

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Journal Entries and Comprehension Questions



Journal - Pre-Reading

Have you ever been treated unfairly by a teacher (or parent or other adult)? Describe the circumstance and why you consider the treatment unfair.

Journal - Chapter 1

Have you ever learned something in school that you were absolutely sure you would never use in your life? Explain. (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 1

1. What bad experiences has Percy had on past field trips?
2. When do you first suspect that something may be unusual/supernatural about Mrs. Dodds?
3. In the story about the gods and titans, who was Kronos and what happened to him after the gods defeated him?
4. Why does Percy get angry at Mr. Brunner? How would you have felt in his position?
5. How have things changed when Percy returns to the front steps of the museum?

Journal - Chapter 2

Have you ever had a teacher you wanted to do well for? If so, what made you respect that teacher's opinion? If you can't think of a teacher like that, what would a teacher have to be like to make you respect them? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 2

1. Why does Percy decide to study for the Latin exam even though he's given up on his other subjects?
2. After the Latin test, what do you think Mr. Brunner was trying to say to Percy? Why does Percy react angrily to Mr. Brunner's words?
3. What responsibility does Grover claim to have, and why does this strike Percy as strange?
4. How does Grover react when Percy tells him about the yarn-cutting?
5. What does Percy think the yarn-cutting means? Does Grover seem to agree?

Journal - Chapter 3

What is the place that you feel most at ease – a place you like to be more than anywhere else? Describe it in detail. (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 3

1. Why does Percy leave Grover at the bus station? What would you have done in his place?
2. Percy says “the best people get the rottenest luck.” How does this apply to his mom?
3. How does Percy get even with Gabe as they’re loading up the Camaro?
4. What new information does Percy learn about his dad as he and his mother are roasting marshmallows?
5. How does the title of the chapter, “Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants,” come true?

Journal - Chapter 4

Is there anyone you would sacrifice your life for? Explain who and why. (at least 4 sentences)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 4

1. What does Percy say that insults Grover?
2. What does Percy's mom tell him to do when they get out of the car and why does Percy disobey?
3. What happens to Percy's mother?
4. After the monster disintegrates, what gets Percy moving when all he wants to do is collapse?
5. Take a guess: Who is the "familiar face" that Percy thinks he sees?

Journal - Chapter 5

If someone granted you immortality (being your present age, just as you are, forever) would you take it? Think of as many pros and cons as you can. (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 5

1. Why does Grover say he retrieved the Minotaur horn?
2. How does Percy feel after he tries the strange drink?
3. Describe Mr. D. Anticipate: Will he be a hero or a villain? Why?
4. What clues help Percy guess Mr. D's identity?
5. According to Chiron, what is the big question everyone wants answered? Take a guess: what's the answer?

Journal - Chapter 6

Have you ever been “the new kid” in school? If so, how did it feel? If not, have you ever had a new kid come into your school? Was it easy for them to fit in or not? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 6

1. What does Percy notice about the farm house as he walks away from it? What bothers him about the attic?
2. Why do you think Percy asks Chiron about the Underworld? He says: “*The beginnings of an idea – a tiny, hopeful fire – started forming in my mind.*” What does he mean?
3. Based on the description, what Greek god is cabin three dedicated to?
4. How does Annabeth know Percy is “one of us”?
5. What happens to Clarisse and her friends in the bathroom? How does this incident change Annabeth’s attitude toward Percy?

Journal - Chapter 7

You are having a dinner party and can have anything on the menu you want. What food and drink would you choose for you and your friends? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 7

1. What does it mean to be “undermined”?
2. Why is Annabeth frustrated when she and Percy talk about quests?
3. Why does Luke feel bitter?
4. What does Percy wish for as he puts his dinner into the fire?
5. In what way does Percy feel different once he gets to the bonfire?

