

# **The Sea of Monsters Study Guide**

## **The Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan**

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# Plot Summary

"The Sea of Monsters" by Rick Riordan is the second book in the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series. In this book, Percy Jackson takes on a quest to save his beloved Camp Half Blood. This book is a tale of Good vs Evil as seen from the point of view of Percy. He must not only fight for the camp but the lives of those around him that he cares about. This book combines the current world with the world of the Greek mythological gods such as Zeus and Poseidon.

Percy Jackson is seen nearing the end of his seventh grade year and although excited about being done with the school, and going to Camp Half Blood for the summer, Percy is concerned about a vivid dream he has had regarding his friend Grover. Percy is not sure what the dream has meant but ultimately decides he has to focus on school. When Percy arrives at school he and his friend, Tyson, are bullied by a group of new boys that have arrived. Tyson tells Percy that the boys have a funny smell and soon the boys begin to develop into large monsters and attack Percy. Tyson comes to Percy's rescue and soon Percy's friend Annabeth also arrives to help and they soon destroy the monsters, and the school.

Percy, Annabeth, and Tyson leave to go to Camp Half-Blood immediately. When they arrive Percy finds that someone has poisoned the magical tree that was created out of Thalia, Zeus' daughter, was injured. Thalia's tree protects Camp Half-Blood but since it is weakened the campers are under constant attack from various monsters. When Percy arrives at Camp he looks at Tyson and realizes he is not a big silly kid, but is in fact a cyclops and in addition to this is also the son of Poseidon, making Tyson Percy's half-brother. Percy and the others at Camp are ordered not go out to find Grover, even though Percy has decided that Grover needs his help and may have a cure for Thalia's tree. Hermes arrives and helps Percy, Tyson, and Annabeth leave camp to go on their quest.

Poseidon sends Hippocampi to assist Percy and the others on the way to find Grover and they soon board a boat manned by a school mate and a crew of dead soldiers. The boat eventually is destroyed in an attempt to reach their destination and Percy believes everyone has died except him and Annabeth. When Percy and Annabeth reach the Island they find that Grover is being held captive by a large Polyphemus, a large cyclops. They are able to rescue Grover and the item that can save Thalia's tree, a golden fleece. While escaping Tyson shows up and helps them evade Polyphemus. When they arrive back at Camp Half-Blood with the golden fleece the tree does revive. Percy has been told of a prophecy that regards a child of the gods although it does not specify which child. It is believed by many that Percy is the only child it could be. When the fleece is put on Thalia's tree Thalia is pulled from the tree, fully recovered. Percy realizes that Thalia could be the child that the prophecy speaks of that could destroy Olympus and that this is the reason the tree had been poisoned.



# Chapter 1-4

## Chapter 1-4 Summary

As chapter one begins Percy is describing a nightmare that he is having of Grover, Percy's best friend who is also a satyr. Percy hears Grover say that he has to get away to warn someone. Percy watches as Grover runs into a bridal boutique where he is hiding when the front of the shop explodes and a voice screams "Mine". It is at this point that Percy wakes up. It is the last day of school for Percy and his mother is calling him to get ready to go. Percy notes that he has made it a whole year without getting expelled or with any trouble. Percy tries to tell his mother that he believes his friend Grover is in trouble but his mother reassures Percy that everything is fine and Percy was just having a dream. Percy walks outside to head to school.

When Percy arrives at school in chapter two Percy meets up with his friend Tyson for Gym. Tyson is a homeless kid who Percy describes as looking like the abominable snowman and being scared of everything despite his massive size. In gym a bully names Sloan introduces some new friends to Percy. They are all big kids and Tyson comments that the kids smell funny. They begin to play dodge ball and one of the big kids slams a ball that had the potential to do damage to a kid. Percy tells him he could have killed someone and the boy grins and says he hopes so calling Percy by his full name, Perseus Jackson. Percy realizes that they are monsters and remembers that Tyson said that the boys had smelled funny. The kids grow until they are the size of giants and all the kids in the gym begin to scream and run. One of the monsters says that no one leaves the room until they are out and they will not be out until they have been eaten. They attack Percy and Tyson comes to Percy's aid and destroys two of the giants. Percy continues battling when his friend from camp, Annabeth, arrives and destroys another of the monsters. She tells Percy that there is no time to explain and to meet her outside and to bring Tyson.

In chapter three Annabeth meets Tyson and Percy outside. She is very rude to Tyson and Percy doesn't understand why. Annabeth says she has been having dreams, but not of Grover, of trouble at camp. Annabeth uses a drachma, a gold coin used on Mount Olympus, to call a cab. Percy is shocked when they get in and find that three women are driving, extremely fast, that only have one eye that they are sharing. The women, Wasp, Anger, and Tempest, are taking the group to Camp Half-Blood. The women tell Percy that they know many things including the location that Percy seeks. When Percy asks what they are talking about they refuse to tell him and say that the last time they told it ended badly. Percy takes the eye and the sisters are forced to tell him the answer, 30,31,75,12. When Percy asks what they means they say that this is all they can tell him. Percy gives the eye back and they arrive within seconds at Camp Half-Blood. Percy wants to continue questioning the sisters but Annabeth pushes him out towards the campers that are being attacked.



Chapter four finds mechanical bulls attacking. Annabeth, Percy and Tyson quickly join in the fight. There is a magical shield that should stop the monsters from coming into camp but the bulls only slow a little before passing the boundary. Percy is in danger and Annabeth gives Tyson permission to enter camp and orders him to save Percy. Tyson is able to save Percy and destroy the bull. When Percy asks about this Annabeth tells Percy to ignore the magic mist that changes a human's perspective on things and really look at Tyson to see what he is. Tyson is a baby cyclops. Annabeth explains that they are orphans and calls them mistakes. One of the campers, Clarisse, explains that things have changed and one of the leaders of the camp, Chiron, has been fired. Clarisse doesn't explain why but she points to Thalia's tree, the magical tree made out of Zeus' daughter while she was dying. Thalia was made into a tree when she was mortally wounded so she would not have to die. Her tree helps to protect the camp. Percy looks at the tree and realizes that it is dying and someone had poisoned it.

## Chapter 1-4 Analysis

Annabeth had entered the story early on when the shadow was first seen outside of Percy's window and when Percy thought he heard someone calling his name in school. Annabeth explains that she has been attacked with full force for an extended period of time to stop her from coming to the aid of the camp. Tyson is the reason that Percy has been afforded some shield from the attacks. Annabeth almost seems to hate Tyson. She shows no tolerance toward him except where Percy is concerned. She is almost disgusted when Tyson tells her that she is pretty. It won't be until much later in the story that Annabeth explains why it is that she has such a deep dislike for Tyson.

