

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief

directed by Chris Columbus; based on novel by Ricki Riordan

1. The exposition of the film provides clues about Percy Jackson's true identity. Explain at least three details that suggest his parentage and status.
2. How do these Shakespearean lines that the substitute teacher asks Percy to interpret suggest one of difficulties in school?
"I understand a fury in your words. / But not the words." (Desdemona, *Othello* 4.2)
3. What central conflict in Greek and Roman mythology does Latin teacher Mr. Brunner explain to the class during the field trip to the museum? How does this story provide foreshadowing?
4. What question does Mr. Brunner ask Percy? What three mythological characters are highlighted, and what is their connection to Percy?
5. What is the substitute teacher's true identity? How does her transformation reveal the primary conflict of the film? What does she demand of him?
6. What is Grover Underwood's assigned task? How does his name suggest his true identity, and why must he use crutches?
7. What does Sally Jackson reveal to Percy about his father on the car trip to Camp Half-Blood?
8. What attacks Sally, Grover, and Percy? Why can't Sally enter the camp?
9. What does Grover tell Percy about the purpose Camp Half-Blood? Why are there twelve cabins at the camp? What does Grover suggest about the role and purpose of demigods in the mortal world?
10. How are Percy's weaknesses in mortal life (dyslexia and ADHD) his strengths as a demigod?
11. What is Mr. Brunner's true identity?
12. Describe the setting details of Percy's home at Camp Half-Blood. How do the specific elements in the home reveal the identity of Percy's father?
13. Why did Sally Jackson marry Gabe Ugliano? How does her marriage reveal her great sacrifice for Percy?
14. Who chooses Percy to be on his team for capture the flag? How is his personality like that of his father?
15. Who is Percy's main adversary at Camp Half-Blood and during training? How does Percy heal himself and gain strength to gain victory in capture the flag?
16. How does Percy not follow Chiron's advice? Who refuses to allow him to go alone? What do they learn they must do to gain entrance to the underworld?
17. What does Luke reveal about the nature of the Olympian gods and their relationships with their children? How does Annabeth confirm this later?
18. What gifts does Luke give Percy to help him on his quest?

19. Who do Percy, Annabeth, and Grover encounter at Auntie Em's Garden Emporium; and why is this setting apt for this mythological character? Why is she particularly hostile toward Annabeth and Percy? How do they defeat her?
20. What three objects do the trio take away from Auntie Em's Garden Emporium? For what purpose?
21. What recurring scene/image (called a motif) of Percy do we see when they stop at a motel on the way to the Parthenon in Nashville? What does it emphasize about Percy?
22. What central conflict between Poseidon and Athena does Annabeth explain to Percy? What connection with their parents do these two demigods share?
23. Why is the Parthenon particularly important for Annabeth?
24. What attacks the trio at the Parthenon? How do they defeat it?
25. What weather phenomenon provides foreshadowing of conflict between the gods?
26. Where do the trio travel to locate the final pearl? What is the effect of the lotus on people?
27. How does Grover chasing of the daughters of Aphrodite and his interest in the nymph's party at Camp Half-Blood as well as his actions at the Lotus Hotel and Casino and Persephone's attraction to him reveal a central trait of satyrs?
28. Where is the entrance to the Underworld? Who must the trio pay to take them across the River Styx?
29. Where is Zeus's lightning bolt? Who has betrayed Percy? How is the lightning thief like his father?
30. Who uses the lightning bolt against Hades and gives it to Percy? What are her personal interests in stopping a war between the gods?
31. Why does Grover sacrifice himself and remain in the Underworld?
32. Who must Percy battle at the top of the Empire State Building? Why did this demigod want to provoke a war among the gods?
33. How does Percy defeat his opponent and reveal himself the son of Poseidon?
34. How does Percy resolve the conflict between the gods? What lesson does Percy teach Zeus and the other Olympians? What favor does Percy ask of Zeus?
35. How does Percy's conversation with Poseidon provide resolution for him and the film?
36. Why is Percy Chiron's favorite student? What moral or lesson do we learn from his actions?
37. What is Gabe's fate? What moral or lesson (a typical element of Greek and Roman myths) does his end suggest?