Journal - Chapter 8

If you were forced to decide right now what career you would study in the future, what would you chose? What skills would make you good at that career? What is a career you definitely would not choose? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 8

1. Why are the counselors having a hard time deciding who Percy's Olympian parent is?
2. How does Percy surprise everyone during his first sword class? How do you think he was able to do this?
3. According to Grover, why did the "Big Three" gods swear never to have any more children?
4. Why does the story about Thalia make Percy feel "hollow and guilty?"
5. When you find out Percy's true identity, are you surprised or did you see it coming? What clues were given earlier in the book?

Journal - Chapter 9

Have you every had something stolen from you? Do you know anyone else who has? Describe the situation and how it made you feel. How did you deal with the thief? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 9

1. Why does Percy feel miserable once he gets his own cabin?
2. Based on the newspaper article Percy finds under his door, what is happening in the real world while Percy is in camp?
3. Why does Zeus think Percy stole the master bolt?
4. According to Chiron, what evidence suggests that Hades stole the lightning bolt?
5. Why does Percy have to travel over land?

Journal - Chapter 10

Many of the campers at Camp Half-Blood have their own magic item. Clarisse has an electric spear. Annabeth has a baseball cap that turns her invisible. What magic item would make sense for Percy, as the son of the Sea God? Design your own magic item. (Write at least 2 sentences and add a picture.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 10

1. Who is Argus and why can he never be surprised?
2. What gift does Luke give to Percy? Why can't Percy use them?
3. What special properties does Riptide have?
4. What is Mist?
5. According to Grover, why did Percy's mom marry Gabe?
6. Why doesn't Percy leave the bus when he has the chance?

Journal - Chapter 11

An old piece of advice is: “Never talk to strangers.” Do you believe this is always the safest thing to do? Why or why not? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 11

1. Why is Annabeth upset with Percy for risking his life on the bus?
2. Why does Grover start to get nervous at the emporium? (There are several reasons.)
3. Did you guess Aunty Em's true identity before Percy did? If so, what clues gave her away?
4. Why does Annabeth say they have to kill Medusa? Why can't they just run away?
5. Why do you think Percy sends Medusa's head to Mount Olympus? Do you think this is a good idea?

Journal - Chapter 12

Do you think animals can understand when you talk to them? Have you ever had a pet you understand very well? (Write at least 4 sentences)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 12

1. Why does Grover want a searcher's license?
2. According to Grover, why did Percy mail Medusa's head to Mount Olympus?
3. What terrible realization does Percy make toward the end of the dream? What does the voice want from him?
4. Who do you think is talking to Percy in the dream? Who is this voice from the pit?
5. If you were offered the choice in Percy's dream – to save your own parent's life or complete your quest and prevent a terrible war – what would you choose?

Journal - Chapter 13

Many people have phobias. Fear of heights is one of the most common. Are you afraid of high places, or do you know anyone who is? What about other phobias – do you have any? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 13

1. Why does Percy try to keep a low profile on the train?
2. Why does Percy laugh when Annabeth tells him what she wants to be?
3. Describe the Chimera.
4. What is Percy's "fatal mistake" while battling the Chimera?
5. Why does Percy decide he has no choice but to jump? What would you have done in his place?

Journal - Chapter 14

There is an old saying: “*There is no such thing as bad press.*” What does this mean? Do you think it is true? Would you like to be famous in the national news, even if it was for something negative? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 14

1. When he lands in the Mississippi River, what does Percy realize that amazes him?
2. Why does Percy feel ashamed that Poseidon saved him?
3. What message does the woman in the water bring to Percy? What is her warning?
4. What does Percy learn by overhearing the reporters outside the Arch?
5. What happened to the family that was in the Arch with Percy?

Journal - Chapter 15

In this chapter, Annabeth says, “Even strength has to bow to wisdom.” Do you think that’s true? Would you rather be exceptionally strong or exceptionally wise? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 15

1. What is Iris-messaging? How does it work?
2. Luke says: “Tell Grover it’ll be better this time! Nobody will get turned into a pine tree...” What does this tell you about Grover’s past?
3. What does Ares say that convinces Percy to help him?
4. How does Annabeth put her knowledge of physics to work on the water ride?
5. At the end of the chapter, whom do you think Percy is angrier with – Hephaestus or Ares? Why?

