

Text Guide: *The Lightning Thief*

(For Teacher Reference)

The purpose of this text guide is to support students as they read excerpts from *The Lightning Thief* in class. Each section of the vocabulary guide (1) calls out vocabulary words that may pose a particular challenge to students, and (2) features two to three general comprehension questions that can be asked to gauge student understanding of the text.

Unit 1

Lesson 2, Chapter 1, Pages 8–15

Read from page 8 (“The class gathered on the front steps . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 15, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- pulverize (11): destroy completely
- vaporized (13): changed from something physical to a gas

Questions

- page 11, “I wasn’t so sure”

How does Nancy Bobofit end up in the fountain? Why is Percy confused about what happened? Nancy thinks Percy pushed her, but it seems like something might have grabbed her from the water. Percy is confused because he has memory lapses sometimes, when his “brain falls asleep.”

- page 12, “Then things got even stranger”

What do we know about Mrs. Dodds? What do we know about Mrs. Dodd’s relationship to Percy? Mrs. Dodds is not human. She thinks Percy is hiding a secret and wants him to confess.

- page 15, end of chapter

What do we know about Percy so far? Percy is confused. He sees things that aren’t really happening. He might be unknowingly involved in something dangerous.

Lesson 3, Chapter 2, Pages 16–21

Read from start of the chapter on page 16 to page 21 (“They thought I was in some kind of danger”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- hallucination (16): something that seems real but does not really exist
- ajar (18): slightly open
- eavesdropper (19): a person who listen to other people talk without letting them know

Questions

- page 17, “Fine, I told myself. Just fine”

Why isn’t Percy allowed to return to Yancy Academy next year? He has behaved poorly. His grades are dropping, and he insulted a teacher.

- page 21, end of excerpt

What does Percy overhear Grover and Mr. Brunner say? What is the mood of their conversation? Grover is talking about his “duties” and worrying about how to keep Percy alive. The mood is tense and serious.

Lesson 4, Chapter 3, Pages 36–43

Read from page 36 (““Thank you, Percy,” my mom said. ‘Once we get to Montauk . . .’”) to the end of the chapter on page 43, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- anxiety (36): a feeling of being worried, nervous, or afraid that something will happen
- nerve (38): courage; strength
- register (42): to show or express

Questions

- page 39, “He’d left us, and now we were stuck with Smelly Gabe”

What do we know Percy's mother? What do we know about Gabe? Gabe is mean and he complains a lot. Percy's mother looks out for Percy. She is gentle, but she has a "rebellious streak."

- page 43, end of chapter

How does the chapter end? Grover shows up. He is scared for Percy's safety. Grover has hooves where his feet should be.

Lesson 6, Chapter 4, Pages 48–56

Read from page 48 ("Climb out the passenger's side!" my mother told me") to the end of chapter on page 56, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- faltered (48): stumbled; moved in an unsteady way
- silhouette (48): a dark figure seen against a light background
- bellow (52): a deep, loud cry

Questions

- page 51, "Oops"

What are Percy, Percy's mother, and Grover running from? a monster that Percy recognizes from Mr. Brunner's class

- page 56, "He's still conscious. Bring him inside"

What happens to Percy's mother? How does Percy defeat the monster? Percy's mother is caught by the monster, and she seems to dissolve into thin air. Percy stabs the monster with a sharp bone, and the monster disintegrates like Mrs. Dodds did.

Lesson 7, Chapter 5, Pages 62–71

Read from page 62 ("Down at the end of the porch, two men sat across from each other . . .") to page 71 ("Cabin eleven, Percy Jackson. And mind your manners"), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- metaphysical (67): relating to things that are abstract, or unable to be perceived with the senses

Questions

- page 65, “Nevertheless, you made it here alive, and that’s always the first test”

Who is Chiron? Who is Mr. D? Who is Annabeth? Chiron is Mr. Brunner, Percy’s Latin teacher. Mr. D is the Director of Camp Half-Blood. Annabeth is a camper who helped take care of Percy.

- page 71, end of excerpt

What does Percy learn about the gods? He learns that the gods are real and that they never die. He learns that Mr. D is Dionysus, the god of wine.