Percy's initial reaction from his dream is that Grover is in trouble. When Percy goes to talk to his mother it is clear to see that he and his mother cannot openly talk about most things. Percy knows that his mother cares for him. The issue becomes that his mother is concerned for her son, and Percy doesn't want to lie to her or to hurt her. It appears that he wants her to know what is going on but he knows that there is a line there that his mother cannot ignore. In some ways the situation between Percy's mother and his father is similar to the relationship between divorced parents. The relationship between Percy and his father is strained. It will be seen throughout the story that although his father is not close by physically he cares about Percy although Percy doesn't seem to recognize this very often, mostly because Percy is hurt.

Thalia's tree and her story are very important for reasons other than the tree is a safety shield for the camp. The person that poisoned the tree will be revealed in the story, although Percy and Annabeth believe they know rather quickly who is to blame.



# Chapter 5-8

## Chapter 5-8 Summary

As the story continues in chapter five Percy, Tyson, and Annabeth are walking through camp Half-Blood. They make their way to Chiron's lodge and find him packing. Chiron has been blamed for poisoning the tree. Percy and Annabeth know he is innocent but Chiron insists on leaving. Percy and Annabeth know that an enemy named Kronos is responsible although they have no proof. Chiron advises Percy and Annabeth to not act to hastily reminding them that last summer Kronos baited Percy into a trap that almost cost Percy his life. Chiron tells Annabeth to stay with Percy and remember the prophecy. Percy asks if that is the prophecy that refers to himself that no one will tell him about but Chiron and Annabeth just look at each other and refuse to speak. Chiron leaves and the campers are called to the dining hall.

Once in the dining hall the issue of where Tyson was to stay is discussed. The campers at Half-Blood stay in cabins based on who their god or goddess parent is. Percy is the only one in Poseidon's cabin since it has been forbidden for Poseidon, Zeus, or Hades to have children since the children are so powerful and influence human kind so strongly. Tyson goes before the camp and immediately the symbol of a trident appears above Tyson's head. Percy has a new bunk mate, a half brother. One of the leaders of the camp announces that they are starting up the chariot races once more to take the campers' minds off of the current problems despite the death and wounded rates the chariot races caused.

In chapter six Percy admits to himself that he is ashamed of having Tyson for his brother. Percy often tells other campers that Tyson is not his real brother. Annabeth and Percy eventually join up to win the chariot race but quickly fight when Annabeth calls Tyson a monster. Tyson eventually begins working in the forges and finds he has a great skill at this. Meanwhile Percy continues to dream of Grover but he doesn't completely understand what he is seeing or hearing. Percy and Annabeth are still avoiding each other and Percy has no one to tell of his dreams. Percy is in his cabin and goes to sleep when Grover appears much clearer. He tells Percy that he cannot project himself any clearer and that Percy must listen. Grover explains that he has been captured by a cyclops named Polyphemus. Grover has tricked Polyphemus into thinking he is a woman cyclops and Polyphemus intends to marry Grover. Grover knows that when he is discovered for a satyr that he will be eaten. He is not sure where he is past being in the Sea of Monsters. Grover had to create an empathy link to speak with Percy. Grover explains that if he dies that Percy most likely will die also.

The morning of the race arrives. Percy and Tyson teamed up for the chariot race. The race begins but soon the campers racing and in the stands are attacked by monstrous metal crows. Percy and Annabeth are able to stop them, but there is a lot of destruction. When everything is calm the leaders of the camp turn to Percy and announce that they will deal with the troublemakers.



In chapter seven Annabeth and Percy have forgiven each other and are scrubbing pots as punishment for disrupting the race while Percy tells her about his dream. Annabeth believes that Grover was looking for the Golden Fleece, and found it. She thinks this could save the camp. She explains the Sea of Monsters is now what is called the Bermuda Triangle. Percy brings forth a request to the leaders of the camp to go looking for Grover, and the Golden Fleece. Percy now believes the number the sisters gave him, 30,31,75,12 are coordinates for the island. The leader agrees to the quest but sends a camper named Clarisse, who hates Percy, and refuses to let Percy speak any further. That night Percy sneaks out of camp to go find the island when he is met by Hermes. Hermes acknowledges that Percy does not have permission to go on a quest but encourages Percy to go anyway. Hermes gives Percy a bag, a thermos with the four winds in it and a bottle of Minotaur-shaped vitamins. When Percy asks why Hermes is helping him Hermes says he hopes Percy can save someone other than Grover. Percy knows Hermes is talking about Luke, Hermes son. Luke tried to kill Percy last summer.

In chapter eight Percy is standing alone on the beach when Annabeth and Tyson show up. They both say that they heard Percy calling, although Percy had not said anything. There is a ship in the distance. Suddenly waves rise and horses with fish tails on the back, hippocampi, arrive to take them to the ship. When they reach the ship it has the name Princess Andromeda on it. Once they are on the ship Tyson says he can smell something bad again. In the bag is cash, clothes and Annabeth's cap of invisibility. The next morning the three begin to sneak around the ship to find out what is going on and soon find that Luke is on the ship leading the monsters on board.

## Chapter 5-8 Analysis

Percy has admitted that he is ashamed of Tyson, but Percy continues to stick up for him at the same time. When Annabeth and Percy are fighting it starts because Percy is angry and Annabeth accuses him of being angry because his new brother is a monster. Percy argues both points. He states that Tyson is not a monster but also says that Tyson is not his brother. Tyson is childlike. When he talks it seems that everything is full of wonder to him, and Percy often notes that Tyson does not comprehend that people are making fun of him. This makes Tyson much more likable to the reader, but Percy's reasons for being ashamed are understood as well. It will not be until the end of the book that Percy is able to find some peace with his union with Tyson.

Hermes meets with Percy and discusses family. Hermes will be seen later on in the story and will talk with Percy at length once more. Part of the reason that Luke has been so willing to join up with Kronos is because he is angry because gods and goddess often do not openly associate with their mortal children. Percy will eventually have to face his own issues with his father on some small scale.

Percy was not chosen to go on this quest. The quest is a large thing for a camper to be asked to go on. Each camper is a son or daughter of some deity. Despite this many of them will not make names for themselves, but many of them are desperate to be heroes

or at least make their parents proud. The motivators for Clarisse will be looked at later in the story.

The prophecy that is spoken of is something that Percy has heard of for some time but no one will speak of it. Percy doesn't know a single word of this prophecy but he knows that it is important to him and that Kronos finds it important. The full prophecy will be explained towards the end of the story, but it will continue to change as the story continues. The fruition of the prophecy will not be seen in this book in the series.





