



THE LIGHTNING THIEF:

Post-Reading Response Prompts



After you finish reading *The Lightning Thief*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

A.	<p>Percy, Grover, and Annabeth each use their strengths and weaknesses as they work together to successfully complete a dangerous quest. Describe a strength and weakness for each character, and give an example of something the character says or does that reveals each trait.</p>		
		STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
	Percy	Brave. To save his mom and Grover, Percy battles the Minotaur by ripping the monster's horn off and stabbing him with it.	Impulsive. Percy acts without thinking, like when he stays behind at the top of the Arch in St. Louis, separating himself from his friends and being attacked by the Chimera.
	Grover	Caring and loyal. Grover offers to stay in the Underworld in order to save Percy, his mom, and Annabeth. Grover is able to sense Percy's emotions and offers him comfort, advice, and reassurance.	Nervous and fearful. He worries that he'll never succeed at being a keeper—he failed at delivering Thalia and Percy to safety—and thus never win a searcher's license to search for Pan.
Annabeth	Logical. When escaping from Medusa, Annabeth grabs a gazing ball and guides Percy to look only at Medusa's reflection.	Hides her feelings. She tries to act like she doesn't like her dad, but the truth is that she feels unwanted and unloved by him.	
B.	<p>What is a quality, value, or characteristic that Percy, Grover, and Annabeth have in common that allows them to work well together? Describe a time when the shared quality, value, or characteristic helps Percy, Grover, and Annabeth overcome a challenge on their journey.</p> <p>Percy, Grover, and Annabeth show courage in the face of danger, even if they're afraid. They also show loyalty, compassion, and a strong sense of justice. Student evidence will vary but may mention situations involving teamwork, such as in the water park or in the Underworld.</p>		
C.	<p>Percy shares that he has a history of getting in trouble, being misunderstood, and struggling to succeed in school. Why does Percy have mixed feelings about living at home in the city for the upcoming school year? After Percy's experiences, do you think he will still struggle with the same challenges in school? Explain your answers with ideas and details from the text.</p> <p>Percy worries that he'll continue to struggle in school because he's still a demigod in the human world, and he still has a different learning style than his human classmates. At yet another new school, his human teachers may not understand him as he tries to manage his demigod characteristics. Living in the city, he'll be away from the protection of Camp Half-Blood, and he's going to be more noticeable to monsters because Smelly Gabe isn't there to mask his scent. On the other hand, Percy may feel hopeful because he has some training and knowledge about the threats of monsters, and he knows more about himself to understand why some things are harder for him. He may be able to go into the new school year with a more positive self-image. Being with his mom and feeling better about himself may mean he's able to react better to challenging situations.</p>		
D.	<p>The Greek gods are larger-than-life powerful beings, but in other ways, they have personality traits and emotions similar to regular humans. Share three examples from <i>The Lightning Thief</i> of a god, goddess, or monster acting on emotions that are part of our everyday human experiences. Name the god, goddess, or monster and their emotion, and explain their action or behavior.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. D/Dionysus is childish because he doesn't like a punishment or a consequence. • Medusa is angry that Annabeth's mom turned her into a monster and she wants to get revenge through Annabeth. • Ares is vengeful and sends the kids to a trap at the water park. 		