Journal - Chapter 16

Have you ever had a fight with your parent? What was it about? How did you resolve the problem? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 16

1. What's in the backpack Ares gives Percy? If you were him, would you have accepted this gift?
2. Annabeth says Percy wasn't smart to anger Ares. Was Percy right to talk back to him? Why or why not?
3. Percy says that Annabeth should write her father a letter. What would you advise her to do?
4. When does Percy start to realize the casino is a trap?
5. How does Percy snap Annabeth out of her trance?

Journal - Chapter 17

People are always looking for new ways to sell things. What's the worst or most annoying commercial you have ever seen? What is the best or funniest? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 17

1. How does Annabeth pay for the trip to Los Angeles?
2. Annabeth seems worried when they discuss the voice from the pit. Percy thinks she has an idea what it might be. Do you have any guesses?
3. Why doesn't Riptide work on the kids who jump Percy in the alley?
4. Why can't Percy simply fight Crusty?
5. How does Percy find the address for the Underworld?

Journal - Chapter 18

Have you ever been through a security checkpoint – at the airport, for instance? Do you think these checkpoints keep people safe? Why or why not? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 18

1. Why does the DOA security guard get annoyed with Percy?
2. What does the River Styx look like? Why does it look this way?
3. If you were standing in that line, would you rather choose EZ Death and go straight to Asphodel, or risk being judged for your actions on earth?
4. How does Annabeth save them? Why is she able to do this?
5. Do you feel sorry for Cerberus? Would you have risked playing fetch with him, if you were Annabeth?

Journal - Chapter 19

Who is the most evil person you can think of – from history or from current times? What makes this person evil? Can an evil person ever have good qualities? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 19

1. What do you have to do to enter the Isles of the Blest?
2. How is Hades' aura different than Ares? How does Percy feel when he's in Hades' presence?
3. Why was Percy's backpack getting heavy?
4. What terrible choice faces Percy when he decides to use the pearls? Would you have made the same choice he does? Why or why not?
5. How do Annabeth and Grover prove themselves to be real friends to Percy?

Journal - Chapter 20

How well do you get along with your relatives? If your family held a big reunion party, who would you most look forward to seeing? Who would you not like to see? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 20

1. Why does Percy will himself to get soaked in water?
2. Ares says the best kind of war is when relatives fight each other. Why would this be the most vicious kind of fight?
3. Why does Percy begin to suspect that Ares wasn't acting alone – that he was taking orders from someone?
4. After Percy wounds Ares, something strange happens that makes Ares back off. What is it?
5. At the end of the chapter, what does Percy decide he must do to complete the quest?

Journal - Chapter 21

Which would you rather have – a parent who is distant and doesn't show much emotion, or a parent who is very affectionate and shows a lot of emotion? Why? Could there be disadvantages to both? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 21

1. When the Los Angeles reporters interview Percy, how does he get back at Gabe?
2. How does Percy convince the guard at the Empire State Building to let him see Zeus?
3. Why does Percy start feeling a little sorry for Hades when he sees Zeus' palace?
4. How does Zeus reward Percy?
5. Why doesn't Percy petrify Gabe when he has the chance? What would you have done?

Journal - Chapter 22

If someone knew something really bad that was going to happen in your life, and there was nothing you could do about it, would you rather have them tell you or keep it a secret? Why? (Write at least 4 sentences.)

Comprehension Questions - Chapter 1

1. What's the tradition for campers who return from quests? How did Ares cabin "honor" Percy?
2. What happens to Grover in this Chapter? Speculate: Will he come back in another book?
3. Why do you think Percy has so much trouble deciding whether to stay year round or go to seventh grade? What would you choose?
4. What is unique about Backbiter, Luke's new sword?
5. What turned Luke so bitter?