# Chapter 9-12

## Chapter 9-12 Summary

As chapter nine begins Percy, Annabeth, and Tyson are looking around the ship when they realize that other campers are there helping Luke. They are quickly discovered. Luke immediately admits to poisoning Thalia's tree. Luke accuses Annabeth of dishonoring Thalia by traveling with a cyclops and teases Percy because Poseidon claimed Tyson as his son. Percy tells Luke that his father sent him but Luke becomes angry and says that Hermes abandoned him and Luke is going to destroy Olympus. Luke tells Percy and Annabeth that he wants them to join their cause but they both refuse. Luke sends them down to be fed to a monster. While in route Tyson is able to overpower the guard taking them and they jump overboard into the ocean.

In chapter ten Percy and the others are in the water with an inflatable raft. Percy opens the thermos containing the four winds slightly and the group goes zipping across the water at incredible speeds. Percy and Annabeth try to send a message to Chiron but they are unsure how much of their message their teacher receives. The group makes it to Virginia beach. Annabeth knows a place that the group can hide. She takes Tyson and Percy to a hideout that she had made long ago with Luke and Thalia. They get into a tent and send Tyson for some powdered donuts. He quickly comes back with a box of donuts. Behind him a hydra has followed him to the camp. The group is quiet trying to sneak past the hydra when Tyson snaps a stick under his feet and the monster attacks the group. They are quickly forced to the edge of the river when suddenly Clarisse appears on a confederate ghost ship and saves Percy and the others.

Chapter eleven has Clarisse berating Percy and Annabeth for coming on the quest when they had been told not to go. Clarisse says that her father gave her the ghost ship to go on the quest. Her father, Ares, is owed tribute by anyone that loses a war. The confederate soldiers agree that they will do anything it takes or kill anyone necessary in order to find peace. Percy and Annabeth tell Clarisse about Luke and his ship full of monsters but Clarisse isn't concerned and turns down the offer of help that Annabeth and Percy extend. When Annabeth asks where Clarisse's cabin mates are at Clarisse says that they did not come. Clarisse is on this mission all alone. When asked what the Oracle told Clarisse when she asked the destiny of her quest Clarisse refuses to tell Percy and Annabeth. Clarisse says that they are not allowed to leave the ship and says if they do not behave she will show them how they deal with spies.

When Percy falls asleep he dreams of Grover again. Polyphemus shows Grover the golden fleece. Grover asks what would happen if anyone attacked the island but Polyphemus only laughs and says that they would have to get through the sheep and then get through him as he locks Grover back in the cave.

When Percy awakes from the dream they are entering the Sea of Monsters. Percy begins to head up deck when he hears Clarisse talking to Ares. Percy hears Ares call



Clarisse pathetic and threaten to harm her if she is not able to complete this quest. Ares disappears and Percy makes his way up deck. There are two monsters that they have to drive the ship between. One is a whirlpool flowing into a great mouth of sharpened teeth. The other is a huge monster on a cliff that picks off soldiers one at a time. When Percy says to sail around them Clarisse explains that they would show up in front of the ship over and over until they sail through. Clarisse wants to stay closer to the cliffs to save the ship but Tyson says that the engines are not going to be able handle the strain for much longer. Clarisse ignores all reason and continues on her quest. The confederate soldiers say the engine is going to blow, Tyson goes down below to give them more time despite Percy begging him not to go. The ship begins to crack and the men are being eaten by the monster on the cliff while the ship is being pulled towards the whirlpool. Annabeth eventually is able to convince Clarisse to abandon ship. Once off the ship someone is able to open the thermos with the remaining winds in it but it is opened completely and the boats all take off in different directions. Percy was looking for Tyson when the ship exploded and he is flowing down into the water as he passes out.

When Percy wakes up he is on a small make shift raft with Annabeth but she says she didn't see Tyson after the explosion and Percy knows that Tyson died in the explosion. Percy and Annabeth talk about many things and eventually Percy asks about the prophecy. Annabeth tries to talk him out of hearing the story but eventually she agrees to tell him the prophecy. It is said that the next child of the big three, Zeus, Poseidon, or Hades, who reaches the age of sixteen will be a great weapon. This child will decide the fate of Mount Olympus. It was originally thought that Thalia was the one the prophecy was speaking about. Annabeth points out that Percy will have to live three more years before he would be the one in the prophecy and that is a long time for a half-blood. The two forget their conversation when they realize that they are nearing land. Once on land they find several different types of boats and air planes. There is a lady with a clip board asking if it is the first time at the spa. She doesn't wait for them to answer before she says she will start an herbal wrap for Annabeth and a complete makeover for Percy. Percy knows this could be a trap but he and Annabeth are very hungry and desperate. Percy checks to make sure that riptide, his sword, is in his pocket and remembers that the minotaur vitamins from Hermes are there as well. As they move further inland they meet the lady that is in charge. She sends Annabeth off for her herbal wrap and turns her attention to Percy. She introduces herself as C. C. and says tells Percy how pathetic he looks. Percy feels nothing but sadness for disappointing C.C. and wishing he could do better. She asks Percy if he wants to be better. There are caged guinea pigs in the room that are beginning to squeal loudly. Percy wants so badly to make C.C. happy that he continues to tell her yes to every question she asks. C.C. asks Percy to give up his control and to trust her judgment over his own. Percy agrees and takes a drink that is handed him. Immediately Percy knows that something is wrong and begins to grow fur and his hands change into paws. Soon Percy is a guinea pig and is put into the cage with the other guinea pigs.

Annabeth comes back in the room and C.C. tells Annabeth that she could be a sorceress just like C.C. C.C. goes on to tell Annabeth that they shouldn't have to stand in the shadow of men. C.C. tells Annabeth if she will stay with her then she can become



immortal. Annabeth eventually realizes that C.C. stands for Circe. Annabeth looks at the guinea pigs and realizes that Percy is there. Circe agrees to give Annabeth a moment to say goodbye. Annabeth quickly goes to Percy's clothing and retrieves the Minotaur vitamins. When Circe comes back in the room Annabeth is opening the bottle into the cage. As the guinea pigs eat the vitamins one by one they change back into their human form. One of the men that is turned back into a human is Blackbeard. The pirates and other men chase Circe and her attendants while Percy and Annabeth head to the beach. Percy takes only moments picking out the vessel for them to take, Blackbeard's old sailing boat. Percy is able to get the boat underway with little trouble.

## Chapter 9-12 Analysis

There are a lot of the children from Camp Half-Blood that are helping Luke. One of the children that they see is one that was never claimed at camp. While Percy is working against Luke he does understand the kind of hurt and betrayal that this causes when the person that is supposed to protect and support you doesn't even acknowledge you.

The titan lord Kronos had a large role in the previous book. Percy begins to understand more of Kronos' motivations when he learns that the prophecy describes Percy as possibly being the child that will decide the fate of Olympus. Kronos would like to have Percy on his side. Although Percy has a strained relationship with his father, he holds no grudges to Mount Olympus.

