Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief – Reading Guide Questions

Chapter 1

1. Describe Percy Jackson as a student. What troubles does he have in school?

2. What is Percy’s relationship with his mother? Why does he think she has bad luck?

3. Who is Percy’s best friend? How is he an “easy target” for other kids?

4. What happens to Mrs. Dodds at the museum? Describe her interaction with Percy.

Chapter 2

5. What does everyone say about Mrs. Dodds after the field trip?

6. What is Percy’s favorite subject and the only one he studied for? Describe the teacher of this subject.

7. What is Percy worried that “snipping of the yarn” might mean?

Chapter 3

8. What is Percy’s bond with his mother?

9. How does Percy feel about Gabe? Why?

10. Where did Percy’s mother meet his father?

11. Where did Percy’s mom say his dad wanted him to go?

12. Who showed up at the cabin as a complete surprise and how had he changed?

Chapter 4

13. What does Grover say he really is?

14. What chases Percy, his mom, and Grover? How is Percy familiar with it?
Chapter 5

15. What does Grover give Percy in a shoe box?

16. What do they give Percy to nurse him back to health?

17. How does he know where he is?

18. What happened to Percy’s mother?

19. Who is there that Percy already knows as a teacher from his school? How is he different?

20. What does Percy discover about the Greek gods at Camp Half Blood? What do they have to do with the camp?

21. Who is the camp director? Describe him.

22. Where is Mount Olympus in the book?

23. How does Percy’s Latin teacher get out of his wheelchair?

Chapter 6

24. Why is Grover in trouble?

25. Describe the cabins.

26. Percy’s Latin teacher is really what character from Greek mythology?

27. Who is Percy’s first camp counselor and who is his father?

28. What does Percy learn about himself and his dad? What were the defects in normal society that really kept him alive?

29. What bully does Percy meet and who is her dad? How and where does Percy battle her?
Chapter 7

30. Who is Annabeth’s mom?

31. What does Annabeth say happened to Olympus after her visit?

32. What does Percy have to drink with his dinner and how does he get it?

33. Who are the big three and why aren’t they supposed to have anymore children?

34. Who is Thalia’s dad, and what happened to her?

35. Describe the children of Dionysus, Demeter, Hephaestus, and Aphrodite.

36. What do they discover about Percy and water? How does this relate to his father?

Chapter 9

37. How does Percy feel about having his own cabin?

38. How does he know the other campers resent him?

39. Who does Zeus think stole his lightning bolt? Why?

40. Describe the oracle and her prophecy. What is a quest?

41. Why is Percy more excited about his upcoming quest to the Underworld than scared? What other feelings does he have about his assignment?

42. Describe the gifts Percy is given for his quest and by whom.

43. What does Percy learn about his mother’s marriage to Gabe?

44. Who are the three old ladies that get on the bus? Who are the “Kindly Ones?”

45. Describe Percy’s sword, including its name.
Chapter 11

46. What clues do Percy and his friends have that all is not right with "Auntie Em?" Why do you think they overlook them?

47. Who is Auntie Em according to Greek mythology?

Chapter 12

48. Who is Grover talking to when Percy wakes up from his dream?

49. Why do Percy’s dad and Annabeth’s mom dislike each other? How did they cooperate?

Chapter 13

50. Whom does Percy meet in the elevator on the way up the arches? Who is she in Greek mythology, and who is her dog really?

51. What does Percy's fight with Echidna reveal about his character? What new things does he discover about himself?

Chapter 14

52. How does Percy discover he is a fugitive?

Chapter 15

53. The god, Ares, says he loves America. He calls it "the best place since Sparta." What does he mean? Do you agree with his assessment of America? Why? Why not?

Chapter 16

54. At the Lotus Casino, Percy realizes that unless he gets out quickly, he will "...stay here, happy forever, playing games forever, and soon I'd forget my mom, and my quest, and maybe my own name. I'd be playing virtual rifleman with groovy Disco Darrin forever." What critique is the author offering of modern life? Do you agree with it?
Chapter 17

55. What are the furies searching for and how does it relate to the dream?

56. As Percy went to the Pacific, he saw something glimmering in the darkness? Who was it?

57. What did the Nereid give Percy as a gift?

58. Who does Percy meet at Crusty’s Water Bed Palace?

Chapter 18

59. Who is Mr. Charon, and what does he wear in the boat?

60. What is the name of the river into the underworld?

61. Describe the entrance into the underworld.

62. Name three of the judges who determine the fate of the dead.

63. Describe Cerberus.

Chapter 19

64. Describe the palace of Hades.

65. What is Percy’s first impression of Hades as a god?

66. What is in Percy’s backpack?

67. What else does Hades accuse Percy of having?

68. Who does Percy leave in the underworld, thus fulfilling the oracle’s prophecy?

66. How do they escape the underworld and where do they end up?
Chapter 20

67. What does Ares have that will make Hades mad at Poseidon and Zeus?

68. What does Ares hope to accomplish by killing Percy?

69. Where did Percy strike Ares that wounded him?

Chapter 21

70. What did Annabeth use to distract the press from Percy?

71. What was Olympus a “reverse copy” of?

72. In what throne was Zeus sitting?

73. Describe Percy’s father and his throne.

74. Describe the story of Kronos and his children.

75. What did Percy’s father say would be waiting for him at home?

76. After Percy got home, what did he realize for the first time about Gabe’s treatment of his mother?

77. What does Percy imply is in the package?

Chapter 22

77. Describe Percy’s mother’s sculpture.

78. Who betrays Percy, thus fulfilling the prophecy?

79. What bites Percy and why?

80. What do we assume Percy’s next quest will be?