Lesson 8, Chapter 6, Pages 85–92

Read from page 85 (“When we were a few feet away, Annabeth said, ‘Jackson, you have to do better than that . . .’”) to the end of chapter on page 92, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- sullen (85): angry or unhappy; not wanting to smile
- sauntering (89): walking at a slow pace; strolling

Questions

- page 88, “A half-blood”

Why is Annabeth able to guess so much about Percy’s life? because she knows that he is a half-blood and the children of gods share some unusual traits

- page 92, end of chapter

Why is Annabeth surprised by what she saw in the bathroom? because she saw water shoot out of the toilet for no seeming reason, and the water somehow didn’t touch Percy

Lesson 9, Chapter 7, Pages 93–100 and 105–106

Read from the start of the chapter on page 93 to page 100 (“I left her on the pier, tracing her finger across the rail as if drawing a battle plan”), and then read from page 105 (“When everybody had returned to their seats . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 106, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- mischievous (100): tending to behave in an annoying or harmful way
- murmured (93): to make a soft, muffled, continuous sound
- rivalry (99): competition

Questions

- page 98, “None of your business”

What do the campers at Camp Half-Blood have in common? They are the children of gods.

- page 106, end of chapter

How does Percy feel after his first day at Camp Half-Blood? He is tired and overwhelmed, but he feels at home.

Lesson 10, Chapter 8, Pages 107–109 and 119–126

Read from the start of the chapter on page 107 to page 109 (“Why couldn’t my dad, whoever he was, make a phone appear?”), and then read from page 119 (“It was a warm, sticky night . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 126, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- maiming (121): wounding, injuring, disabling
- flanked (122): with others on the left and right side
- converged (122): moved toward, met at a common point

Questions

- page 108, “Why couldn’t my dad, whoever he was, make a phone appear?”

What is Percy waiting for? What is he doing in the meantime? Percy is waiting for his father, who is a god, to signal that Percy is his son. In the meantime, he is getting used to camp activities. He is especially talented at canoeing.

- page 126, end of chapter

Who is Percy’s father? How did Percy learn this? Percy’s father is Poseidon, the Sea God. He learned this because his wounds healed when he was standing in a creek. Soon after, a trident symbolizing Poseidon appeared over his head.

Lesson 11, Chapter 9, Pages 133–142

Read from page 133 (“‘Tell me, Percy,’ he said. ‘What did you make of the hellhound?’”) to page 142 (“My audience with the Oracle was over”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- celestial (135): pertaining to or related to the sky or the divine
- forge (136): form or create something with great effort
- rasping (141): a rough grating or creaking sound

Questions

- page 139, “When you come back down, assuming you’re still sane, we will talk more”

What is the nature of Percy’s quest? What is he being asked to do and why? Percy’s quest requires that he recover Zeus’s bolt, which Zeus believes Poseidon encouraged Percy to steal.

- page 142, end of excerpt

What does Percy learn from the Oracle? The Oracle shares three prophecies with Percy. The prophecies surprise and confuse Percy; he isn’t quite sure what they mean.

Lesson 12, Chapter 10, Pages 149–153

Read from the start of the chapter on page 149 to page 153 (“... but this sword wouldn’t harm them in any case”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- resent (151): to feel anger or bitterness about or toward, especially when something is seen to be unfair
- riptide (153): a current coming against or opposing another current, especially in tidal waters, and causing extreme turbulence

Questions

- page 153, end of excerpt

Who is accompanying Percy on his quest? Annabeth and Grover are going with Percy. Chiron has arranged for Argus to drive them into the city.

What gifts does Percy receive that he will take on his quest? Luke gives Percy sneakers that help him to fly, and Percy gives the sneakers to Grover. Chiron gives Percy a pen that can turn into a sword.

Lesson 13, Chapter 11, Pages 175–187

Read from page 175 (“Aunty Em ate nothing”) to the end of the chapter on page 187, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- gnarled (179): bent, twisted, crooked
- modulated (180): adjusted, adapted
- pawn (180): someone used by a powerful person, puppet
- menace (181): danger or threat

Questions

- page 179, “I was too dazed to move”

How do Percy, Annabeth, and Grover feel when they are around Aunt Em? Percy feels suspiciously tired. Annabeth feels concerned that something is wrong. Grover wonders whether a statue is really his uncle.

- page 184, “Together, the three of us stumbled back to the warehouse”

What happens with Medusa? Medusa tries to turn Percy, Annabeth, and Grover into statues. Percy stabs Medusa, causing her to disintegrate. Percy cuts off Medusa’s head.

- page 187, end of chapter

How does the chapter end? Percy mails Medusa’s head to the gods on Mount Olympus.

Lessons 15–16, Chapter 12, Pages 190–194

Read from page 190 (“How are we going to get into the Underworld?”) to page 194 (“Wake! the dead whispered. Wake!”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- petrification (192): to turn to stone
- compelled (193): to force or be forced, pressured, urged
- chasm (193): deep crack in the earth’s surface
- abyss (193): deep pit, too deep to be measured
- void (193): not containing anything, empty

Questions

- page 193, “After a few bars of Piano Concerto no. 12, I was asleep”

What does Grover suggest about Percy’s feelings toward his father, Poseidon? Grover suspects that Percy wants to complete the quest as a way to help his father. He believes Percy seeks his father’s approval.

