



THE LIGHTNING THIEF:

Discussion Guide #2

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.



- 7. My Dinner Goes Up in Smoke
- 8. We Capture a Flag
- 9. I Am Offered a Quest



Comprehension:

- Why do demigods go to Camp Half-Blood, and what do they learn there? Why do some attend only for the summer but others stay year-round?
- Who are the Big Three? What does each one control?
- What pact did the Big Three make, and why? How did it impact the cabins at Camp Half-Blood?
- How does Percy surprise himself and others at his first sword-fighting lesson?
- Who's Thalia? How did she come to be at Half-Blood Hill, and what happened to her on the hill?
- After the game, what happens to Percy's wounds when he gets in the water? What does everyone see in the sky, and what does this reveal?
- Why are Zeus and Poseidon fighting? What is the significance of the summer solstice?
- What does the Oracle say to Percy, and what parts of the prophecy does Percy choose not to share with Chiron?
- What is the plan for Percy's quest? Who's going with him, and what are their tasks and deadlines?

Analysis:

- What does Percy learn from Annabeth and Luke about how gods treat their children? What attitude does Luke have about the relationships between gods and their demigod children?
- Describe the dream Percy has after his father claims him. Based on what Percy later learns about the fight between the gods, how do the dream's details reflect what is happening in real life?

Personal Connection:

- Before his first camp dinner, when everyone fills their glasses to make a toast, Percy requests blue Cherry Coke in honor of his mom. What's a food or drink that is special to you, and why?



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Chapters
10–12

- 10. I Ruin a Perfectly Good Bus
- 11. We Visit the Garden Gnome Emporium
- 12. We Get Advice from a Poodle

Comprehension:

- Describe the gift Luke gives to Percy before the quest. What does Percy do with the gift, and why?
- Chiron explains that Mist is a powerful thing. Who generates Mist and when? How does it affect a non-mortal, and how does it affect humans?
- Why did Percy's mom marry Gabe?
- Who do the three old ladies on the bus look like? Who are they and where are they from?
- Why is it important to Annabeth to go on a quest?
- What does Percy figure out about Aunty Em's real name? How is she dangerous? What does Percy do to protect himself and prevent Aunty Em from hurting others?
- Who are the searchers, and why does their role exist? How does Grover hope to be different from the searchers before him?
- How are Percy, Annabeth, and Grover able to get money for new transportation? Where are they going and how will they get there?

Analysis:

- Reread the scene at Aunty Em's. What are some details you now see that suggest the three friends should be wary of Aunty Em? What details hint at her identity?
- Percy sends Medusa's head to Mount Olympus and Annabeth warns that the gods will think he's impertinent. He responds, "I *am* impertinent." What does **impertinent** mean, and why would Percy feel that way toward the gods?

Personal Connection:

- In addition to the supplies Chiron gives the group, Grover and Annabeth each choose a few items to take on the quest. Some choices are practical, while others are more emotional or sentimental. What three personal items would you take on a quest and why?