages 24-33 Summary

When Percy wakes, Grover admits that the Minotaur was real and apologizes for allowing it to take Sally. He leads Percy to Mr. D and Chiron who explain that he is at Camp Half-Blood, a summer camp for children begat of a human and a Greek god. Mr. Brunner is actually Chiron, a centaur who is pleased with Percy's success against the Minotaur, and he offers Percy a guided tour of Camp Half-Blood. Chiron tells Percy that the Greek gods are real and a part of Western Civilization before introducing him to Annabeth who Percy recognizes from his dreams. Annabeth explains that she helped nurse Percy after his battle with the Minotaur, and she also explains that he did not kill the monster; he was only able to dispel it for now, but it will reform eventually. Annabeth is jealous that Percy had a chance to fight since that is what every kid at camp dreams of. Percy argues that she has no idea what it is like to be him, but Annabeth guesses he changes schools a lot and has been diagnosed with dyslexia, explaining that he cannot read English because his brain is hard-wired for ancient Greek while his hyperactivity is just his battlefield instincts kicking in which is obvious since no human could survive battling a monster. She ends with "Face it. You're one of us. You're a half-blood" (page 31). Clarisse, the camp bully, comments on the newbie, threatening Annabeth when she defends Percy and explains that Clarisse is the daughter of Ares, the God of War. Clarisse puts Percy in a headlock and drags him to the bathroom, trying to dunk his head in the toilet; however, water splashes up and knocks Clarisse out while Annabeth laughs, noting that she wants Percy on her team for Capture the Flag.

Section 4: pages 24-33 Analysis

Percy wakes in a cabin and asks Grover where they are after having some strange dreams. Noting that Percy was out for two days, Grover asks what he remembers, and Percy recalls a blond girl calling him "the one", Grover being half goat and fighting a cow which took Mom. Thanking Percy for saving his life, Grover presents his friend with a box that contains the horn that Percy ripped off the beast, and this causes Percy to realize Sally is really gone. Grover accepts the blame, saying he is the worst satyr ever and he failed to protect Sally. When Percy asks if this is related to the old ladies at the bus station, Grover explains that the ladies are the three fates, and they only cut the string when someone you know is about to die. All of this serves to fulfill earlier foreshadowing regarding Percy's involvement with Greek mythology. As Percy cries for his mother, Grover suggests that it is time to talk to Chiron and Mr. D, so he leads Percy to another log cabin and introduces him to the camp director, Mr. D, who welcomes Percy to Camp Half-Blood but warns him not to expect Mr. D to be glad to see him. Claiming that Percy already knows the activities director, Grover shows him Mr. Brunner who says Percy may now call him Chiron. Chiron is pleased that Percy survived as he usually does not visit potential campers at a mortal school and would hate to think he had wasted his time. Mr. D tells Chiron not to rush judgment; he may still yet discover



that he has wasted time on Percy as Mr. D is unimpressed that Grover sensed something special in Percy. After Grover leaves, Chiron apologizes for Mr. D's temper, explaining he has been in a foul mood since his father punished him for taking a fancy to a wood nymph that was declared off limits by making him run this summer camp. When Mr. D admits that Zeus is his father, Percy realizes the camp director is Dionysus, the God of Wine, but he does not understand what this place is, why Chiron went to Yancy Academy to teach him and what happened to his mother. Chiron suggests that a guided tour might help Percy understand things, so he climbs from his wheelchair and transforms into a centaur, half horse, half man, in order to properly introduce Percy to Camp Half-Blood.

Chiron explains that great powers are working in Percy's life, though Percy may not yet realize it. Furthermore, the Greek gods are real and alive and always will be, as will Olympus, the Palace of the Gods. The Greek gods and Olympus move with the heart of Western Civilization, beginning in Greece, moving to Rome and settling in America for the last half century. The gods are the source of the west, or at least, they are so bound to it that they cannot fade unless all of western civilization is obliterated. As Percy realizes that Chiron is the same centaur who trained Hercules in the myths, he understands what his teacher meant about what he learned in class being vitally important, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing. Chiron confirms that the Underworld is also real, but he urges Percy to put that out of his mind until they know more. Chiron leads Percy to a blond girl, Annabeth, and asks her to take Percy to Cabin 11 before excusing himself, and when Percy recognizes the girl from his dreams, Annabeth clarifies that it was not a dream; she helped the others nurse Percy back to health. Percy mentions killing the bull-man, but Annabeth explains that it is not possible to kill monsters. It is only possible to dispel them for a while, but they will reform eventually. Annabeth's knowledge of Percy's learning difficulties indicates that she has experienced similar problems, and this also serves to prove that her claims about Percy's heritage are true. Clarisse, a bully because she is the daughter of Ares the God of War, taunts Percy, but the fact that the water in the toilet comes to his defense foreshadows the revelation that Percy is the son of Poseidon, God of the Sea.



Section 5: pages 34-38

Section 5: pages 34-38 Summary

After Annabeth drops Percy off at Cabin 11, Percy meets Luke who explains that Percy is staying in Hermes's cabin because he is undetermined, meaning that no one knows who his godly parent is. Percy is grateful to Luke since he is the only person who does not treat him like he is diseased, and Luke assures him that the first day is always the worst. Everyone at camp is extended family, and they take care of each other, but Luke also warns Percy that, as the new kid, he will have to earn his reputation, starting with the game of Capture the Flag on Friday which everyone has to play according to camp rules. Luke assures Percy that they will begin training in the morning, suggesting they may have a clue about who sired Percy if they can find out what he is good at. On Wednesday, Luke determines that Apollo is not Percy's father after seeing his failure in archery, and his lack of speed negates the possibility that he belongs to Hermes the next day. On Friday, Luke notes that Percy is not Aphrodite's child with that face, causing Percy to remind him that they are supposed to be focusing on the male gods since he knows who his mother is already.

Section 5: pages 34-38 Analysis

Annabeth drops Percy off at Cabin 11 as she needs to get to training, telling him to join his cabin in the pavilion for dinner when the conch sounds. Inside Cabin 11, Percy notices a group of guys lounging around, but Luke, the head counselor for the time being, greets Percy and introduces him to the rest of the guys who ask if Percy is regular or undetermined, groaning when Luke says Percy is undetermined. Luke explains it is crowded here, clarifying that the cabins are based on who the camper's parents are when Percy offers to sleep in the empty cabin with a lightning bolt over the door. When Percy states they will not get a check from his mom since she is gone, Luke says he means Percy's other parent, and when Percy objects that his father died before he was born, Luke insists that his father cannot be dead; even though Percy does not know his father, his presence at camp indicates he is only half human, encouraging Percy to figure out what the other half is after all he has seen. Luke explains that undetermined means no one knows who Percy's father is, but perhaps his father will claim him since that happens upon occasion. Still, Luke warns Percy that some kids have been undetermined for years. Luke's father is Hermes, but he only met him once. This conversation serves to educate Percy a bit more on his paternal heritage, and it also foreshadows the discovery of who his godly parent actually is. Percy can stay in Cabin 11 for as long as necessary, but Luke warns him to be careful since Hermes is not too picky about who he sponsors. Luke comforts Percy, cementing their friendship, by assuring him that everyone at camp is family and will take care of each other, but he also warns the newcomer that he will have to earn his reputation. Over the next few days of training, Luke rules out several of the gods as potentials for Percy's other parent

based on his failures at their strengths, further foreshadowing the discovery that Percy is Poseidon's son.



Section 6: pages 39-46

Section 6: pages 39-46 Summary

During Friday's game of Capture the Flag, Annabeth sends Percy to patrol the creek border, wanting to get him away from the main action, but while he patrols the creek, Clarisse attacks him. When she knocks him into the water, Percy seems to become revitalized, managing to beat her. Meanwhile, the game ends, and the campers cheer for Luke. Wearing an invisibility hat from her mother, Athena the Goddess of Wisdom and Battle, Annabeth praises Percy for his victory over Clarisse, but when she asks where he learned to fight, he explains that he had a bizarre reaction after falling in the creek. A rustling sound in the bushes precedes a hellhound attacking Percy, but when it pushes him into the creek, Chiron appears to strike the beast down with his bow and arrow. He worries about Percy, but Percy assures him he is fine, leaving Chiron confused since Percy's breastplate is breached. Annabeth informs Chiron that it is the water, and when Percy asks if the creek is magical, Annabeth explains that the creek does not have power, Percy does. A glowing triton appears over Percy's head, and Chiron announces "The bloodline is determined. Poseidon- Earthshakers, Stormbringer, Lord of Horses. Hail Perseus Jackson, Son of the Sea God" (page 46).

Section 6: pages 39-46 Analysis

On Friday night, Mr. D announces the game of Capture the Flag, dividing the campers into teams, setting the boundaries and explaining that while magical items are permitted, killing and maiming are not. Chiron will serve as referee and medic while Mr. D will be at the big house; the game begins. When Percy asks Annabeth if he should go after the red team's flag, she instructs him to patrol the creek border, wanting him as far from the action as possible since he has only had one week of training. Dejected, Percy patrols the creek, but Clarisse attacks him, pushing him into the creek and urging him to fight back. Once Percy defeats Clarisse's two friends, Clarisse is excited for the challenge, so she attacks Percy with a glowing stick which he cuts in half. Percy's success after falling into the creek further foreshadows the discovery that he is the son of Poseidon while his conflict with Clarisse foreshadows and parallels his future conflict with her father, Ares. Chiron announces the game has ended with the blue team as the champion, and everyone cheers for Luke. A voice comments on the damage that Percy did to Clarisse and her friends, but Percy does not see anyone when he looks around until Annabeth removes her hat, explaining it grants invisibility and she got it from her mother. Percy complains that Annabeth set him up; she sent him to the creek alone though she knew Clarisse would be gunning for him! Annabeth confesses this is true, claiming her mother, Athena the Goddess of Wisdom and Battle, would be proud. She also tells Percy not to get bent out of shape since she came to help as soon as possible only to find that he did not need it. When Annabeth asks how Percy learned to fight like that, he explains that he does not know how to fight, but falling in the creek must have angered him since he had a bizarre reflex afterward, causing Annabeth to appear



contemplative as she considers what this means; this also indicates her suspicion that Percy is Poseidon's son. The hellhound that attacks Percy foreshadows the discovery that a camper is working with Hades as that is the only way that it could be summoned within the camp. Chiron is confused when he realizes that Percy has not been hurt, but Annabeth realizes that the water healed Percy, and combined with the manifestation of the triton, which appears over Percy's head, this leads Chiron to realize and announce that Percy is the son of the Sea God.