There are many people throughout history that are mentioned in the story as being half-bloods. They are noted to give the reader an indication of how powerful a half-blood can be, but also to tie the ancient Greek mythology in with modern times. Amelia Earhart, Hitler, and Blackbeard are just a few names that have been given.

Percy has been rather unforgiving to Tyson for being his brother and causing him a large amount of embarrassment. It isn't until Tyson is thought dead that Percy realizes how awful he has been to the person that was willing to die for him. Percy is only a child in many ways, and he is human. He is not without his flaws and the view of the story gives the reader a view of the inner turmoil that his character goes through. Later in the story Tyson will reappear.

Clarisse is on her quest alone. She portrays herself as being very independent and enjoys looking down on others, especially Percy and Annabeth. This could be an overcompensation for her own issues. It appears that she has an abusive relationship with her father, Ares. When Clarisse flinches when Ares makes a motion to hit Clarisse it seems that she knew what was coming and was not shocked by his motion. Even if there is no physical abuse by her father with the way that he spoke to her that is a great deal of emotional abuse that Clarisse endures. It is rather amusing to note that Blackbeard is the son of Ares just as Clarisse is.



# Chapter 13-16

## Chapter 13-16 Summary

In chapter thirteen, Percy is steering the ship towards Grover but Percy still feels like a small jumpy rodent and he is concerned wondering if that truly is what he is on the inside. Sometime before daylight Percy asks Annabeth to tell him why it is that she hates Cyclops so badly. Annabeth explains that she, Thalia and Luke were following Grover when they got lost and wound up in a Cyclops cave. The Cyclops could change his voice to sound like whoever and it kept them separated and confused. While they were trying to get away from the Cyclops there were other monsters that were trying to catch up with them and this gave them the time that they needed. Before they could enter camp and the safety bounds that it affords Thalia was wounded by a monster following them. Instead of watching her die Zeus turned her into a tree. Annabeth blames the Cyclops for slowing them up and giving the other monsters time to catch up and kill Annabeth.

Percy went below deck to sleep and dreamed of Luke's ship. Percy hears Kronos' voice telling him he cannot stop him. There is a girl with Percy but he doesn't recognize her although she does look familiar. The girl asks Percy if they are going to stop him. When Percy doesn't answer the girl opens the lid of the sarcophagus. Percy tries to tell her not to but he cannot speak. The girl screams when the lid is opened and she vanishes in a blast of light. Percy sits up awake when this happens. Annabeth is standing over Percy and says that they are approaching the land of the Sirens.

Percy says he will go get the candle wax so that he and Annabeth cannot hear the Siren's song, but Annabeth says that you are supposed to be wiser after hearing. She wants to be tied up and to listen to the song as they pass. Percy agrees. They head to the island and Annabeth changes when they come into reach of the Siren's song. She becomes manic trying to get out of the ropes that Percy has used to tie her down with. Annabeth is crying and screaming. Percy turns his head to avoid her gaze but when he looks back to check on her she has cut herself loose and is swimming toward the island. Percy jumps overboard and catches up to Annabeth. When he touches her to pull her back he sees what it is that she is seeing. Percy begins to have problems holding onto her and knows that he has to stop the song and so he pulls her underwater and uses the water to push a large air bubble around them. Annabeth begins to sob and Percy pulls them along behind the ship until they are out of hearing range of the island. Annabeth says that her fatal flaw is hubris and asks Percy if he doesn't every feel like he could do better than the gods. Percy laughs and says no and Annabeth tells him that hubris is not his fatal flaw. When Percy asks what is Annabeth says he had better learn what it is and how to control it because every hero has one and it is called fatal for a reason. Just then they reach the island where Grover is being held captive.

As chapter fourteen begins Percy is shocked to find that the island is extremely beautiful and doesn't look like the home of a monster at all. Percy describes it as if it were a



paradise. The Fleece has done this to the island. Annabeth explains that the island will go back to whatever it normally would be if the fleece were not here. They are looking at the fleece when a deer enters the meadow with the sheep. The sheep are all much bigger than the deer and when the deer enters the sheep attack it and eat it in only seconds. They are scanning the rest of the island when they spot another life boat from Clarisse's ship. Annabeth and Percy sneak around and find Polyphemus has tied up Clarisse. Clarisse is threatening to kill the cyclops. She laughs when he says that Grover is going to be his wife and Clarisse says that Grover is not a woman, but is a satyr. Polyphemus is angry and rips the wedding dress off of Grover and changes the menu. Instead of eating Clarisse he announces he will wed Clarisse and will eat Grover. Grover says that he cannot be cooked without mangoes and Polyphemus leaves to go find some mangoes.

Percy and Annabeth decide to trick Polyphemus to get into the cave and save Grover and Clarisse. Annabeth is wearing the cap of invisibility and claims to be "Nobody". Polyphemus remembers years ago when Odysseus stabbed him in the eye claiming to be "Nobody" and he is immediately furious. Percy is able to get Grover and Clarisse headed toward the exit but Annabeth is hit with a large rock despite her invisibility.

Polyphemus is shouting for joy when chapter fifteen commences. Polyphemus has Annabeth in his hands. Percy, Clarisse and Grover storm the cyclops with an attack plan they learned at camp. Percy claims that he is Nobody and tells Polyphemus to let Annabeth go. Polyphemus fights with Clarisse and Percy. Percy is able to get the Cyclops down on the ground but has pity on him and cannot kill him. Percy tries to let Polyphemus go but Polyphemus knocks Percy down. Polyphemus is going to eat Percy when he is suddenly struck in the throat with a large rock. Percy turns and finds Tyson standing scolding Polyphemus. Tyson explains that one of the hippocampi had saved him and they followed Percy and Annabeth. Tyson went to the tree and drew the golden fleece from its branches. The group used it to lay over Annabeth and immediately she regained color in her face and began to look much better although she was still weak. Polyphemus is back up and heading toward the group as they make their way to the ship.

The scene continues in chapter sixteen as Tyson and Percy stop to fight Polyphemus giving the others a chance to get on the boat. Percy is able to wound Polyphemus in the eye and he and Tyson escape to the boat. Clarisse continues to taunt the monster and even without his eye Polyphemus is able to smash the boat with a bolder that he throws. Tyson and Percy dive underwater as their friends are pulled under by the sinking ship. Tyson and Percy use their voices combined to call for the hippocampi to come help them and soon they are all on the magical horses swimming towards the human world.

## Chapter 13-16 Analysis

When they leave the island Polyphemus is jubilant, dancing around the island singing loudly that he finally killed Nobody. There are many places in the book where pieces of



old Greek mythology are told so that the reader has a back story to go with what is taking place. Odysseus tormented the cyclops once before. This is the reason that the return of Nobody, who injured his eye once before, caused such an immediate response. When they are swimming away Percy hopes to himself that Polyphemus never finds out differently.

