



# THE LIGHTNING THIEF:

## Discussion Guide #1

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.



Chapters  
1–3

1. I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-algebra Teacher
2. Three Old Ladies Knit the Socks of Death
3. Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants

### Comprehension:

- Why is Percy both hopeful and nervous about the museum field trip?
- In the first chapter, Percy and Mr. Brunner discuss the myth of Kronos, a Titan from Greek mythology. Explain what Kronos did to his children and what Kronos's wife and Zeus did in response.
- How do both Mrs. Dodds and Mr. Brunner surprise Percy during the museum field trip? What does Percy do in response?
- What does Percy conclude after eavesdropping on Mr. Brunner and Grover?
- Why is Percy surprised when Grover gives him a card with his contact information and suggests he can protect Percy?
- What does Grover observe at the fruit stand that makes him nervous?
- Who is Gabe? What does he demand from Percy when Percy comes home from school?
- What are two reasons Percy is shocked and confused after his mom opens the cabin door during the storm?

### Analysis:

- How does Percy interpret Mr. Brunner's comments about leaving Yancy? Why do you think Percy is more upset by what Mr. Brunner says than he is by his English teacher's criticism?
- Percy's description of the beach cabin shows that he's content and happy when he's there. Based on what you know about his life at school and home, why is the cabin so special to him?

### Personal Connection:

- Percy follows his description of the shabby, run-down beach cabin by saying he loves the place. Describe a place that's important to you but may not seem very special to others. How does the place look, sound, and smell, and why is it special to you?



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Chapters  
4–6

4. My Mother Teaches Me Bullfighting
5. I Play Pinochle with a Horse
6. I Become Supreme Lord of the Bathroom

### Comprehension:

- Percy, his mom, and Grover flee from the beach cabin during the storm. Who does Grover say they're trying to get away from? Where is Percy's mom trying to take them?
- As Mrs. Jackson tries to get them to safety in the car, Percy has a lot of questions for Grover. What does Grover explain about the three old ladies at the fruit stand? How does Grover's explanation make Percy even more anxious about what's going on?
- Who or what comes to attack Percy after the car crashes into a ditch? During the battle that follows the crash, at what point does anger replace Percy's fear? How does his anger affect him?
- Besides Grover, who else from Yancy Academy is at Camp Half-Blood? What's his real name, and why did he decide to teach at Yancy?
- According to Chiron, what does Grover have to do before he's able to pursue his dreams? Why might Grover not get another chance?
- Why are there twelve cabins, and why does Percy get assigned to number eleven?
- How does Annabeth explain Percy being kicked out of a lot of schools and being diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia?
- Which god is one of Clarisse's parents? How does Clarisse welcome Percy to Camp Half-Blood, and what happens as a result?

### Analysis:

- Percy frequently makes negative comments about himself, and he refers to himself as "troubled" and "not normal." But other characters, such as Percy's mom and Mr. Brunner/Chiron, see Percy in a more positive light. Explain how these characters view Percy and how their views differ from Percy's own. What do you think this difference in perspective reveals?
- How is Clarisse from Camp Half-Blood similar to Nancy Bobofit, the girl from Percy's old school, and why does Percy find both of them so frustrating? Based on Percy's reaction to these characters, what kinds of people do you think Percy dislikes the most?

### Personal Connection:

- At Camp Half-Blood, Percy is surprised to discover abilities he didn't know he had. Tell about a time you surprised yourself with newfound abilities or by being better at a skill than you expected to be.