Section 7: pages 48-55

Section 7: pages 48-55 Summary

Percy dreams of two bearded men fighting over what belongs to one of them, waking when Grover knocks at his door. Percy's new cabin is very empty and lonely, and Grover leads him to Chiron to explain why everyone is keeping their distance. Chiron tells Percy that he never should have been born. After World War II, Kronos' three sons, Zeus, Poseidon and Hades, made a pact to never sire any more half-bloods because their offspring were affecting the course of human events too much; the war started because of a spat between the sons of Zeus and Poseidon versus the sons of Hades, so the brothers swore an oath on the River Styx, and the oath was upheld until Zeus had a daughter, Thalia, with an American TV starlet seventeen years ago. When Hades learned of Thalia, a satyr was sent to bring her to camp, but she was killed before they reached Camp Half-Blood. After Percy tells Chiron that he dreamt of Zeus and Poseidon fighting, Chiron confesses that they are fighting because Zeus's Master Bolt, his symbol power, was stolen, and Zeus suspects that Percy stole it for his father.

Meanwhile, Poseidon is furious that he is being wrongly accused, so he and Zeus have set the summer solstice, ten days away, as the deadline; if the Master Bolt has not been returned by then, a war will begin. Chiron suggests that Percy returning the bolt would be an excellent peace offering, and he even has an idea of where Percy can look, but first, Percy must seek guidance from the Oracle of Delphi. Percy enters the dark, creepy attic and faces a corpse-like woman in a chair who announces she is the spirit of Delphi. When Percy asks about his destiny, she tells him that he will go west and face the god who has turned. He will find the stolen item and safely return it, yet he will be betrayed by one who calls him friend, "and you shall fail to save what matters most in the end" (page 55). As the Oracle starts to fade, Percy begs her to tell him what friend and what he will fail to save, but the spirit of Delphi leaves the Oracle.

Section 7: pages 48-55 Analysis

As two bearded men fight, one demands the other return what belongs to him, obviously a dream about Zeus and Poseidon, but as Percy yells for them to stop fighting, he wakes from his dream to Grover knocking at his door. Happy to see his best friend, Percy invites Grover inside to see his new digs, noting that it is big and empty and he misses the Hermes crowd since everyone but Luke avoids him. Grover explains that there is a reason for everyone keeping their distance, and he leads Percy to Chiron at the big house to explain, foreshadowing the discovery of Poseidon breaching his oath in order to sire Percy. At the big house, this foreshadowing is fulfilled as Chiron tells Percy that Poseidon broke the oath that he and his brothers, Zeus and Hades, took that they would not sire any more half-bloods. He goes on to tell Percy about how Zeus first broke the oath when he sired Thalia. Hades learned of Thalia when she was twelve, and he sent hellhounds to destroy her, but a satyr was sent to bring her safely to camp.



Along the way, he met two other half-bloods, and they nearly made it to camp, but Thalia sacrificed herself just outside the valley so her companions could make it to safety; thus, Zeus transformed her into a pine tree, and her spirit protects the camp's border. Before Percy, Thalia was the last child determined to belong to one of the brothers, and when Percy objects that it was not Thalia's fault that her father could not keep his word, Chiron explains that "fairness rarely enters into the equation" when the brothers bicker (page 51). Percy admits that he had a dream about Zeus and Poseidon fighting over something valuable that was stolen, causing Grover to grow excited and certain that this is Percy's quest. Chiron admits that Zeus and Poseidon are fighting their worst quarrel in centuries over an invaluable item that was stolen, Zeus's lightning bolt which hurled Kronos from his throne, the bolt from which all other bolts are fashioned, Zeus's master bolt which is the symbol of his power. Moreover, Zeus claims Percy is the thief which would not be the first time Poseidon has tried to unseat his brother; however, a god cannot directly usurp another's symbol of power since it is forbidden by the most ancient of the divine laws, but half-bloods are not bound by such edicts, and now Percy is here. All of this serves to explain the current catastrophe and to foreshadow Percy's quest.

Though Chiron knows that thievery is not Poseidon's style, the Sea God is too proud to try to convince Zeus of that so they are deadlocked with Zeus demanding his bolt be returned and Poseidon demanding an apology for being wrongly accused. They have set the summer solstice, ten days away, as the deadline, and if the matter is not resolved by then, a war will start, the Olympians will choose sides, and Western Civilization will become a battleground for chaos and destruction. Chiron tells Percy all of these because if Poseidon did not steal the bolt, as Chiron believes he did not, his son retrieving it will make a great peace offering. Percy is shocked that Chiron wants him to find the bolt, and he sarcastically asks if he should search under his pillow. Chiron has an inkling based on a prophecy he heard years ago, but first, Percy must seek counsel from the Oracle, so he tells Percy to go to the attic and they will resume their conversation when he returns, if the godling is still sane. This foreshadows Percy's quest, his conversation with the Oracle and Chiron's suggestion of where Percy should look first. Percy visits the Oracle who tells him that he will go west and face the god that turned, he will find the stolen item and return it, but he will be betrayed by a friend and fail to save what matters most. This prophecy foreshadows the events that transpire during Percy's quest.



Section 8: pages 56-65

Section 8: pages 56-65 Summary

After Percy tells Chiron about the Oracle's prophecy, excluding the last part about failing to save that which matters most, Chiron suggests that the god in the west is Hades who has been unhappy with his lot and the fact that both of his brothers broke their oath. He thinks that Hades sent the hellhounds because he wants to kill Percy before he can clear Poseidon's name. Thus, Percy must go to D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles where the entrance to the Underworld is currently found. He can take two companions, Grover and Annabeth. As the trio prepares to leave, Luke presents Percy with a pair of Hermes's flying shoes, but since Chiron warns Percy that he should not enter the air since it is Zeus's domain, Percy gives the shoes to Grover. Chiron also gives Percy the pen that turns into a sword from the museum, warning that the trio will be on their own after they reach New York City. In Manhattan on June 11, ten days before the summer solstice when the trio will be lauded as heroes, Percy, Grover and Annabeth walk through the city, lamenting the fact that they have faced three furies and an exploding bus in the past thirty minutes.

As Annabeth sleeps, Grover tells Percy that he needs to succeed on this quest so he can acquire his searcher's license which will allow him to search for Pan as the bravest satyrs of every generation have done for 2000 years. Because the satyr can read emotions, he knows that Percy accepted the quest in hopes of rescuing his mother. Percy sleeps and dreams of a figure offering to barter for the Master Bolt in exchange for Sally. Annabeth and Grover wake Percy to tell him that they have found a solution to their problem about how to get to Los Angeles; Gladiola, a dog who ran away from a rich family, will allow the trio to return him to his owner for the reward to use for train tickets out west. By June 13, with eight days to go until the summer solstice, Percy, Annabeth and Grover ride the train toward St. Louis.

Section 8: pages 56-65 Analysis

Back downstairs, Percy tells Chiron that the Oracle said he would go west, face the god who turned and retrieve the stolen item, denying the Oracle said anything more. While Grover is excited that Percy is the one, Chiron cautions that the Oracle's words often have double meanings, and when Percy asks about the god in the west, Chiron suggests it must be Hades who has been unhappy with his lot since the world divided, plus he is angry that both of his brothers broke their oath. Additionally, Mrs. Dodds was a fury, and furies obey the Lord of the Dead. Chiron also suspects that there is a spy in Camp Half-Blood since the hellhounds were summoned within the camp's borders, and he believes that Hades wants to kill Percy before Percy has a chance to clear his father's name, though Chiron does not understand why Hades would choose this particular moment to pit his brothers against one another. Still, Percy must go to the Underworld, retrieve the bolt and reveal the truth, but he will have no Olympian backup



since the gods cannot enter each other's domains uninvited. All of this foreshadows Percy's descent into the Underworld.

Poseidon's decision to claim Percy was risky, but he is desperate and needs his son. Percy realizes his father is using him, but he has his own reasons for accepting this mission, so he asks how to get to the Underworld. Chiron explains that the Underworld moves from age to age, and its entrance can currently be found at D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles. Furthermore, Percy may take two companions on his quest, and Mr. D has agreed to give Grover a chance to redeem himself if Percy wants him. Percy agrees, so Grover promises not to let him down. Noting there is no time to waste and he has already had Percy's bags packed, Chiron leads Percy and Grover to meet the third member of their crew, Annabeth, who claims she is the best person to make sure they do not mess up if they are going to save the world. Luke catches up with them to wish them luck and to present Percy with flying shoes from Hermes which helped during his last quest. He tells Percy that a lot of hopes are riding on him before he leaves. Chiron warns Percy that using the shoes would not be wise since the air is Zeus's domain, so Percy gives the shoes to Grover. Chiron presents Percy with the pen from the museum, telling him its name is Anaklusmos which translates into Riptide, and he instructs him to uncap the pen which reveals a sword made of celestial bronze which is deadly to monsters; however, Chiron warns Percy that half-bloods are easier to kill. Telling them that the driver will take them to the city, but they will venture alone after that, Chiron wishes Godspeed to the trio.