Although Polyphemus is willing to kill Percy and all his friends, Percy still has conflicted feelings about killing the brute. When he looks at Polyphemus he realizes that they share a father. The bonds of blood are not there in Polyphemus' mind but Percy realizes that they do have a connection. If it had not been for Tyson Percy most likely would have died on this island.

The horses throughout the story regard Tyson as a monster and won't let him get close to them, even though they are created by Poseidon, Tyson's father. Tyson's childlike nature shows that he is often fascinated by the horses and finds them to be beautiful. It isn't until Tyson meets the hippocampi that he finds a horse that not only will tolerate him, but bonds with him. It is the hippocampi that save Tyson and come to his aid when asked.

The siren's song explains a great deal about Annabeth's personality. All of the children at the Half-Blood camp are children of one parent house holds, some of them are completely orphaned. When Annabeth is hearing the song of the siren she sees herself with her mother and her father in a city that she has rebuilt. The city is composed completely of Annabeth's designs. Along side Annabeth and her parents is Luke. One of the people that Annabeth cared for a great deal who has betrayed her in many ways. His loss may have hurt her more than the loss of Thalia. Thalia died but Luke chose to fight against Annabeth. At this point in time there is no indication that there is any hope for change in Luke's direction. The view of Annabeth with her parents seems to be one that many children with separated homes may have.

When Annabeth explains that her fatal flaw is hubris she and Percy begin to talk about fatal flaws. She tells Percy that he will have to find out what his fatal flaw is and learn to control it or it could be what kills him. There is no indication in this book what his fatal flaw would be but it is clear that Percy has the ability to be satisfied in his roll without being the leader, although it seems that this roll often comes to him.



# Chapter 17-20

## Chapter 17-20 Summary

In chapter seventeen the hippocampi are refusing to swim any farther toward man's land. They quickly reach land. They look at a newspaper and realize that they have been gone ten days although the trip didn't take that long from their point of view because time works differently away from the world of man. They know that they have to get back to camp with the fleece that night before Thalia's tree dies. Clarisse feels that there is no hope and she tells Percy that the Oracle told her that she will find what she seeks but despair and fly home alone. Tyson had saved the money that Hermes gave them and Percy gives it to Clarisse and tells her that the Oracle meant she would have to fly home alone because they only had enough money for one ticket. Percy, Annabeth, Grover and Tyson stand talking as they watch Clarisse drive away. When they turn around they find Luke and some of his monsters standing behind them. They are taken to Luke's ship. Percy is able to trick Luke into explaining how he had poisoned Thalia's tree while Percy has an Iris message opened to the leaders of camp Half-Blood. Luke is angered when he realizes what Percy has done and says that Percy is an unreliable weapon that needs to be replaced. Then he tells Percy that he will not leave the boat alive.

Chapter eighteen starts with Percy challenging Luke to a one on one battle. Luke is trying to leave to go stop Clarisse. Luke has no intention of staying and fighting Percy until Percy accuses Luke of being frightened that he is going to lose in front of his warriors. Luke looks around at his followers and decides to fight Percy. The battle begins and Percy soon realizes that he is out of practice and that Luke has been practicing regularly. Percy is not doing well and Luke is about to attack when suddenly a mass of centaurs break in to save Percy and his group. Chiron and the other centaurs rescue Percy, Grover, Tyson and Annabeth and take them back to Chiron's camper trailer. Chiron presents to Percy the facts that while Luke was not able to follow their group because they were not organized enough to do so, they could not have stayed and fought those on Luke's boat because the centaurs would have been vastly outnumbered. Percy asks Chiron if he is the child spoken of in the prophecy. Chiron says that he does not know but they will train him the best they can and leave the rest to the Fates. Percy asks what good one child is against Kronos. Chiron laughs and says he was asked the same thing by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain before Joshua changed the course of the Civil War by himself. Chiron explains that Percy exists in both the mortal world and the immortal world and can influence them both and that is why he is so important. Chiron then reveals to Percy that the reason Chiron was so quick to be blamed as the culprit for poisoning Thalia's tree is because he is the son of Kronos.

In chapter nineteen Percy and the others arrive back at camp just after Clarisse. The fleece is put onto the tree and everyone feels that immediately it is working. The campers go about their duties and the next day Percy is in the stables taking care of the horses when Hermes shows up. Percy tries to tell Hermes about the failed talk with



Luke regarding how much Hermes cares for him. Percy waits for Hermes to be angry but instead Hermes asks Percy if he ever feels like his father abandoned him. Hermes waits a moment before he tells Percy that if he thinks about it he would realize that his father has acted on his behalf regularly although indirectly and Hermes explains that he has done the same for Luke. Hermes has Percy sign for a package and gives him an envelope. When Percy opens it he finds only two words stating "Brace Yourself".

The next morning the camp is getting ready for the chariot race. Tyson gives Percy a watch he had made for Percy. Percy and Annabeth are in the chariot with Tyson as the pit crew. While in the race Percy discovers that the watch doubles as a shield with the press of a button. When the race is over Percy and Annabeth have won and Annabeth and Percy make sure Tyson gets some of the credit and Percy proudly refers to him as his brother.

In chapter twenty Grover gets ready to leave again for another mission. He offers to sever the empathy link but Percy tells him to leave it in place. Later that day Tyson tells Percy that he had a dream from Poseidon and he is going to go to visit their father. Tyson says he needs to go to make weapons for the camp. That night Percy has a dream and Kronos laughs at him. Kronos asks Percy if he is any less diluted than Polyphemus laughing because he has defeated "Nobody". When Percy wakes up the campers are all running toward Thalia's tree. When Percy gets there he finds a girl on the ground and runs to her thinking it is Annabeth for a moment. Chiron and the others do not move a muscle. Chiron says that Kronos has done his trickery and pulled another piece into play to control the prophecy. Percy asks the girl her name and she tells him that she is Thalia daughter of Zeus.

## Chapter 17-20 Analysis

When Percy and Annabeth win the race they are excited but neither of them are willing to let the moment pass them by without giving some credit to Tyson. At this point in the story, Percy is even proud to announce that this is his brother. Annabeth seems to be past the point of holding a grudge towards Tyson. Tyson is treated much better after he returns. When Percy learns that Tyson is going to go away Percy is torn with emotions. He is jealous because he has never been asked by his father to come visit, and also happiness for Tyson that he has an internship that he can go do and something that he is good at. The one that seems to be the most prevalent is the sadness that Percy has knowing that his brother is leaving. Tyson tells Percy that he had prayed to Poseidon to send him someone. Tyson thought Poseidon was mean until he was given Percy. Percy has grown to feel the same way about Tyson.