- page 194, end of excerpt

What does Percy dream about? Who or what do you think is communicating with Percy through his dreams? Percy dreams about a voice coming from the Underworld, telling Percy to bring it the lightning bolt. The voice is probably coming from Hades.

Unit 2

Lesson 1, Chapter 13, Pages 203–211

Read from page 203 (“The Arch was about a mile . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 211, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- gnashing (208): striking or grinding teeth together, as in anger
- seared (208): burned or scorched the outside of
- glittered (210): shined brightly, sparkled
- plummeted (211): fell sharply down, often at high speed

Questions

- page 206, “I was ready to go pretty quick”

Why is Percy feeling anxious? It is dark and he is worried that Hades is nearby. He stands in an elevator and feels claustrophobic. Then, he is high up on an observation deck and he is afraid of heights.

- page 209, “Great, I thought. We just blowtorched a national monument”

What has happened to Percy since Annabeth and Grover left on the elevator? He realized that the strange woman on the observation deck is Echidna, the Mother of Monsters, and her dog is really a dangerous Chimera. The Chimera tries to blow fire at Percy, but it hits the Arch instead.

- page 211, end of chapter

How does the chapter end? The Chimera is ready to kill Percy. Echidna dares him to jump into the water to prove his bloodline: if Poseidon is really Percy’s father, Poseidon should be able to protect him in the water. Percy is scared, but he jumps.

Lesson 2, Chapter 14, Pages 212–215

Read from the start of the chapter on page 212 (“I’d love to tell you . . .”) to page 215 (“ . . . and swam for the surface.”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- fugitive (212): a person who is escaping or running away
- revelation (212): something that is revealed that was not known before
- sputtered (213): to emit particles, sparks, etc., forcibly or explosively
- billowing (214): to move in waves

Questions

- page 215, end of excerpt

What strange things does Percy realize when he falls into the water? The impact of the water has not hurt him. He is not wet, and he can breathe even though he is underwater.

What does the woman’s voice tell Percy when he is underwater? She tells him that his mother might be okay. She tells him to go to Santa Monica. She also warns him not to trust the gifts, though Percy does not know what this means.

Lesson 4, Chapter 15, Pages 226–229 and 231–239

Read from page 226 (“Then it struck me . . .”) to page 229 (“ . . . Don’t disappoint me.”) and then from page 231 (“We continued searching . . .”) to page 239 (“ . . . rocketed through the darkness.”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- proposition (226): something offered for the purpose of discussion, proposal, offer
- commemorative (231): serving to act as a memento or reminder of something
- defunct (231): no longer in existence or use
- marooned (233): to leave on an island, abandon
- scuttling (236): to move or run as if in a hurry; scurry.

- corral (236): to cage or catch
- capsizing (238): to turn over
- filament (235): a thin wire or fiber

Questions

- page 229, “Don’t disappoint me”

Who is Ares, and what does he want Percy to do for him? Ares is the god of war, and Clarisse’s father. Ares wants Percy to recover his shield, which he left at a water park.

- page 236, “Now we’re going to be broadcast live to Olympus and look like absolute fools!”

Who set the trap around the shield and why? Hephaestus, the wife of Aphrodite, set the trap in order to catch his wife with Ares.

- page 239, end of excerpt

How does the chapter end? Percy, Grover, and Annabeth try to turn off cameras meant to broadcast them to Olympus. Percy summons water to fill the pool they are in and helps them all escape on a boat.

Lesson 7, Chapter 16, Pages 257–265

Read from page 257 (“We must have taken a wrong turn . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 265 (“One day to complete our quest.”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- sanctuary (257): protection
- splurge (261): to spend money extravagantly or wastefully

Questions

- page 261, “I didn’t think much of it, but Annabeth loved it”

Describe the Lotus Hotel and Casino. How do Percy, Annabeth, and Grover feel about what they see? The Lotus Hotel and Casino has an elaborate game room. Percy, Annabeth, and Grover are given a fancy suite, with a hot tub, a balcony, and clothes in the closet. They feel excited and amazed by how many fun things there are to do.

- page 265, end of chapter

What is strange about the kids at the Lotus Hotel and Casino? They do not know what year it really is. They seem to be trapped in time and cannot leave the hotel.

How does the chapter end? Percy, Annabeth, and Grover leave the Lotus Hotel and Casino after what they believe was a few hours. They learn that they were actually there for five days. Now they only have one day left to complete the quest.