While Annabeth sleeps, Percy tells Grover that next time they are attacked by Hades' minions, they should grab their packs before they run, apologizing for getting Grover mixed up in this quest. Grover insists he begged Mr. D to let him come because the only way for him to get his searcher's license is to bring Percy back to camp safely, and he needs his license in order to search for Pan, God of the Satyrs and Protector of Earth's Wild Places who disappeared two thousand years ago. Every generation, the bravest satyrs pledge their lives to finding him, as Grover's father and uncle did, but it will be different for Grover because he is determined to be the first to return alive. He tells Percy that the hope that Pan is still out there is all that keeps the satyrs from despair because of all the humans have done to the world. When Percy mopes, Grover assures his friend that he is not selfish, explaining that satyrs can read emotions, which is why he knows that Percy took the quest to get payback for his mom and to impress his dad. Percy angrily insists that he could not care less what his father thinks since Poseidon never cared about him. Telling Grover to take first watch, Percy goes to sleep. A cloaked figure taunts Percy for being weak, claiming he has been misled, but the figure will give Percy what he wants if he barter for the bolt in exchange for his mother. This foreshadows Percy's encounter with Hades. Two figures urge Percy to wake, and he wakes to Annabeth telling him that he is on a quest, not spring break. While Percy slept, Grover found a way west. Grover talks to a dog, Gladiola, who ran away from his rich family but is willing to let the three teens return him for a reward so they can use the money to buy train tickets to Los Angeles. Percy, Annabeth and Grover take the train west, and as they reach just east of St. Louis on June 13, eight days before the summer solstice, Percy watches a group of centaurs running parallel to the train. Their location foreshadows their adventures in St. Louis.



Section 9: pages 66-74

Section 9: pages 66-74 Summary

In St. Louis, Annabeth insists on sightseeing since they have a three-hour layover, but when the arches' observation deck closes, Percy is left behind to wait for the next elevator. As he converses with the old woman next to him about her dog, the dog transforms into a Chimera, and the woman introduces herself as Echidna, mother of the monsters. The Chimera knocks Percy's sword into the river, and Percy soon jumps from the observation deck; luckily, he is caught by Grover in mid-air, but they fall into the river since their weight is too great for the flying shoes. Underwater, Percy encounters Nereid, a water nymph sent to tell him that his mother's fate is not as hopeless as it appears. When Percy realizes he can breathe under water, she assures him that he has nothing to fear in his father's kingdom as Poseidon has granted safe passage to Percy and his companions. Percy mocks his father's interest since he does not visit, but Nereid claims that Poseidon cannot show favoritism, especially to her children. This is why she was sent to give him a warning and a gift. The Oracles have foretold a great and terrible future for Percy if he survives to manhood, and if he finds himself in need, he can smash the gift, three pearls, at his feet. She also reminds him "what belongs to the sea, will always return to the sea" (page 73). Nereid warns Percy that Hades feeds on doubt and hopelessness, so he will try to trick Percy if he can because he will never willingly allow his nephew to leave his kingdom. Also, Percy must keep faith with what his heart tells him or he will lose all. After Nereid disappears, Percy finds his dropped sword and expresses gratitude to his father.

Section 9: pages 66-74 Analysis

As Annabeth notes that most centaurs besides Chiron are pretty wild, Percy wonders why people do not notice this stuff, so Annabeth explains that the gods and monsters create mist when they mix with the human world, making mortals see things differently, though it does not affect half-bloods. This explains why humans do not notice these things and thus why Percy has never known about the Greek mythology that invades his daily life. When they reach the St. Louis station where they have a three-hour layover, Annabeth insists on sightseeing since she has not left camp in five years. They visit the arches, but when the observation deck closes, Percy is forced to wait for the next elevator with an old woman and her dog. When he questions her about her dog's breed, the dog transforms into a chimera, and the woman explains that she is Echidna, mother of the monsters. This fulfills the foreshadowing concerning Percy's encounters with other monsters. Using his pen-sword, Percy strikes at the beast, but its snake-like tail knocks the sword off the deck. Echidna mockingly tells Percy that jumping will be a better end than what awaits him and he should be flattered to be tested by one of her brood. Percy jumps from the observation deck to be caught by Grover in mid-air; however, their combined weight is too much for the shoes, so they fall into the river. In the river, Percy is approached by a water nymph, Nereid, who assures him of his



father's devotion, though Poseidon cannot show favoritism. She gives him a warning concerning Hades and keeping faith, and she also bestows upon him a gift, Poseidon's Pearls, which foreshadows the use of these pearls in saving Percy's life in the near future. Nereid's warning also foreshadows Hades's reaction to Percy's presence in the Underworld. After Nereid leaves, Percy finds his sword and expresses gratitude to his father, showing a change of heart as he reveals decreasing animosity towards his father.



Section 10: pages 75-82

Section 10: pages 75-82 Summary

Emerging from the river to rejoin Grover and Annabeth, Percy tells them about his encounter with Echidna and the chimera before they return to the train. In Denver on June 14, seven days before the summer solstice, Percy, Annabeth and Grover try to figure out how to earn more money since Gladiola's owners were not quite happy enough to see him so they could only buy tickets this far. Annabeth orders Percy to hide out of sight while she and Grover raise money, and as he grumbles about the plan, he receives a collect call from Camp Half-Blood on a water spout. Percy accepts Luke's call, and Luke explains that Iris, Goddess of Rainbows, sometimes carries messages since monsters can track cell phones, but she will discontinue service if she is not paid. Luke asks about Percy's progress, noting that news has leaked and the campers are at each other's throats. He also questions Percy about the shoes, and Percy lies that they fit great.

Noting that he wishes he could do more, Luke tells Percy that he is sure Hades is the thief, but Percy would have to be invisible to swipe the bolt from under Hades's nose. Luke has to end the call because the campers are fighting again. Annabeth and Grover return with enough money for them to split a burger and fries, but as they eat at a diner, a strange man buys them a second plate of food, noting he heard about how Percy busted Clarisse's spear. When Percy threatens violence, Grover cautions him that Ares provokes aggression in those near him, so Percy offers his condolences to Ares for having Clarisse as a daughter. Laughing, Ares claims that he and Poseidon go way back, and he is here to assist Percy. He informs them that Zeus sent him, Artemis and Apollo to search for the bolt when it first disappeared, so the trio has no chance, especially since they have no cash and no wheels, meaning no chance. Ares waits outside on his motorcycle while Percy, Annabeth and Grover continue eating. Noting there is a long road ahead, Ares gives them cash and points to a truck, advising them to stowaway before the driver finishes his lunch. When Percy questions Ares's help, Ares repeats that he and Poseidon go way back, and furthermore, he is the one who told Poseidon that Hades stole the bolt, so Percy has Ares to thank for his quest. Also, since a soldier needs motivation, Ares informs Percy that his mom is not dead; she is being held hostage in order to control Percy. Percy, Grover and Annabeth sneak into the truck, hitching a ride until the driver finds them in Las Vegas on June 15, six days until the summer solstice and 250 miles away from Los Angeles. Annabeth leads the boys into a casino to regroup.

Section 10: pages 75-82 Analysis

Percy, Annabeth and Grover continue their quest after their adventure in St. Louis, arriving in Denver with only seven days until the summer solstice. Since they do not have any more money, Annabeth and Grover attempt to acquire some while they leave



Percy hiding out of sight. During Percy's solitude, he receives a phone call from Luke who checks on his progress. Luke's interest in Percy's quest foreshadows his involvement with the quest, especially as he questions Percy about the flying shoes he had given him. After Luke ends the call, Annabeth and Grover return, but they have only managed to collect enough money for the three of them to split a meal at a local diner.

Luckily, a strange man buys them a second plate, but his comment about Clarisse causes Percy to react angrily, so Grover warns him that Ares, the God of War, provokes violence in others. Even with the warning, Percy cannot refrain from making a snide remark about Clarisse. Ares is amused by Percy's irritation, and he claims that he has come to help them. He also tells them about how he, Artemis and Apollo failed to find the Master Bolt when Zeus sent them to retrieve it after it first disappeared, indicating that there is no way these children will be able to accomplish what he and his siblings could not. Ares also mocks their lack of resources before supplying them with a pack full of supplies and cash, plus he advises them to stowaway on a tractor trailer truck. Percy questions Ares's help, foreshadowing the revelation that Ares is not really helping Percy and his companions on their quest. Ares insists that he and Poseidon go way back, but he never indicates anything that suggests they are friendly, again foreshadowing his duplicity. Ares takes credit for Percy being sent on the quest since he told Poseidon that Hades stole the bolt; however, this claim elicits the question of how Ares knows what is going on since Percy has only dealt with Chiron concerning their suspicions. Percy, Grover and Annabeth continue on their journey, hiding in the truck, and when they arrive in Las Vegas with six days to go, this seems to foreshadow their imminent success on their quest. They enter a casino to regroup, foreshadowing the events that occur inside of the casino.



Section 11: pages 83-92

Section 11: pages 83-92 Summary

Percy is amazed by the lavish décor inside the hotel, but the concierge informs the trio that their room is not quite ready, giving them lotus cards to entertain themselves in the meantime. When Annabeth protests, Percy reminds her what their "travel agent" said about using the lotus cards for food, clothes or whatever. The concierge promises to find them when the room is ready. Annabeth is uncertain about their stop, but Percy assures her that taking a break for one night cannot hurt since they are almost to Los Angeles. The trio indulge in dinner, shopping and general relaxation, but while they are playing arcade games, Percy questions the kid next to him about his game which involves rescuing his mom, and when the kid notes that it is Percy's game, Percy points out that these games seem to be made for the individual playing them, so he pulls Annabeth and Grover away from the games and out of the building.