The fact that Chiron's father is Kronos does create a great many questions for Percy but he does not ask them. In part because they don't matter in the grand scheme of the story, but mostly because Percy looks up to Chiron. Chiron has a role of a father figure for Percy and Percy is not willing to disrespect Chiron in that way. When Thalia is retrieved from the tree Chiron appears to be frightened. It is unclear why they are looking so frightened. It is possible that they are that scared because they are unsure of





how Thalia is going to affect the prophecy, but it raises the question if others looked at Percy with that same fear when he was introduced. It seems that this may be the same girl that Percy had dreamed about opening the golden sarcophagus on the ship that was destroyed by the golden light.

The letter that Percy received had two words on it. Percy felt rather angry about this letter. If the time had been taken to write the letter at all why would the letter not contain something more than this simple, vague warning.



# Characters

## Percy Jackson

This character is the main protagonist in the story. Percy is short for Perseus, a name that his mother gave him in the hopes that he would inherit the luck and long life that Perseus had. Percy Jackson is in the seventh grade and leads a fairly normal life while at school but is in continual danger because he is a demigod, half god and half man. Percy's mother is a human and is seen only shortly in the story, and his father is Poseidon of the sea. Poseidon does not truly appear in the story, he is only described one time when Percy is having a dream about his father.

Percy is very smart but his only a boy. While the story is going on there are multiple times that the danger and dilemmas that are seen are described from a teenagers point of view. Percy has to deal with the struggles that an average child would have to deal with, school, homework, lack of friends, but in addition to these things he is assailed by monsters and worries of a prophecy that he knows concerns him in some way but he is not sure how. Much of the prophecy is kept from Percy, and this makes him worried more than what the prophecy could say. Percy puts a lot of importance into the actions and thoughts of those around him. While Percy himself is not above making mistakes he often does appear to choose the action that he truly believes is right. Throughout the story he continually focuses on his friends around him and the reasons that they do what they do. There are many of the other children in Camp Half-Blood that are seen as angry at their deity parents because they feel they are not embraced by them. Percy does have some hurt that he has but often focuses on the things that his father has done for him.

## Annabeth

This character is one of the main characters in the story. She is not with Percy at the beginning of the story but Percy is often thinking about her. She is smart, loyal, and often is the source for explanation in the story when there is a fact or a story that needs to be related to Percy in order for him to understand what is going on or what danger they are facing. Annabeth trusts Percy and is seen as very smart but she also has her flaws. When she meets Tyson she is very apprehensive about having him around. It isn't until much later in the story that she reveals that it was a cyclops that delayed Thalia, causing her untimely return to Camp Half-Blood where Zeus was forced to turn her into a tree.

Annabeth decides during their voyage that the thirst for knowledge is more important than most anything else she desires and convinces Percy to allow her to hear the song of the Siren explaining that those that hear it and live are said to be wiser. Percy is allowed to see what Annabeth sees. Although she is very intelligent and portrays an image of someone who is capable of being past emotional issues, Annabeth's one true



desire includes having her mother, a goddess, and her father back together. It is at this moment that Percy appears to become much more aware of how vulnerable his friend is despite her ability to fight.

## Tyson

Tyson is introduced in the story as a homeless child that is living in a box. He is described as a big kid and seems relatively slow when articulating his thoughts. Percy mentions the fact that he has trouble focusing on Tyson's face but it is not until they reach Camp Half-Blood that Percy realizes he has been befriended by a cyclops. It is a further shock when Poseidon openly reveals that Tyson is his son, linking Tyson to Percy. Tyson is shown as child like and when the group goes on their quest Tyson is very excited to ride the hippocampi and refers to them as "fish ponies". One of them is big enough to carry Tyson, despite Tyson's large stature, and Tyson names this one Rainbow. Rainbow will return to help Tyson as the story continues.

Tyson is fiercely loyal to Percy. Tyson is seen tinkering on various items throughout the story and is quite good at a blacksmith's trade, as all cyclops are said to be. When Percy and Annabeth arrive home Tyson presents Percy with a watch that he has made for Percy. At the end of the story Tyson is leaving to go live underwater and work for Poseidon as a blacksmith. Tyson begins to cry and says that he knows that his father must love him because he prayed to his father for a friend and he got Percy. Tyson refers to Percy as a blessing.

## Kronos

Kronos, a titan, is not seen in the story but his laughter and hatred are described at various times. Kronos is the force behind the poisoning of Thalia's tree. Kronos has hoped that he would be able to get Percy Jackson on his side and use him to fulfill the prophecy to destroy Olympus. Kronos orchestrated Grover's rescue and the Golden Fleece being brought to camp in order to revive Thalia since it has become clear that Percy will not work against his father.

## Luke

Luke is the son of Hermes. Luke hates his father because he has felt abandoned and unloved. He is only seen briefly in the story but shows a large amount of hatred for his father and for Percy. Annabeth remembers when she was friends with Luke and misses him terribly. Luke is working for Kronos but doesn't openly reveal much of Kronos' plan. Luke does tell Percy that he would be fine with letting Percy have the fleece once he is done with it.



## Poseidon

Poseidon is the god of the oceans. He is not seen in this story except in a dream by Percy. He does appear to be helping Percy throughout the story although it is not always clear to Percy at the time. Poseidon's last message to Percy in the story is simply "brace yourself".

## Chiron

Chiron is a centaur, son of Kronos. When Thalia's tree is poisoned it is immediately suspected that Chiron had a hand in it due to his lineage but eventually is freed from suspicion. Chiron works at Camp Half-Blood and is a mentor to Percy. Chiron will come to Percy's rescue when Percy is caught by Luke.

## Grover

Grover is a satyr and is a friend of Percy's. Grover is looking for the golden fleece when he is caught by Polyphemus. Polyphemus has a bad eye and believes Grover when he says that he is a woman and Polyphemus plans a wedding. Percy is trying to save Grover before the wedding since the cyclops will eat Grover when he finds that Grover is a satyr and not a woman.

## Clarisse

Clarisse is the camper that is chosen to go on the quest to retrieve the golden fleece. She despises Percy Jackson and even when it would be in her best interest to team up with him refuses to cooperate. Clarisse's father is the god of war and her father talks down to her telling her it is obvious that she will not be able to complete anything and make him proud. Despite her hatred of Percy, Percy makes sure that Clarisse gets home safely and gets the gratitude for retrieving the fleece.

## Polyphemus

Polyphemus is the cyclops that lives on the island with the golden fleece. It is Polyphemus that has taken Grover hostage believing Grover to be a woman. Polyphemus has bad eye sight because he was stabbed in the eye by Odysseus while Odysseus was claiming to be "nobody". Polyphemus remembers the name and becomes enraged and starts fighting when Annabeth taunts Polyphemus saying she is Nobody.



# Objects/Places

## Camp Half-Blood

This is the camp where Percy goes during the summer to train to be a hero. Only children are allowed here who have a parent that is a god or goddess. There is magic veil around this camp that keeps others out and protects the camp.

