



THE LIGHTNING THIEF:

Discussion Guide #3

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
13–15

- 13. I Plunge to My Death
- 14. I Become a Known Fugitive
- 15. A God Buys Us Cheeseburgers



Comprehension:

- What makes Annabeth think the voice from the pit in Percy's dream is not Hades?
- What are two details Annabeth gives to explain why she thinks her dad doesn't care about her?
- Who are Sonny the Chihuahua and his mom, and why are they at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis? Why does Sonny's mom say Percy should be honored?
- What happens when Percy is underwater in the Mississippi River that confirms Poseidon is his father?
- What message does the woman at the bottom of the river relay to Percy? What does she say about his mom, and what does she warn Percy against?
- When he shows up at the diner, what "favor" does Ares ask Percy for? What does he promise in return?
- Explain what Ares means when he says to Percy, "In a way, you got me to thank for your little quest."
- How does Annabeth explain why Ares asked them to retrieve his shield from the abandoned water park?
- Who sets a trap at the water park, and why?

Analysis:

- Percy thanks his father twice when he's underwater in the river. What prompts Percy to thank Poseidon the first time, and how does he show his gratitude? How does the way he says "thank you" reflect his feelings? Why does Percy's attitude change the second time he thanks his father?
- Describe Ares's physical appearance and behavior in the diner. What effect does Ares have on Percy? Based on details in the text, why does it make sense for Ares to be the god of war?

Personal Connection:

- When he's underwater in the Mississippi River, Percy feels gratitude toward his father that he hasn't felt before. When have you been surprised by gratitude for a person or experience in your life?



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- Chapters 16 – 17**
- 16. We Take a Zebra to Vegas**
 - 17. We Shop for Water Beds**



Comprehension:

- How does Ares explain what happened to Percy's mom after the Minotaur attack?
- Why is Annabeth terribly afraid of spiders?
- What is Grover's role in the story of Thalia and Half-Blood Hill? What did he do, and who were the two other demigods with them?
- What happened when Annabeth last tried living with her dad? What advice does Percy give her about her dad?
- Why and how do Percy, Annabeth, and Grover help the zoo animals on their way to Las Vegas?
- What are some features of the Lotus Casino that make it seem like paradise to Percy, Grover, and Annabeth? What is the downside of the casino for them?
- Why does the Nereid say that Percy should not judge his father too severely? What reasons does the Nereid give?
- What gift does the Nereid give Percy, and what is her warning?
- What are Percy, Grover, and Annabeth looking for in L.A.? Why do they need to find the place?
- What is Crusty's real name and what is he known for in mythology? What does he do to Annabeth and Grover, and why?

Analysis:

- At the beginning of his dream in chapter sixteen, Percy is in a school. How does this part of his dream relate to Percy's waking life in the past and present?
- What does Percy do when he reaches the ocean in Santa Monica? Explain how Percy's actions and emotions reveal that he's becoming more comfortable with the idea of being a demigod and interacting with the world in a magical way.

Personal Connection:

- The Lotus Casino tempts all who enter. What foods, activities, and games would draw you in and keep you munching and playing happily for days?