Lesson 9, Chapter 17, Pages 266–274

Read from the start of the chapter on page 266 (“It was Annabeth’s idea . . .”) to page 274 (“. . . we turned our backs on the sea.”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- hurtling (269): to move with great speed and often with great noise
- shoals (270): a shallow place in a body of water

Questions

- page 269, “. . . it reminded me of Echidna’s reptilian voice”

What is Percy beginning to suspect about the master bolt and his quest? He suspects that Hades does not have the master bolt and that there is something else going on that he does not understand.

- page 274, end of excerpt

What happens when Percy goes into the Pacific Ocean? A shark pulls him deep into the sea. He sees the Nereid sea spirit who spoke to him before. She gives him three pearls which he can smash at his feet if he is ever in danger.

Lesson 10, Chapter 18, Pages 291–299

Read from page 291 (“I’m not sure what I was expecting . . .”) to the end of the chapter on page 299, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- warbled (291): sung or made sounds with trilling or quivering notes
- dissipated (296): disappear by, or as though by, dispersing or dissolving
- keening (299): a loud, mournful wailing for the dead

Questions

- page 299, end of chapter

Who is Cerberus? Cerberus is a giant dog who guards the Underworld and can smell living people.

How do Percy, Annabeth, and Grover get past Cerberus and into the Underworld?
Annabeth distracts Cerberus with a ball and uses some dog-training tricks on him.

Unit 3

Lesson 1, Chapter 19, Pages 310–319

Read from page 310 (“I fought the feeling and stepped forward . . .”) to the end of the chapter of page 319, pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- ultimatum (313): a final statement of demands often delivered with a threat of action

Questions

- page 314, ““But I didn’t!””

What does Percy accuse Hades of? Stealing Zeus’s master bolt as a way to start a war among the gods.

What does Hades accuse Percy of? Following Poseidon’s orders and stealing Zeus’s master bolt and Hades’ helm of darkness.

- page 319, end of chapter

What was in Percy’s backpack, and how did it get there? Zeus’s master bolt was in Percy’s backpack. They don’t know how it got there, but Percy has an idea.

What does Percy plan to do next? Get Zeus’s master bolt back to Olympus and talk to the god who had “tricked” him by putting the bolt in his backpack. The chapter doesn’t mention him by name, but Ares was the god who gave Percy the backpack.

Lesson 5, Chapter 20, Pages 321–332

Read from page 321 (“It was a trick, I said . . .”) to page 332 (“ . . . smoke-filled sky, and disappeared”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- impeding (322): delaying, blocking
- agitated (324): angered, annoyed
- disoriented (325): confused, unstable
- engulfed (325): submerged, immersed

- reconciliation (326): reunite, resolve, make peace

Questions

- page 324, “Nothing personal”

What has Percy learned about Ares? Ares arranged for someone to steal Zeus’s master bolt and Hades’ helm of darkness in order to start a war among the gods. He framed Percy so that he would end up with the bolt when he reached the Underworld. He may be taking orders from someone else.

- page 332, end of excerpt

How does the excerpt end? Percy challenges Ares to a fight. Percy summons the tides to lift him over Ares before stabbing him in the foot. Ares dissolves into his immortal form, leaving Percy with the master bolt and the helm of darkness.

Lesson 6 Chapter 21, Pages 340–346

Read from page 340 (“The gods weren’t moving . . .”) to page 346 (“ . . . some kind of hero”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- emanating (340): emerging, emitting
- menacingly (341): threateningly
- impudence (341): lack of respect, rudeness, boldness

Questions

- page 344, “With a blinding flash of lightning, Zeus was gone”

What is Zeus’s attitude toward Percy? Zeus seems suspicious of Percy. He does not seem to fully believe that Percy tells him. He tells Percy he does not trust him, but he will let him live.

- page 346, end of excerpt

What does Poseidon tell Percy? Poseidon tells Percy that Kronos is unlikely to come back, that Hades has returned Percy’s mother to her home, and that there is also a package waiting for Percy there.

Lesson 7, Chapter 22, Pages 361–372

Read from page 361 (“Don’t think about leaving yet”) to page 372 (“Your time will come”), pausing to define the following vocabulary and ask the following questions as needed.

Vocabulary

- siestas (363): a rest or nap
- constitution (370): character, temperament

Questions

- page 364, “I brought you down here to say good-bye”

What unusual things has Percy noticed about Luke in this excerpt? Luke is using a sword Percy has never seen. He is drinking a Coke and he throws the can in the creek. His face looks different, and less handsome than usual.

- page 372, end of excerpt

How does the excerpt end? Luke admits that he followed Kronos’ orders, stole the master bolt and helm of darkness, and manipulated Ares into holding onto them. He tells Percy that the flying shoes had been cursed and Percy had been meant to die. Luke’s scorpion wounds Percy, and two nymphs save him and return him to the camp. Chiron heals him, and Percy tells Chiron and Annabeth about Luke’s betrayal.