Noticing that it is daylight as they leave the building, Percy realizes they were in there for days, not hours as they thought. On June 20, with one day and 250 miles to go, Percy, Annabeth and Grover are still in Las Vegas. Using their lotus cards, they pay a cab to rush them to Los Angeles. Percy walks down a stone path toward his mother where skeletons also wait for him, calling him little hero, crowning him and instructing him to make the prophecies come true because his legacy will be remembered for all of eternity. As they hail the conquering hero, Percy wakes, and Grover informs him that they have reached Los Angeles in less than three hours. With one day until the summer solstice and the end of the world, the trio reach D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles, but before they enter, Grover admits that he was the satyr assigned to protect Thalia in Chiron's story, but he got her killed like he almost did to Percy; he wants Percy to know so his friend will not count on him too much. Annabeth objects that Grover could have left her and Luke to help Thalia, but he did not, and Annabeth would not be alive now if not for Grover. Percy agrees that Grover has the biggest heart of any satyr ever, and there is no one he would rather have at his side.

Entering D.O.A. Recording Studios, Percy, Annabeth and Grover meet Charon who recognizes Percy as a godling, but when Percy informs Charon that he and his friends want passage to the Underworld, Charon insists he must decline. Pointing out that even Charon must know that Hades is gunning for the half-bloods, Percy asks how Hades would feel if Charon turned them away, suggesting Hades might show Charon favor for letting them in, possibly even in the form of a raise. Charon laughs since he has always received only two drachmas per head. When a woman complains about the long wait, Charon tells her it will take as long as necessary plus an additional thousand years because she asked. He then admits that Percy has a valid point about the raise and leads the trio to an elevator, noting "the boat's almost full anyway: may as well add you lot and shove off... Going down" (page 92). Percy, Annabeth and Grover join Charon and others in the elevator just before the doors close.



Section 11: pages 83-92 Analysis

At the casino, the concierge seems to recognize Percy, Annabeth and Grover when he refers to their room, foreshadowing nefarious proceedings. The trio has a great time at the casino, but Percy begins to question the authenticity of their proceedings when he realizes that the arcade games seem suited to each individual. When he drags Annabeth and Grover out of the casino, Percy realizes that days, rather than hours, have passed, fulfilling the foreshadowing concerning the casino's nefarious purposes. On the drive to Los Angeles, Percy dreams of his mother in the Underworld, foreshadowing her presence there. When they reach D.O.A. Recording Studios, Grover warns Percy not to depend on him too much because of his failure to save Thalia; however, Annabeth defends Grover against himself, reminding him that he saved her and Luke. Inside the studio, Percy convinces Charon to escort them into the Underworld, and their entrance into the elevator foreshadows their adventures in Hades's domain.



Section 12: pages 93-103

Section 12: pages 93-103 Summary

Percy and Grover are confused as they seem to be surrounded by mist and moving forward instead of down, but Annabeth points out that elevators do not float, so they need a ferry to cross the River Styx. Annabeth leads the boys to board the ferry which floats past dead souls until Charon kicks them off, reminding them he only takes passengers one way and cautioning, "I'd wish you luck- but there isn't any down here" (page 94). Percy suggests following the crowd, so they do, passing the fields of Asphodel where multitudes stand around, waiting, forever. They follow the souls all the way to a castle on a hill, Hades's home address, but as they stare at the castle, Grover's shoes take off and he cries out for help because he cannot control the flying shoes which seem to have a mind of their own. Percy and Annabeth catch him and remove the shoes before they carry him into the bottomless pit which Annabeth explains is the entrance to Tartarus where really bad people are sent "when the fields of punishment just aren't punishment enough" (page 98). She cannot imagine what Tartarus could want with Grover, but Percy does not believe whatever is down there is after the satyr, especially since he believes he has dreamed about the pit. Annabeth does not understand, but she suggests they should not stand here while they figure it out. Percy agrees that the quicker they find the bolt and get out of here, the better, so they go to find Hades.

At the castle, they ask the skeleton guards to talk to the boss, and they are permitted to pass. They walk through the hall of statues to the lake of fire to find Hades sitting on a throne, and Hades notes that the son of Poseidon is very brave to come here after what he has done, or maybe he is merely foolish. When Percy addresses his lord and uncle for permission to make two requests, Hades calls him an arrogant child for asking for more than he has already taken, as if that was not enough, but he grants Percy permission to speak while he ponders the manner in which he wants his nephew to die. Percy insists there cannot be war among the gods and begs Hades to allow him to return the master bolt to Olympus and end this as there must be other ways for Hades to grow his kingdom. Hades objects, pointing out that war does not help his kingdom as the dead come to him without intervention, but he has been wronged. Hades disputes Percy when he claims Hades stole the bolt, saying Poseidon may fool Zeus, but Hades is not so stupid; he sees Poseidon's plan and knows it was Percy who pilfered the bolt, as well as his helm of darkness, but he prevented the success of Poseidon's scheme to start a war by sending his fury to Yancy Academy. Furthermore, he will not be blackmailed for his support. Hades insists that he will have his helm back, but Percy is confused and claims this must be a mistake. Hades orders Percy to open his pack, and as Percy opens his pack, complaining about people calling him a thief, he is shocked to find the master bolt in his bag. Showing Percy's mother engulfed in flames, Hades tells Percy not to try to disguise his purpose. He knew Percy would come to bargain if he was patient enough which is why she is not yet dead, and Hades will release her if Percy returns his helm, along with the bolt as payment for the insult done to him.



Annabeth and Percy realize they have been set up, but Percy has an idea. As he digs the pearls from his pack, Hades laughs at his brother's tricks, pointing out that there are only three pearls and asking which of Percy's friends he will trade for his mother. Percy apologizes to his mother and promises to find another way, and while Hades insists that his nephew will not defy him and orders his minions to destroy the children, Percy smashes the pearls at his feet, and protective bubbles form around Percy, Grover and Annabeth, floating up and away as Hades yells after them that they cannot escape him!

Section 12: pages 93-103 Analysis

In the Underworld, Charon escorts Percy, Annabeth and Grover along the River Styx. They pass the legendary Fields of Asphodel, but as they near Hades's castle, Hermes's flying shoes try to drag Grover into the pit of Tartarus. Percy and Annabeth rescue Grover, but Percy's suspicion that whatever is in Tartarus is not after Grover because he has dreamed of the pit foreshadows the revelation that Percy was supposed to be dragged into Tartarus. This also foreshadows the discovery of Luke's betrayal as he is the person who gave the shoes to Percy. The trio continue on their journey and confront Hades who mocks Percy for daring to enter his domain. Hades accuses Percy of stealing his Helm of Darkness as well as the Master Bolt, indicating that Hades is not the god who turned as Chiron believed. Percy insists he is not a thief, but when he opens his bag to prove this, he finds the Master Bolt. Percy and Annabeth realize they have been betrayed, and since the pack came from Ares, this foreshadows Ares's involvement in the betrayal. In accordance with Percy's earlier dream, Hades reveals Sally and offers her in trade for the Helm of Darkness, but Percy refuses, using Poseidon's Pearls to facilitate escapes for himself, Annabeth and Grover. Percy's promise that he will find a way to rescue Sally foreshadows her release from the Underworld.



Section 13: pages 104-111

Section 13: pages 104-111 Summary

In Los Angeles on June 21 with only hours until the summer solstice deadline, Percy, Grover and Annabeth land in the sea, and when Annabeth asks how they got there, Percy says that what belongs to the sea always returns to the sea. He also notes that Hades was not the thief: someone else stole the master bolt and framed Percy because he is Poseidon's never-should-have-been-born child. While Annabeth notes that Poseidon will take the blame and war will begin by sundown, Grover wonders who is so sneaky and so eager for war, causing Percy to look suspiciously at Ares who pulls up on his motorcycle and notes that Percy was supposed to die in the Underworld. Percy accuses Ares of tricking him and stealing the helm and the bolt, but Ares insists that he did not do it personally since gods cannot take one another's symbols of power; however, he points out that Percy is not the only half-blood who does errands, but who did it does not matter.

What matters is that Percy is impeding the war as the plan was for him to die in the Underworld so Poseidon would be angry at Hades, and when Hades ended up in possession of the bolt, Zeus would be mad at him too while Hades would still be looking for his Helm of Darkness, which Ares presents to Percy. Ares's plan was for Hades to be mad at both Zeus and Poseidon since he would not know who took his helm. Noting how the bolt appeared inside his pack, Percy asks why Ares sent the bolt to Hades instead of keeping it for himself, and Ares sulks, admitting that he did not keep the bolt because he did not want to get into trouble. Percy realizes that Ares is lying. Ares did not order the theft, and it was not his idea to send the bolt to Hades, so someone else is ordering him around. Furious, Ares grabs Percy and throws him, claiming he is the God of War and takes orders from no one!

Annabeth rushes to Percy, telling him that Ares's only strength is his strength, so Percy can win if he has a plan. Approaching Percy, Ares insists he cannot allow him to take the bolt to Olympus as that might convince those idiots to listen, so he must kill Percy. When Ares attacks Percy with his sword, Percy fights back, telling Ares that the bolt and helm go with him and Ares must go away if Percy wins. Ares mocks Percy as they swordfight, and when he kicks Percy into the sea, Ares reminds the boy that he has been fighting for eternity, has unlimited strength and cannot die, asking what Percy has. To this, Percy responds that he has a plan as he uses the water to his benefit, splashing Ares in the face and cutting his leg to win the fight. Ares proclaims that Percy will soon raise his sword in battle and feeling his curse before disappearing as a shadow looms behind him.