## Thalia's Tree

This is the magical tree that was created around Thalia, Zeus' daughter, when she was dying. It is on this tree that the Golden Fleece is hung to revive it after being poisoned. It was Luke who had poisoned the tree.

## Hippocampi

Hippocampi are half horse, half fish creatures that Poseidon sends to assist Percy and the others. Tyson becomes partial to one of the larger Hippocampi and names it Rainbow.

## Golden Fleece

This is a magical item that is said to restore life to anything. Percy and the group takes it from Polyphemus' island. Percy notes when they take it that the island immediately looks lesser. When the fleece is put on Thalias' tree she is pulled from the tree.

## Riptide

The ink pen that Percy has that can turn into a weapon when the cap is removed. Percy mentions early in the story that he is reluctant to uncap it in the house because he had destroyed his mother's china cabinet.

## Princess Adromeda

This is the ship that Luke and the others serving Kronos are on. It is this ship that the hippocampi first take Percy, Annabeth, and Tyson.

## Thermos

The thermos was given to Percy when he was about to begin his trip by Hermes. The thermos contains the four winds. The thermos is used twice in the story but the second



time it is not opened by Percy and the lid is taken completely off which Percy was warned not to do.

## **Monster Donut**

This is the place that Tyson goes to get some food when Annabeth and Percy ask. Annabeth explains that the Monster Donut place could be a nest. The Hydra that Percy fights shows up with a bib on that advertises Monster Donuts.

## **CSS Birmingham**

This is the name of the ghost ship that Clarisse is in charge of. The men on board the Birmingham are dead confederate soldiers. Clarisse explains that because they had lost the war they would do whatever she said because she is the daughter of Ares. The Birmingham is destroyed while traveling between Charybdis and Scylla.

## **Guinea Pig**

This is what Circe says is the true form of all men. She turns Percy into this as well as all the other men that come to her island, including the pirate known as BlackBeard.

## **Minotaur-shaped Vitamins**

These vitamins change Percy back into human form when Circe casts a spell on him and changes him into a guinea pig. These are the second gift that Hermes had given to Percy. Hermes tells Percy not to take them unless they are truly needed.



# Themes

## Good Versus Evil

Good versus evil is the main focus of the story. Percy is the main protagonist in the story and the books point of view comes from this character. His thoughts and emotions are seen. While Percy is young and has his flaws, it is clear that he embodies what the image of most heroes should look like. Percy is willing to put himself in danger in order to help the camp and his friends. Although he is willing to fight with everything he has Percy also shows that he is willing to go without the praise and glory that goes with being a hero. He sends Clarisse back to the camp with the fleece and keeps quiet when she is hailed as the heroine even though she had been willing to give up at one point in the story.

The evil in the story comes from the character Kronos and those that follow him. Kronos is not actually seen in the story but his voice is heard by Percy several times. Luke with be the character that represents the main source of evil in the story. When Luke is fighting Percy the battle is portrayed as very important and it focuses on Percy and Luke solely for a moment. Although there is no clear winner in the battle Percy does use his head to escape and right some of the wrongs at camp such as Chiron's dismissal from the school.

## Family

The subject of family is often seen as a motivator for multiple characters in the story. The camp in the story is called Camp Half-Blood. This camp is for children who have a god as a parent although these parents do not have anything to do with their children directly it is typically seen that they support their children in other ways. Percy's father is Poseidon, and although it is clear to the reader that Poseidon is helping Percy throughout the story Percy finds at the end of the story that he desperately wants to have his father's approval and recognition of a job well done. Percy also often thinks of his mother and amends his actions at times based on what he believes would make his mother happy. When Percy learns that Tyson is his brother he has a sense of shame when it first happens, but eventually grows to be proud of his brother. In part because of Tyson's abilities and the fact that Tyson risked his life just as much as everyone else on the quest, but in part it is because Tyson has unwavering commitment to Percy Even when Percy is not proud of Tyson he still loves and cares for Tyson.

Luke is one of the main antagonists in the story. Lukes motives in the story appear to be based primarily on the fact that he hates his father for not being there for him, for not being a father figure to Luke. Although Luke feels this way Hermes, Luke's father, asks Percy to try and talk to Luke. Hermes also reminds Percy that he and Luke are cousins. Clarisse is also seen fighting harder than she might normally fight in order to win the



respect, or perhaps love, of her father Ares. When Ares is seen talking to Clarisse he tells her that she is pathetic and raises his hand in a gesture as if he is going to hit her.

## Coming of age

Coming of age is a theme that is focused on in "The Sea of Monsters", but it is only one part in the story that is a continuation of the series. Since the story has many other books there is no definitive answer to the kind of person that Percy will become. There is a prophecy that is spoken of in the story that indicates that Percy could grow up to destroy Mount Olympus. Although Percy is given the option of working with Kronos against those on Mount Olympus it apparently becomes obvious to Kronos that this will not happen. When Thalia is brought out of the tree by the golden fleece then she becomes the one that the prophecy is more likely talking about.

Percy is seen struggling with his own desires in the story, and his motives for doing things. While Percy has honorable intentions he is only a teenage boy and there is much that he doesn't understand. It is easy to forget at times in the story that he has only just finished the seventh grade. There is a lot of responsibility put on Percy and he continually rises to meet the expectations. While doing these things that are seeming "adult" quests he also is seen confused by his growing feelings for Annabeth, and the confusion he feels after talking with Hermes regarding family and his father's vague note.





# Style

## Point of View

"The Sea of Monsters" by Rick Riordan is told in the first person from the point of view from Percy Jackson. The point of view will not be seen from other other source in the story but other characters views on situations are given by different methods throughout the story. In the beginning of the story Percy is having a dream about his friend Grover. Although Percy does not tell anyone about the dream when it initially happens it becomes clear to Percy later in the story that Grover is in trouble and the dream was a vision of what was happening to his friend. Annabeth's vision of a perfect future is given to the reader when Percy touches Annabeth while she is hearing the song of the siren. The vision that Annabeth is having is transferred to Percy for a moment.

The point of view is given in past tense and occasionally the character reveals a small piece that is going to come in the story. In the beginning of the story Percy is talking about his last day of school and how he knows that nothing can ruin the last day of school since it is only one day. The character then explains that he did not know how wrong he was. Although there are times in the story when the character alludes to something that might be in the story, these moments are few and do not give much more than a broad indication of something that may happen.

## Setting

The setting in the story is set in a current time frame but there is a lot of ancient Greek mythology that is tied into the story. There will be stories given by other characters in the story, or remembrances that Percy has in order to tie the stories in for the reader. An example of this is given when Percy and Annabeth get to the island where Polyphemus lives. The characters in the story recount the run in that the cyclops had with Odysseus and how it was the name "Nobody" that was given when the cyclops' eye was injured. Annabeth uses this name to make Polyphemus angry and give her friends a chance to escape.

