



THE LIGHTNING THIEF:

Discussion Guide #4

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
18–20

- 18. Annabeth Does Obedience School
- 19. We Find Out the Truth, Sort Of
- 20. I Battle My Jerk Relative

Comprehension:

- How does Percy persuade Charon to let them into the Underworld?
- What is the River Styx, and why does it look like that?
- What is the difference between the Asphodel Fields and the Fields of Elysium?
- Who is Cerberus, and what's his role in the Underworld? What does Annabeth do so that the three friends can get through the lines and into the Underworld?
- When Grover's shoes begin flying on their own, where do they take him? Where has Percy seen this place before? What's the place called?
- What important object is Hades missing, and what does he think happened to it? What does Percy realize about why his own backpack has been feeling so heavy?
- What choice does Percy need to make about the pearls he was given by the Nereid? What does Percy decide, and why?
- What deal does Percy make with Ares in order to get the helm and bolt? How does Percy use his natural gifts in the fight?
- After the fight between Ares and Percy, what happens to Hades's helm? What is Percy's plan for Zeus's bolt?

Analysis:

- Characters in the book discuss Hades as though he's a cruel god who lacks empathy and warmth. Although Hades may not have compassion or show kindness to others, what evidence suggests that Hades does have feelings of his own?
- Why does Percy begin to suspect that Ares hasn't been acting alone and that he's been taking orders from someone?

Personal Connection:

- Percy says Elysium contains "neighborhoods of beautiful houses from every time period in history, Roman villas and medieval castles and Victorian mansions. Silver and gold flowers bloomed on the lawns." If you lived in Elysium, what would your dream house look like?



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Chapters
21 – 22

21. I Settle My Tab

22. The Prophecy Comes True

Comprehension:

- After the battle on the beach, what is the story the public hears from the L.A. news?
- What risk does Percy take in order to get to Mount Olympus on time? How do the three friends get the money to travel to the entrance of Mount Olympus?
- How does Percy convince the guard at the Empire State Building to let him up to Olympus to see Zeus?
- Once he enters Olympus, what does Percy come to understand about Hades?
- How does Poseidon respond when Percy tells him what he's learned about Kronos's plans?
- What does Percy's mom realize about how she needs to live her life from now on?
- Why is Grover saying goodbye, and why does Percy have mixed feelings about it?
- After Percy returns to camp, what conclusions does he come to about how the prophecy is completed? Which part of the prophecy still troubles him?
- How is Percy "betrayed by one who calls [him] a friend"? How does this character betray Percy, and what are the character's motives?

Analysis:

- What does Sally Jackson end up doing to Gabe, and what other changes does she make in her life? What do these choices reveal about Sally's character?
- How does Percy feel about his dad at the end of the book? Give examples of Poseidon's actions from these chapters that likely affect how Percy feels.

Personal Connection:

- After he's attacked by the scorpion, Percy is eager to fight against Kronos, but Chiron insists that Percy needs to be patient and to train more. What is something you're eager to do that requires time and preparation before you're ready to do it? How much time and what sort of preparation do you think you need?