Section 13: pages 104-111 Analysis

Percy, Grover and Annabeth return back to Los Angeles with only hours remaining before the summer solstice deadline. Percy points out that Hades was not the thief, suggesting that someone framed Percy, foreshadowing the plot that is soon revealed. Grover's question about who is so eager for war as the God of War arrives foreshadows the discovery that Ares is involved with the plot to instigate war between Zeus and Poseidon. Ares's involvement is soon revealed, fulfilling foreshadowing, as he notes that Percy should have died in the Underworld, and though he insists that he did not actually steal the symbols of power, he does not bother denying his involvement. Furthermore, he explains the entirety of the plan to enrage Zeus, Poseidon and Hades against one another, but when Percy asks why Ares did not keep the bolt for himself and Ares admits that he did not want to get into trouble, this leads to Percy's realization that Ares is not in charge of this plot, foreshadowing his suspicions that Kronos is the mastermind behind the thefts. As Ares charges Percy, Annabeth reminds Percy that Ares's only strength is his physical strength, foreshadowing Percy's ability to defeat Ares if he can come up with a plan. Ares's decision to fight Percy on the beach proves to be a poor one as Percy is revitalized and strengthened when he is pushed into the water. The shadow looming as Ares disappears foreshadows Percy's suspicion that Kronos is involved in his quest.



Section 14: pages 112-118

Section 14: pages 112-118 Summary

With Ares gone, the Helm of Darkness lies in the sand, and a fury appears, noting that she saw the fight, but it is unfortunate that Percy did not steal the Helm because she was looking forward to returning Percy to Hades in pieces. Percy asks her to return the Helm to his uncle and tell Hades that there is no reason for war. Annabeth reminds Percy that Hades is not the only god he needs to worry about as they still need to get to New York fast, but when Grover notes they cannot afford plane tickets, Percy asks the fury if the Helm comes with a finder's fee. In Manhattan on June 21, Percy takes a cab to the Empire State Building and rides the elevator up to the 600th floor, and the doors open to reveal a giant citadel hovering over New York City, the home of the gods.

Zeus and Poseidon sit in the palace on the summit, but Zeus is furious that Percy dared to fly through his domain, claiming he should blast him from the sky for his impudence; luckily, Poseidon suggests hearing Percy out instead of risking the destruction of the bolt. Presenting the bolt to Zeus, Percy insists that he was not the one who stole it, explaining that Ares stole it with the help of a half-blood from camp. Zeus quickly dismisses Percy's suspicions that Kronos was controlling Ares and the half-blood at camp who betrayed him before leaving to clean his Master Bolt. Facing only his father, Percy mentions Kronos again, but he quickly drops the subject when Poseidon insists the subject is closed. Poseidon laughingly notes that obedience is not natural for Percy, a fact he attributes to his own blood flowing through his son's veins. Before Percy leaves, Poseidon tells him that he is sorry Percy was born because Poseidon brought him a hero's fate which is always tragic, but mostly, he is sorry that the laws forbid Poseidon from treating Percy the way a father should treat his child. Still, Percy did well today, and Poseidon pats his son on the back as he assures Percy, "whatever else you do, know that you are mine. You are a true son of the sea god. Of that, I shall always be proud" (page 118).

Section 14: pages 112-118 Analysis

After Ares vanishes, a fury appears, admitting that she knows Percy did not steal the Helm of Darkness, a fact that disappoints her since she was looking forward to returning Percy to his uncle in pieces. Percy asks the fury to return the Helm to Hades, showing his honesty and his desire to avoid war. When Annabeth reminds Percy that they still need to get to New York to return the Master Bolt to Zeus, Percy convinces the fury to fund his trip. Percy goes to the Empire State Building where he takes the elevator all the way up to Olympus. Zeus is furious at his nephew's intrusion, but Poseidon persuades his brother to listen to his son. Percy again shows his honesty and desire to avoid war by presenting the Master Bolt to Zeus. Zeus can tell that Percy speaks the truth, but he notes it is unlike Ares to do such a thing, to which Poseidon notes that Ares is proud and impulsive which runs in the family. Percy suspects that something else was controlling



Ares and tells them about the shadow on the beach which reminded him of the dreams he has had of a voice coming from Tartarus of something powerful and evil stirring down there, even older than the gods. This allusion to Kronos fulfills earlier foreshadowing. Zeus insists that they will speak of this no more, and after saying he must purify his bolt in the Waters of Lemnos to remove the human taint from the metal, he thanks Percy for the service he has done him by sparing Percy's life, yet he still does not trust Percy as he is Poseidon's wrongdoing, plus Zeus worries what Percy's arrival bodes for his future. Percy's successful quest fulfills earlier foreshadowing.

After Zeus leaves in a flash of lightning, Poseidon mocks his brother's dramatic exit. Addressing his father, Percy asks if the voice in Tartarus belongs to Kronos, and Poseidon admits that he fears so. Though Zeus cut Kronos into a thousand pieces and cast him into the darkest pit of Tartarus in the first war, the Titans cannot die any more than gods can so Kronos's remains are still alive in some hideous way, still hungering for power. Percy believes that Kronos is healing and will return, and Poseidon confesses that Kronos stirs occasionally, entering nightmares, breathing evil thoughts and awakening restless monsters; however, he pauses at the suggestion that Kronos could rise from the pit before reminding Percy that Zeus has closed the discussion. Poseidon notes that Percy has completed his quest which is all he is required to do, and though Percy starts to object, he changes his mind and, hanging his head, simply says "if you say so, father" (page 117). Observing that obedience does not come naturally to Percy, Poseidon knows he must take the blame since the sea does not like to be restrained, but Percy must go now because Zeus would not like to find his nephew lingering upon his return. Poseidon stops Percy as he walks away, shrinking down to human size to tell his son that he laments his birth because a hero's fate is always tragic, plus he regrets that he is unable to treat his son properly because of the laws. Most importantly, Poseidon tells Percy that he is proud of him, something that every son yearns to hear and something Percy has never heard before from his father. This foreshadows Percy's future continued involvement with the Greek gods and specifically with his father.



Section 15: pages 120-125

Section 15: pages 120-125 Summary

At Camp Half-Blood on June 22, Chiron presents Percy, Grover and Annabeth to the camp to applaud for doing them proud, and the campers cheer. Dr. D huffs about how the brats are going to have even bigger egos since they did not get themselves killed. Annabeth notes that she thought Zeus would destroy Percy, but when Percy tells her to admit that she is glad he survived, she tells him only in his dreams. Chiron announces the beginning of the celebration feast and fireworks, telling the victorious trio that they have good cause to be festive. Furthermore, if Percy paid any attention to his lectures, he will recall that heroes rarely achieve Percy's level of accomplishment, and Percy is still quite young.

When Percy admits they did all right, Grover objects; the Council of Cloven Elders praised his brave performance as better than anything they have seen in the past, so he is to begin his search for Pan right away. Percy and Annabeth congratulate Grover and express their certainty that he will be the one to find Pan, but when Percy notes that at least one of them got what they wanted from the quest, Grover expresses sympathy for Percy's mother. Percy wonders where Luke is because he wants to swap quest stories with his friend, but after Annabeth and Grover look away, Chiron calls Percy aside to tell him that Luke fled camp without explanation after he was told that Percy succeeded in his quest. This leaves only one conclusion, and Chiron reminds Percy that the flying shoes that pulled Grover toward Tartarus were intended for Percy to wear, so it seems that Luke was the thief of the symbols of power. Noting it is rare for the talents of divine bloodlines to be put to such nefarious purposes, Chiron suggests it was Luke who summoned the hellhounds to the creek, perhaps to convince them that Percy was not safe at camp so they would send him away. It is difficult to guess Luke's motives, but he was always a troubled boy, partly because of his estrangement from his father, and "a mind in such a state is fertile ground. A power as strong as Kronos can sow wicked crops" (page 123). Percy admits that the Oracle warned that he would be betrayed by a friend, but Percy was sure it was Ares when he found the master bolt in his pack since Ares only pretended to help while he was trying to get Percy killed the whole time.

Chiron indicates that Ares was the god who turned, a reference that he mistook as alluding to Hades, but as he said, the Oracle's prophecies are not always clear until the events come to pass. Percy admits that he did not tell Chiron about one line of the prophecy, the one claiming he will fail to save what matters most in the end, but when he notes that the meaning of that is obviously clear, Chiron suggests that the Oracle meant Percy could not save his mother because she must save herself, not from Hades but by finding the courage to choose whether to leave Percy's stepfather and pursue her own dreams. Something tells Chiron that Sally has already made her choice. Percy is confused, so Chiron explains that Percy gained favor by returning the Helm of Darkness, and even Hades pays his debts. Looking down the hill, Percy is ecstatic to



see his mother standing by her car, and as Chiron bids him farewell until next summer, Percy runs down the hill to hug his mother.

Section 15: pages 120-125 Analysis

Percy, Grover and Annabeth are lauded for their successful quest when they return to camp. Annabeth is surprised that Zeus allowed Percy to live, but she refuses to admit that she is glad that he survived. Chiron praises Percy's successful quest specifically, foreshadowing more successes for the young demigod. Grover is particularly excited at their success since it has resulted in him receiving his searcher's license so he can begin searching for Pan. Grover laments the loss of Sally, foreshadowing her return. Annabeth and Grover's reactions to Percy's question about Luke's whereabouts foreshadows the discovery of Luke's betrayal, and this foreshadowing is quickly fulfilled when Chiron calls Percy aside to explain that he suspects Luke was involved in setting Percy up to take the blame for the stolen Master Bolt and Helm of Darkness, thus Luke is the friend who betrayed Percy, fulfilling the Oracle's prophecy. As evidence of Luke's betrayal, Chiron reminds Percy of the flying shoes that tried to drag Grover into Tartarus. In parallel with Percy's suspicions, Chiron also suspects Kronos is involved in these events and betrayals.