There are aspects of the ancient Greek mythology that are changed in order to tie them into current time settings, such as Circe changes her name to C.C. and the men that she had turned into pigs in the original tale are now guinea pigs. Also the Sea of Monsters that the group is traveling to Annabeth explains that the place is somewhere that planes and boats would go missing without explanation. This place is known as the Bermuda Triangle.

## Language and Meaning

The language in the story is written in a straight forward style that is easily understood. There is often talks of prophecies and the characters in the story occasionally will talk in



riddles that requires a different point of view to be understood at times. When Clarisse goes to talk to the oracle she receives a prediction that scares off her friends from undertaking the journey with her. It is not until Percy explains the prediction that seems to be any hope. The prophecy Clarisse had received stated she would fail without friends and would return home alone. Percy thinks this over for a moment and then tells her that she has to take the fleece on without them back to camp. The others in the story that had heard the prophecy had decided that going with her would mean their own demise although this was not true it kept any others from traveling with Clarisse.

When Percy is in the cab with the three witches they tell him a group of numbers when he tells them to explain what they meant by "the location you seek." Percy doesn't understand what the group of numbers meant until he is on the ocean and realizes that because he is the son of Poseidon that he has an incredible sense of location at sea and knows latitude and longitude without map or equipment.

There are characters in the story that are harder to understand when they talk, such as Tyson. Tyson speaks in a way that reminds the reader of a small child. There are multiple characters that talk about the cyclops' race as if they are very stupid creatures, and Polyphemus is no exception, and also speaks the way that Tyson does. Despite the child-like phrasing and choice of words, the meanings are generally easily understood. The exception for this is close to the end of the story when Tyson is telling Percy that the shield that Tyson made for him will save his life. Percy is not sure if Tyson is speaking of a future that he knows or if he is just saying that it is a good shield.

## Structure

"The Sea of Monsters" contains 279 pages and is divided into twenty chapters. Each of the chapters is titled with a short phrase that indicates what is to come in the chapter. The plot of this story is the focus of the quest to the "Sea of Monsters" that Percy and his friends undertakes. While this is the main immediate focus of this book, this book is the second in the series and this quest is only the focus of this particular book. The focus of the books is about the journey that Percy undertakes as he is learning about his life as the son of Poseidon. There is talk in the story about a prophecy that many believe concerns Percy, and an enemy that Percy may eventually have to face, Kronos, although it does not occur in this story.

There are times in the story when the writer will use italics or other methods to indicate that something other than a character speaking has occurred. This is seen when a prophecy is given or Percy is having a thought that he does not voice out loud. The author also uses a large space to separate two different scenes that are depicted within a chapter. In the first chapter of the book when Percy's point of view is switching from his vision of Grover to his bedroom there is an extra space inserted between these scenes to give the reader a clearer defined area indicating this transition.



## Quotes

"I mean, I'm ADHD and dyslexic, like most half-bloods, so I'd never done that great in regular schools even before they kicked me out." Chapter 2; Page 8

"A magical force called the Mist obscures the true appearance of monsters and gods from their vision, so mortals tend to see only what they can understand." Chapter 2; Page 17-18

"As it passed the middle of the hill, where the invisible boundary line should've kept it out, it slowed down a little, as if it were struggling against a strong wind; but then it broke through and kept coming." Chapter 4; Page 42

"The 'Big Three' gods-Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades-had made a pact after World War II not to have any more children with mortals." Chapter 5; Page 50

"Young people don't always do what they're told, but if they can pull it off and do something wonderful, sometimes they escape punishment." Chapter 7; Page 102

"My dear young cousin, if there's one thing I've learned over the eons, it's that you can't give up on your family, no matter how tempting they make it." Chapter 7; Page 104

"Everywhere we went, dead Confederate sailors stared at us, their ghostly bearded faces shimmering over their skulls." Chapter 11; Page 148

"The last thing I remembered was sinking in a burning sea, knowing that Tyson was gone forever, and wishing I were able to drown." Chapter 11; Page 164

"But Polyphemus sobbed...and for the first time it sank in that he was a son of Poseidon, too. Like Tyson. Like me." Chapter 15; Page 219

"You shall sail the iron ship with warriors of bone, You shall find what you seek and make it your own, But despair for your life entombed within stone, And fail without friends, to fly home alone." Chapter 17; Page 234

"I didn't know exactly what he meant, but it made me worried about what Luke had said: I was going to let you take the Fleece... once I was done with it." Chapter 18; Page 250

"I heard Kronos taunting me from the depths of Tartarus: Polyphemus sits blindly in his cave, young hero, believing he has won a great victory. Are you any less deluded?" Chapter 20; Page 275

"And I was holding someone who was destined to be my best friend, or possibly my worst enemy." Chapter 20; Page 279



## Topics for Discussion

Discuss family bonds. How do the family bonds seen by the Half-Bloods compare to what you feel is a modern day family? Do you agree or disagree with Hermes' statement that families are messy in chapter nineteen? Why or why not?

Explain the relationship between Tyson and Percy. Why did Percy's view on Tyson change so much when he discovered they were brothers? Do you think that Tyson ever changed the way that he felt about Percy or the way that he viewed him? Why or why not?

Look more closely at Clarisse's character. Justify her actions in the story. Why did she refuse to listen to anyone when they were telling her what to do before the confederate ship exploded? Why did she reveal Grover's true identity to Polyphemus? Why did Clarisse continue to taunt Polyphemus when they had made it to the ship? What do you feel that this shows about her character?

When Grover is getting ready to leave he offers to break the Empathy link but Percy refuses. Why do you think that Percy refused? Would you have refused? Explain why or why not? What would be the benefits? Do you feel it outweighs the risks?

Annabeth saw her fatal flaw when she was listening to the siren's. Based on what is seen in this book speculate on what you think Percy's fatal flaw is and give examples from the book to support your theory.

Given what is seen of Luke in the story, do you think that Luke still cares for his family or friends in any regard? What about Annabeth and Thalia? Do you think that Luke knew that Thalia would be saved from the tree? Explain your answers.

Hermes asked Percy to think about the times that his father has helped him out. How often in the story did it seem apparent to the reader that Poseidon was helping Percy? Do you feel that Poseidon cares for his son Percy in a traditional sense? Explain./

There are several names and places mentioned in the book that are linked to mythological stories. Amelia Earhart, Blackbeard, the Bermuda Triangle and others. Does this tie together the mythology to modern day setting for the reader? Explain. Does this give the reader an interest to read other mythological stories? Explain why or why not?

This is the second book in the series. Do you feel that this book could have stood alone or is it left open enough that the reader will need to read the next book in the series to have closure? Explain your answer.