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E.	<p>The main purpose of the quest is to find and return the master bolt to Zeus, but Percy's friends intend to do more than that. Grover and Annabeth both seek to prove something about themselves in the process. Explain what each seeks and how it turns out.</p> <p>Grover's dream is to become a seeker so he can find Pan, god of the wild. In order to get his searcher's license, he must prove himself brave by succeeding as a keeper. In his role as a keeper, he must find a hero and bring them safely to Camp Half-Blood. He tried before—with Thalia and then Percy—and failed. Annabeth is driven to prove that she's smart and capable outside the walls of Camp Half-Blood. As one of the few full-time campers at Camp Half-Blood, she sees the quest as her chance to see the world and prove she's a good warrior. On the quest, both of them prove that they are brave and capable.</p>
F.	<p>At the beginning of the novel, Percy wonders who his father is. When he finally learns the truth that he's the son of Poseidon, are you surprised? What hints does the author give earlier in the book that help the reader see that Percy is connected to Poseidon? Give three text examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Camp Half-Blood, Percy is average when it comes to most of the activities. However, he excels at canoeing, a water sport. • When Clarisse and her friends try to bully Percy as part of a newcomer initiation in the bathroom, he somehow controls the water in the plumbing and sprays the other kids with the toilet water. • After a sword-fighting lesson with Luke, Percy is bruised, battered, and sweaty. He pours ice water over his head and "strength surged back" into his arms. • After Percy is cut during the capture the flag game, he falls into the creek and is immediately alert and strong enough to fight back. His wound heals quickly and unnaturally. When he steps out of the creek, Percy is exhausted and in pain again.
G.	<p>Luke betrays his fellow campers. What do you think leads him to turn against the gods and his fellow demigods? How did the author, Rick Riordan, foreshadow Luke's betrayal? Use details from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Luke is hurt that his dad doesn't take an interest in him. Despite the fact that his dad gave him a quest, Luke feels that it was a superficial quest. Luke has some resentment at not being cared about or getting attention after returning from his quest. He feels unappreciated and used by the gods. Student text evidence will vary but might include details about his father or being manipulated by Kronos.</p>
H.	<p>Dreams have a recurring role in <i>The Lightning Thief</i>. In Montauk, Percy dreams of a horse and eagle fighting on the beach, and he dreams about barnyard animals while recovering from the battle with the Minotaur. Later, he dreams of a voice from the pit. Percy struggles to make sense of the dreams. How do Percy's dreams impact the story's events? Choose one dream and explain how it impacts Percy's decisions and actions.</p> <p>The dreams serve as messages from the gods and Kronos. Because Percy is new to the world of Greek gods, he's unsure what, if anything, the dreams mean, and he chooses not to discuss the dreams with his friends. If Percy chose to discuss the dreams, his friends—especially Annabeth—might be able to see how they connect to the conflict in the story and the quest. When Percy sleeps in his own cabin at Camp Half-Blood, he dreams about running on the beach in a storm and seeing two robed men fighting in the water. Over the roar of the storm's wind and the waves crashing, Percy hears laughter from under the earth, coaxing him to "Come down!" This dream foreshadows Hades's involvement in the dispute between Zeus and Poseidon, as well as the role Percy plays in solving the problem.</p>



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<p>I.</p>	<p>In the novel, the Greek gods have complicated relationships with their human children. The parents—both human and god—disappoint their children in one way or another. Give an example of a parent who disappoints a child in the novel, and explain how the child reacts to the disappointment. Use text evidence to support your answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annabeth's human dad doesn't stand up to his wife and her children when they express disapproval of Annabeth. He doesn't seem to want Annabeth to live with his family, so Annabeth reacts by hiding her feelings and distancing herself from her dad. • Luke only meets his dad Hermes once, and Luke believes that the quest his dad gives him is superficial. As a result of his disappointing quest and the lackluster celebration when he returns, Luke rejects the gods and serves Kronos. • Percy's dad has never communicated with him, leaving him and his mom on their own. His dad refers to Percy as a “wrongdoing” when speaking to Zeus. Percy alternates between feeling hurt and yearning to connect with his dad.
<p>J.</p>	<p>Review the Oracle's prophecy to Percy: <i>You shall go west, and face the god who has turned.</i> <i>You shall find what was stolen, and see it safely returned.</i> <i>You shall be betrayed by one who calls you a friend.</i> <i>And you shall fail to save what matters most, in the end.</i></p> <p>How does each of the predictions turn out to be true? Choose <u>one</u> of the predictions and explain how it has a misleading or double meaning.</p> <p><i>You shall go west, and face the god who has turned.</i> This turns out to be true when Percy goes to Los Angeles and the Underworld and faces Hades. While this part of the prophecy seems to refer to Hades, it could also refer to Percy meeting Ares out west and learning that he has “turned.” Ares is the one who hides the bolt and helm in order to start a war.</p> <p><i>You shall find what was stolen, and see it safely returned.</i> This turns out to be true when Percy finds the lightning bolt and returns it to Zeus.</p> <p><i>You shall be betrayed by one who calls you a friend.</i> This turns out to be true when Percy is betrayed by Luke. This is misleading because Percy initially thinks this part of the prophecy is fulfilled when Ares acts like a friend and then betrays him.</p> <p><i>And you shall fail to save what matters most, in the end.</i> This turns out to be true when Percy does not save his mom from Gabe. It's misleading because, even though Percy does save his mom—the person who matters most—from the Underworld, he doesn't save her from Gabe because that's something she says she needs to do herself.</p>