Percy correctly identifies Ares as the god who has turned from the Oracle's prophecy, but when he notes that the final line, regarding his failure to save what matters most, also came true, Chiron suggests that the meaning was unclear. He indicates that perhaps Sally needs to save herself, foreshadowing her return to earth, and this foreshadowing is quickly fulfilled as Chiron points Percy in his mother's directions and tells him that even Hades pays his debts. Sally's return fulfills much foreshadowing throughout the book, and Chiron's claim that he will see Percy next summer foreshadows Percy's continued adventures with the Greek gods.



Characters

Percy Jackson

Percy Jackson is the protagonist and main character of "The Lightning Thief". Percy is a twelve-year-old demigod, or half-blood, though he does not know this when the novel begins. During a school field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Percy is attacked by his math teacher, Mrs. Dodds, who turns into a fury from the Underworld, but when Percy questions another teacher about the event, Mr. Brunner insists that there is no Mrs. Dodds. With the school year over, Percy goes home to see his mother, Sally, who announces they are taking a trip to the beach. As Percy and Sally discuss Percy's father at the cabin, Grover, Percy's best friend who is revealed to be a satyr, arrives to warn them of approaching danger, so Sally urges the boys to her car so they can flee; however, on the drive, Sally's car flips, and as they walk through the woods, she is attacked by a Minotaur and disappears. Enraged, Percy rips a horn from the beast before passing out. Percy wakes at Camp Half-Blood where Mr. Brunner reveals that he is actually a centaur named Chiron. Furthermore, this camp is for the children of the Greek gods who exist and are bound to Western Civilization. Percy is placed in Cabin 11 where all those whose lineage is undetermined are placed, and here, he befriends Luke. During a game of Capture the Flag, Clarisse, the daughter of Ares, attacks Percy near the creek, but when he falls into the water, he manages to defeat her and his injuries are healed, thus indicating he is the son of Poseidon. Chiron explains that this is dangerous since Poseidon, Zeus and Hades took an oath to refrain from siring any more half-bloods because their powerful children affect the human world too much. Additionally, Zeus's Master Bolt, the symbol of his power, has been stolen, and Zeus suspects Percy of being the thief, thus Percy is sent on a quest to find the Master Bolt which Chiron believes was stolen by Hades. Percy has only ten days to retrieve the bolt, else war will be declared on the summer solstice.

Before Percy leaves on his quest with Grover and Annabeth, Luke presents him with flying shoes from Hermes, suggesting they may be useful during his quest. The trio are confronted by furies in New York City, and Percy is attacked by Echidna in St. Louis where he also receives three pearls from Nereid on Poseidon's behalf, to use if he is in danger. Ares offers guidance and assistance at a diner and tells Percy that his mother is alive. When Percy, Annabeth and Grover finally arrive at D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles, they convince Charon to escort them to the Underworld. In the Underworld, the flying shoes which Grover wears tries to drag him into Tartarus, but Percy and Annabeth rescue him. Percy confronts Hades who accuses him of stealing his object of power, the Helm of Darkness. Objecting, Percy opens his pack from Ares as proof only to reveal the Master Bolt. Hades reveals Sally, offering a trade, but Percy uses Poseidon's Pearls so that he and his friends can escape, promising he will return for his mother. The trio land in the ocean, and on the beach, they are confronted by Ares who admits his role in the thefts before Percy defeats him in a fight. Percy gives the Helm of Darkness, left behind by Ares, to a fury, asking that she return it to Hades and assure him that there is no need for war. He then returns to New York where he takes



the elevator in the Empire State Building to the 600th floor where Olympus floats above the city. Zeus accepts the peace offering, and Poseidon expresses pride in his son for completing the quest. Percy returns to camp where he, Annabeth and Grover are lauded as heroes. Because of his success, Grover is granted a license to search for Pan, the god of the satyrs, and Percy is ecstatic to find that Hades has restored Sally to the world since the Helm of Darkness has been returned. Percy happily leaves Camp Half-Blood with his mother.

Grover

Grover is a satyr, and Percy's best friend. He is one of the main characters in this book as he accompanies Percy on his adventures. Grover begs Mr. D to allow him to join Percy on his quest to retrieve the Master Bolt because he is eager to obtain his search for Pan. During a school field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Percy is attacked by his math teacher, Mrs. Dodds, who turns into a fury from the Underworld, but when Percy questions another teacher about the event, Mr. Brunner insists that there is no Mrs. Dodds. As Percy and Sally discuss Percy's father at the cabin, Grover, Percy's best friend who is revealed to be a satyr, arrives to warn them of approaching danger, so Sally urges the boys to her car so they can flee; however, on the drive, Sally's car flips, and as they walk through the woods, she is attacked by a Minotaur and disappears.

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Chiron

Chiron is a centaur who teaches at Yancy Academy under the alias Mr. Brunner in order to keep an eye on Percy. He is also the activities director at Camp Half-Blood. Chiron tells Percy about his heritage, the stolen Master Bolt and the reality of the Greek pantheon, and he also sends Percy, Grover and Annabeth on the quest to restore the Master Bolt to Zeus and prevent the war.



Annabeth

Annabeth is the daughter of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Battle. She helps nurse Percy after his fight with the Minotaur, and she chooses him for her team in Capture the Flag. Annabeth accompanies Percy and Grover on their quest to retrieve the Master Bolt.

Luke

Luke, the son of Hermes, befriends Percy and gives him a pair of Hermes's flying shoes before he leaves on his quest. Luke disappears without an explanation when he learns of Percy's successful quest, causing Chiron to suspect that Luke stole the symbols of power because of influence from Kronos.

Poseidon

Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, is Percy's father. He is angered when Zeus accuses him of stealing the Master Bolt and threatens war for the offense. Poseidon is proud of his son's success after Percy returns the Master Bolt to Zeus.

Zeus

Zeus is King of the Gods, and he believes Percy, his nephew, stole his Master Bolt to help Poseidon usurp his power. Zeus threatens to declare war if his symbol of power is not returned by the summer solstice, but he is pleased when Percy restores the Master Bolt to his possession so he allows his nephew to live.

Hades

Hades is the God of the Underworld and Death. He believes Percy stole the Master Bolt and his Helm of Darkness, so he holds Sally hostage as a bartering tool. After Percy retrieves the Helm of Darkness from Ares and returns it to its rightful owner, Hades restores Sally to Percy's side because he always pays his debts.

Ares

Ares is the Greek God of War. He pretends to help Percy, Annabeth and Grover on their quest, but he slips the Master Bolt in Percy's bag because Ares is the god who turned that the Oracle of Delphi refers to. He relinquishes the Helm of Darkness after Percy beats him in a fight on the beach, but Ares promises vengeance.



Nereid

Nereid is the water nymph who visits Percy in the river in St. Louis to warn him about Hades and give him Poseidon's Pearls.

Sally

Sally is Percy's mother who is kidnapped by the Minotaur and held hostage by Hades until Percy returns the Helm of Darkness, at which point Hades releases Sally who returns to Percy.

Gabe

Gabe is Sally's husband and Percy's stepfather. He is unpleasant, and neither of them like him.

Mrs. Dodds

Mrs. Dodds is a fury disguised as a math teacher at Yancy Academy, assigned to spy on Percy. She attacks Percy at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is dispelled. Later, she attacks Percy, Annabeth and Grover on a bus in New York City, along with two other furies. After witnessing Percy's battle with Ares on the beach, Mrs. Dodds returns the Helm of Darkness to Hades, but she is disappointed that she does not get to return Percy to the Underworld in pieces.

Clarisse

Clarisse is the daughter of Ares, and she is a bully at Camp Half-Blood. Clarisse picks on Percy when he arrives at camp, but when she attacks him near the creek, he defeats her.

Echidna

Echidna is the mother of the monsters who attacks Percy at the arches in St. Louis.

Oracle of Delphi

The Oracle of Delphi resides in the attic of the big house at Camp Half-Blood. Percy is sent to her before his quest, and she tells him that he will go west and face the god who has turned, that he will find what was stolen and returned it safely, that he will be betrayed by a friend, and that he will fail to save what matters most in the end. Her entire prophecy comes to pass.

Kronos

Kronos is the King of the Titans and the father of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. He was banished to Tartarus during the first war, but now, he is stirring, and his influence leads Ares and Luke to their betrayals.



Objects/Places

Metropolitan Museum of Art

"The Lightning Thief" begins at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where Percy Jackson is attacked by a fury disguised as a math teacher while on a school field trip.

Yancy Academy

Yancy Academy is the school that Percy attends as the book novel, before summer break begins.

Upper East Side

Percy takes a bus home to his mother's apartment in the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Camp Half-Blood

Camp Half-Blood is a summer camp for children who were born with one human parent and one parent who is a Greek god. Sally drives Percy and Grover toward camp after Grover tells her that something is chasing him, but after their car crashes, Sally is captured by a monster. Percy and Grover manage to escape and make it to Camp Half-Blood, where Percy finds out about his mixed heritage and is sent on a quest.

Olympus

Olympus is the home of the Greek gods which moves with the heart of Western Civilization, and as such, it has been located in America for the past half century. Percy visits Olympus to return the master bolt to Zeus by taking the elevator in the Empire State Building to the 600th floor.

Cabin 11

Cabin 11 is the cabin, sponsored by Hermes, where Percy is first assigned at Camp Half-Blood because all undetermined half-bloods are sent there since Hermes is not picky about who he sponsors. This is where Percy meets Luke, and he lives here until Poseidon claims him.



St. Louis

In St. Louis, Percy is attacked by Echidna and encounters Nereid when he jumps into the river. This is where Nereid gives Percy the pearls from Poseidon.

Las Vegas

Percy, Annabeth and Grover stop in a casino to regroup when they are kicked out of the truck in Las Vegas. The place is magical in some way because what feels like hours to them turns out to be several days in actuality.

D.O.A. Recording Studios

D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles is where the entrance of the Underworld is located, so Percy, Annabeth and Grover travel to the studios to convince Charon to escort them into the Underworld.

Underworld

Percy, Annabeth and Grover travel to the Underworld to confront Hades about stealing the master bolt, only to learn that he was not the person who stole it. They escape the Underworld using Poseidon's pearls.

Tartarus

Tartarus is the pit in the Underworld where the worst people are condemned to spend eternity. Kronos was imprisoned there, but Percy dreams of a voice from the pit. While in the Underworld, the shoes given to Percy from Luke try to drag Grover into Tartarus. Percy suspects that Kronos is trying to rise from Tartarus, but Zeus refuses to discuss it.

Master Bolt

Zeus's Master Bolt is his symbol of power which he used to send Kronos to the Underworld. When it is stolen, he suspects Percy, but Percy goes on a quest to recover the Master Bolt and return it to its rightful owner. Later, he learns that Luke stole it.

Helm of Darkness

Hades's Helm of Darkness, his symbol of power, is also stolen which is why Hades holds Sally hostage, pending its return. Percy claims the item after he battles and defeats Ares, and when he returns it to Hades through a fury, he also acquires a finder's



fee which allows him to take a plane to New York to confront Zeus and return the Master Bolt.

Poseidon's Pearls

Nereid gives Percy three of Poseidon's Pearls in the river in St. Louis, telling him to break them at his feet if he needs help. Percy uses the pearls in the Underworld to facilitate his escape with Annabeth and Grover.

Empire State Building

In New York, Percy goes to the Empire State Building and takes the elevator to the 600th floor to reach Olympus so he can return the Master Bolt to Zeus.



Themes

Greek Mythology

The most dominant theme in "The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is that of Greek mythology, which recurs constantly and plays an enormous role in the novel. The novel opens with Mr. Brunner questioning Percy about Greek mythology at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and myth soon becomes reality when Mrs. Dodds transforms into a fury and attacks Percy. At the bus station, Grover notices the three fates knitting socks and is appalled when one fate cuts her thread, a sign of an imminent death. When Grover finds Sally and Percy at the cabin at the beach, he reveals his true identity as a satyr. As they rush toward Camp Half-Blood, they are attacked by a Minotaur, and Sally is captured. Percy awakes several days later at Camp Half-Blood where he learns that Greek mythology is actually a part of reality. He also finds out that the camp director, Mr. D, is actually Dionysus, the God of Wine, who is being punished by his father, Zeus, for taking a fancy to a wood nymph declared off limits. Furthermore, Mr. Brunner is actually a centaur named Chiron, the same who once trained Hercules. Next, Percy meets Annabeth, the daughter of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Battle, and Clarisse, the daughter of Ares, God of War. The son of Hermes, Luke, befriends Percy. Percy's lineage is declared undetermined since they do not know which Greek god sired him.

During Capture the Flag, Annabeth uses an invisibility helmet from her mother, and once Percy is restored and able to defeat Clarisse after falling into the creek, Annabeth seems to suspect his parentage. Hellhounds then attack Percy before the creek heals him again, and when a triton appears over his head, Chiron recognizes the son of Poseidon has been claimed by his father. Percy dreams of Poseidon and Zeus fighting, and after he wakes, Chiron tells him about their current dispute over Zeus's Master Bolt as well as the oath sworn by Zeus, Poseidon and Hades to cease siring half-bloods. Chiron sends Percy to talk to the Oracle of Delphi who prophesies about his imminent quest. Before Percy, Grover and Annabeth leave for their quest, Luke presents Percy with flying shoes from Hermes, suggesting they may be beneficial during his adventures. Percy later dreams of Hades.

During the quest, the trio is assaulted by three furies in New York City, and at the arches of St. Louis, Percy is attacked by Echidna and the Chimera. After jumping into the river, Percy encounters the water nymph, Nereid, who gives him Poseidon's Pearls to break at his feet if he finds himself in need. In Denver, Percy receives a call from Luke, service by Iris, Goddess of Rainbows, and then Percy, Annabeth and Grover are approached by Ares who claims to offer them assistance. In Las Vegas, the trio stops at a casino to regroup, and what seems like a few hours is actually several days, so they are forced to rush to D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles where the entrance to the Underworld is located. They convince Charon to escort them into the Underworld.

In the Underworld, Hermes's flying shoes try to drag Grover into Tartarus. The children confront Hades who accuses Percy of stealing his Helm of Darkness, and when Percy



opens his pack to prove his innocence, he finds the Master Bolt inside. Hades orders his minions to attack, so Percy uses Poseidon's Pearls to aid their escape. On the beach, Ares confronts Percy, admitting his role in the thefts, but he leaves the Helm of Darkness behind when Percy defeats him, so Percy restores the helm to his uncle. Percy travels to the Empire State Building in New York City and takes the elevator to the 600th floor, disembarking at Olympus where he restores the Master Bolt to Zeus and finally meets Poseidon who expresses pride at his son's successful quest. Percy's suspicion that Kronos is trying to rise from Tartarus is dismissed. Hades restores Sally to her son in order to repay his debt for the returned Helm of Darkness.

Betrayal

Betrayal plays a large role in this novel. The two most obvious examples of betrayal center around Ares and Luke. Before Percy begins his quest, the Oracle of Delphi prophesies that he will face the god who has turned and that he will be betrayed by a friend, referring to Ares and Luke. Luke's betrayal begins with summoning the hellhounds near the creek at Camp Half-Blood, but Percy manages to escape. Luke also presents Percy with a pair of Hermes's flying shoes before he leaves for his quest, and these shoes try to drag Grover into Tartarus. Luke disappears from camp without an explanation after he learns that Percy's quest was successful, causing Chiron to suspect his involvement with the thefts. Similarly, Ares approaches Percy and his friends in Denver under the pretense of offering them assistance on their quest. He provides them with supplies and money, but when Percy opens the pack Ares gives him while in the Underworld, he finds the Master Bolt and realizes Ares was working against him. On the beach after escaping the Underworld, Percy again encounters Ares who tries to kill him; however, Percy emerges victorious from the fight and acquires the Helm of Darkness which he returns to Hades.

Some of the betrayals that take place in this novel are less obvious, and some are even meant to protect Percy. Mr. Brunner tries to convince Percy that there has never been a Mrs. Dodds at Yancy Academy, causing Percy to doubt himself, but when Percy overhears Grover talking to Mr. Brunner about the fury, he feels that his best friend has betrayed him. Sally lies to Percy about his father's identity because she wants to protect him from his role as a demigod for as long as possible. During Capture the Flag, Annabeth sets Percy up for Clarisse's attack. Chiron suspects there is a traitor at camp after the hellhounds are summoned to attack Percy. Percy's quest results from Zeus's suspicion that his brother, Poseidon, has betrayed him, and Zeus and Poseidon both betray their oath to refrain from siring any more half-bloods, angering Hades who sticks to his oath.

Self-Doubts

Self-doubts plague Percy as he learns his true identity and paternal lineage and while he is sent on his quest to prevent a war between the gods. To begin with, Percy constantly doubts his intelligence because he has trouble with school. He has been



diagnosed as dyslexic, but at Camp Half-Blood, he learns that his brain is hard-wired for ancient Greek, making it difficult for him to read English. Percy is also very defensive about his parentage, and he dislikes how the other campers treat him like he is diseased. This only increases after Poseidon claims his son, but Chiron explains that this is because Percy never should have been born since Zeus, Poseidon and Hades took an oath to refrain from siring any more half-bloods.

Throughout his quest, Percy constantly questions his abilities, feeling he is not equipped to successfully fulfill his quest. When he encounters Nereid in St. Louis, she warns him to keep faith with what his heart tells him or he will lose all. In the Underworld, Percy questions his decision to leave Sally behind, certain that he has failed to save his mother. Percy's suspicions about Ares's involvement with Kronos are dismissed by Zeus, and Percy does not have the self-assurance to debate the matter with Zeus. He also does not dispute Poseidon when his father insists that the matter has been dropped. Grover also exhibits self-doubt. He blames himself for failing to save Sally from the Minotaur, and he also warns Percy not to depend on him too much because he is the satyr that failed to bring Thalia safely to Camp Half-Blood before Hades could kill her.



Style

Point of View

"The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is written using a third person point of view and illustrations. This point of view is limited but fairly reliable. Because this is a graphic novel, much of the narrative is conveyed through the images which are equally as important as the words within the illustrations. The fact that the point of view is third person is proven by the fact that the narrator reveals limited information from an outside perspective rather than as one of the characters. This is important to the form of the novel as it allows the narrative to transpire without undue influence from any particular character.

The vast majority of the narrative is written as dialogue, with minimal written exposition which mainly occurs to inform the reader of the time and location that the events depicted take place. The rest of the exposition is depicted through the illustration, showing the scenery of various settings and the events and actions that occur. This is necessary because "The Lightning Thief" is a graphic novel, and so the images provide most of the exposition, leaving mostly dialogue that is needed to complete the telling of the story. The viewpoint of this novel belongs to Percy as the narrative follows him on his discovery of his heritage and his quest.

Setting

This novel is set in both real and imaginary worlds as the narrative takes place in modern-day America, but in the novel's America, the beings from Greek mythology exist and play a large role in the characters' lives. The characters stay in the continental United States, traveling cross-country from New York to California and back again. The characters consist of very few humans, mainly in the beginning of the story, while most of the characters are Greek gods, other mythological creatures such as satyrs and furies, and demigods or godlings, the offspring of a human and a Greek god, like Percy, Annabeth and the other children at Camp Half-Blood.

"The Lightning Thief" begins at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where Percy Jackson is attacked by a fury disguised as a math teacher while on a school field trip. Yancy Academy is the school that Percy attends as the book novel, before summer break begins. Percy takes a bus home to his mother's apartment in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Camp Half-Blood is a summer camp for children who were born with one human parent and one parent who is a Greek god. Sally drives Percy and Grover toward camp after Grover tells her that something is chasing him, but after their car crashes, Sally is captured by a monster. Percy and Grover manage to escape and make it to Camp Half-Blood where Percy finds out about his mixed heritage and is sent on a quest. Olympus is the home of the Greek gods which moves with the heart of Western Civilization, and as such, it has been located in America for the past half century. Percy



visits Olympus to return the master bolt to Zeus by taking the elevator in the Empire State Building to the 600th floor.

Cabin 11 is the cabin, sponsored by Hermes, where Percy is first assigned at Camp Half-Blood because all undetermined half-bloods are sent there since Hermes is not picky about who he sponsors. This is where Percy meets Luke, and he lives here until Poseidon claims him. In St. Louis, Percy is attacked by Echidna and encounters Nereid when he jumps into the river. This is where Nereid gives Percy the pearls from Poseidon. Percy, Annabeth and Grover stop in a casino to regroup when they are kicked out of the truck in Las Vegas. The place is magical in some way because what feels like hours to them turns out to be several days in actuality. D.O.A. Recording Studios in Los Angeles is where the entrance of the Underworld is located, so Percy, Annabeth and Grover travel to the studios to convince Charon to escort them into the Underworld. Percy, Annabeth and Grover travel to the Underworld to confront Hades about stealing the master bolt, only to learn that he was not the person who stole it. They escape the Underworld using Poseidon's pearls. Tartarus is the pit in the Underworld where the worst people are condemned to spend eternity. Kronos was imprisoned there, but Percy dreams of a voice from the pit. While in the Underworld, the shoes given to Percy from Luke try to drag Grover into Tartarus. Percy suspects that Kronos is trying to rise from Tartarus, but Zeus refuses to discuss it. In New York, Percy goes to the Empire State Building and takes the elevator to the 600th floor to reach Olympus so he can return the Master Bolt to Zeus.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel tends to be casual, modern and informal. The sentence construction and other grammatical rules are loosely followed, primarily due to this being a graphic novel. Because "The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is a comic book, minimal words are used as a large portion of the narrative is portrayed in the illustrations. The writing that appears in the novel is very simple and serves to aid the photos and explain what is going on visually while the characters speak to further explain the events depicted. This style aids comprehension as the illustrations and words combine to provide the reader with a clear idea of what is transpiring in the narrative.

The language used tends to characterize the characters and the conflicting cultural differences between the Americans and the Greeks. The vast majority of the narrative is written as dialogue with minimal written exposition which mainly occurs to inform the reader of the time and location that the events depicted take place. The rest of the exposition is depicted through the illustration, showing the scenery of various settings and the events and actions that occur. The language utilized aids the writing style by assisting the images to tell the story. Overall, the language is easy to understand.

Structure

This graphic novel consists of 125 pages, divided into four sections of varying lengths. The first two sections are comprised of 23 pages each, while the third section contains 71 pages and the final section is only six pages long. This separation is indicated by a blank page with a single image and without any direct connection to the point in the story, though the images are related to the narrative as a whole. The chapters are fairly vague as this comic is a summarized version of the actual novel by the same name, plus much of the narrative is conveyed through images. The entire narrative transpires in around three weeks, ten days of which Percy is fulfilling his quest.

"The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel", written by Rick Riordan and illustrated by John Rocco, is the comic book adaptation of the first book in the "Percy Jackson & the Olympians" series. This fantasy novel follows the journey of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he learns that he is the son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, and is sent on a quest to retrieve Zeus's Master Bolt in order to prevent war between Zeus, Poseidon and Hades which could destroy all of Western Civilization. "The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel" is an entertaining work of fiction that integrates Greek mythology into modern American society to show how a troubled boy finds his true identity and strength. The book is fairly quick-paced and easy to read due to the illustrations telling much of the narrative. It is mostly linear with a small amount of back story pertaining to Percy's lineage and the Greek gods. Overall, the novel is very enjoyable and entertaining.



Quotes

"Kronos was the king of the gods, I mean... er... the Titans, and he didn't trust his kids—they were the gods— so he ate them. But his wife gave him a rock to eat instead of Zeus. And when Zeus grew up, he tricked dad into... um... barfing up the other kids. Then there was a big gods-versus-Titans war, and the gods won." Percy, page 1

"We are not fools, Percy Jackson. No one hides from us forever." Mrs. Dodds, page 4

"Try not to be discouraged, Percy. Yancy isn't the right place for someone with your... specific learning needs. It was only a matter of time until everyone recognized that." Mr. Brunner, page 8

"This place has such good memories for me. It's where I met your father, you know. We spent the summer together. He knew I was expecting a baby. But he had to set sail, and we never saw each other again. He was... lost at sea." Sally, page 14

"I'll be fine. It's not me they want." Sally, page 19

"'Mr. Brunner' was a pseudonym. You may call me Chiron now. And I must say, Percy, I'm pleased to see you alive. I don't often visit a potential camper at a school for mortals. I'd hate to think I'd wasted my time." Chiron, page 26

"Face it. You're one of us. You're a half-blood." Annabeth, page 31

"Listen, Percy. I know it's a lot to take in, but the first day is always the worst. After all, everyone here is extended family, right? When push comes to shove, we take care of each other. There will be pushing and shoving, though. You're the new kid, so you'll have to earn your own rep, starting with Friday's game of Capture the Flag... Who knows? We find what you're good at, and maybe we'll get a clue as to who sired you." Luke, page 37

"The bloodline is determined. Poseidon— Earthshaker, Stormbringer, Lord of Horses. Hail Perseus Jackson, son of the Sea God." Chiron, page 46

"You never should have been born... After World War II, the three sons of Kronos— Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades— made a pact never to sire any more half-bloods. Their offspring were affecting the course of human events too much." Chiron, page 50

"Your father and Zeus are having their worst quarrel in centuries, Percy, but it can be said the item that was stolen is invaluable. A lightning bolt, to be exact. Not just any bolt, but the weapon that sheared the top off Mount Etna and hurled Kronos from his throne. The bolt from which all other bolts are fashioned. Zeus's Master Bolt, the symbol of his power. And you are the thief." Chiron, page 51



"I don't pretend to understand why he has chosen this moment to pit his brothers against one another. But one thing is certain— Percy must go to the Underworld, find the Master Bolt, and reveal the truth." Chiron, page 57

"Satyrs can read emotions. That's how I know that you didn't take this quest to save the world. You took it to get payback for your mom." Grover, page 62

"The Iliad is full of references to the stuff. Whenever gods or monsters mix with the human world, they create mist. It doesn't affect half-bloods, but it makes mortals see things differently than we do. Keeps them from going nuts." Annabeth, page 66

"No, child, only a messenger. Though you may take heart- your mother's fate is not as hopeless as you believe." Nereid, page 72

"They must've brought you along for your looks, Princess, 'cuz you sure missed out on Mama's brains. No money plus no wheels and no clue equals no chance." Ares, page 80

"Uh, guys...? We weren't in there for hours— try DAYS." Percy, page 88

"Chiron's story about Thalia and the pine tree... I was the satyr who was supposed to protect her. I got her KILLED, same as I almost did you. Anyway, I just thought you should know... So you wouldn't count on me too much." Grover, page 90

"Off you go, mate. I only take passengers one way. I'd wish you luck— but there isn't any down here." Charon, page 94

"The quicker we get the bolt and get out of here, the better. Let's go find Hades." Percy, page 98

"Why would I want war, godling? For my kingdom? The dead will come to me without intervention. Did you not see the sprawl of the Asphodel Fields? It is I who has been wronged... It was YOU who pilfered the bolt, as well as my Helm of Darkness. Had I not sent my fury to Yancy Academy, Poseidon might have succeeded to his scheme to start a war. Your father cannot blackmail me into supporting him. I will have my Helm BACK!" Hades, pages 100-101

"Hades isn't even the thief! We came all this way for nothing! SOMEONE ELSE swiped the Master Bolt— AND Hades's Helm— and framed me because I'm Poseidon's never-should've-been-born kid." Percy, page 104

"We witnessed the fight. So it truly was not you who stole the Helm? That is unfortunate. I looked forward to bringing you back to Lord Hades in pieces." Mrs. Dodds/fury, page 112

"After I beat him on the beach, there was this presence... some weird shadow. It reminded me of dreams I've been having, about a voice coming from a pit— a pit that



we saw in the Underworld. It was the entrance to Tartarus. Something powerful and evil is stirring down there... Something even older than the gods." Percy, page 115

"You have done me a service, boy. To show my thanks, I shall spare your life. But I do not trust you, Perseus Jackson. You are your father's wrongdoing, and I worry what your arrival bodes for the future." Zeus, page 116

"I AM sorry you were born. I have brought you a hero's fate, and a hero's fate is never anything but tragic. Most of all, I am sorry that our laws forbid me from treating you as a father should his child. But you have done well today. Whatever else you do, know that you are mine. You are a TRUE SON of the Sea God. Of that, I shall ALWAYS be proud." Poseidon, page 118

"There is good cause to be festive. If you paid attention to my lectures, then you will remember that heroes RARELY achieve your level of accomplishment. And you are still quite young." Chiron, page 121

"Returning the Helm gained you favor. Even the Lord of the Dead pays his debts." Chiron, page 124



Topics for Discussion

Why is Percy Jackson so special?

Who is Percy's father, and why isn't he in Percy's life?

Why does Mrs. Dodds attack Percy?

How do the Oracle's predictions come true?

What is stolen that initiates Percy's quest, and why is this item so important?

Who betrays Percy, and why?

How does Poseidon contact Percy, and how does he help him?