

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

## Newspaper Article

During his journey, Percy Jackson is the subject of sensational news stories. From his mother's disappearance in a Minotaur-induced car wreck. To attacking elderly ladies on a bus. The news isn't friendly to Percy.

Imagine you are a reporter. You are tasked with following this developing story. Your editor has sent you out to find out whatever you can about Percy Jackson and the events described above.

Look up a reputable news source online. Or, consult a newspaper to help guide you on how to write a news article. The first sentence should be its own paragraph. It should sum up the who, what, when, where, why and how of the story. This sentence should hook the reader and make them want to continue reading the article.

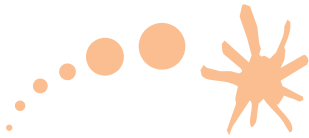
From there, work in more details about Percy and the events that captured the public's attention.

Your news article should include interviews with people who know Percy and eyewitnesses. Include quotes from these sources. Use your imagination to picture what these people might say about Percy. What might they say about his mother? What might they say about the events leading up to their disappearances? Your news article should include as much detail as you can from the book.

The final product should be at least 600 words long. It should include all of the information above. It should also have:

- At least three source interviews with quotes.
- Speculation from an expert about what might have happened.
- Comment from a police spokesperson.
- Any interesting facts about the case.
- Potential leads that police are working on.
- A lot of description about the crime scenes.

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# Activity Two

## Book or Movie Review



A movie or book review is meant to suggest to the reader whether or not they should see the film or read the book. It should give some detail about the story. It shouldn't reveal too much or give away any of the plot twists. It should establish who the main characters are. It should tell the reader a little about their motivations or state of mind.

You will write a review of the book. Alternatively, you could write a review of the Hollywood film based on the book. If you choose to review the movie, you will need to include a paragraph or two explaining how well the movie matched the events of the book. Be sure to include any significant differences.

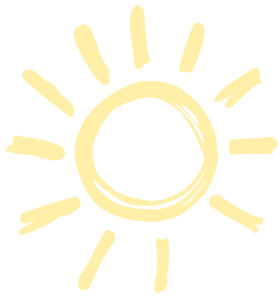
The first paragraph of your review should introduce the title of the book and author. If writing about the movie, it should introduce the movie director and the stars. Your first paragraph should briefly set the tone for the review. In other words, you should establish early on whether you did or didn't like the book or movie.

The next paragraph should include information that sets up the story. For example, Percy Jackson is a C- student attending Yancy Academy. He's about to be expelled. To make matters worse, his teacher just turned into a winged creature and tried to kill him. Be sure to give the reader enough detail to set up the plot, but not enough to spoil anything.

The subsequent paragraphs should further explain why you did or didn't enjoy *The Lightning Thief*. Use specific examples from the book or movie. For example, perhaps you thought there wasn't enough action. Or maybe there was too much. Maybe you thought some elements were confusing. This is where you would explain all of those things.

Your final paragraph should sum up your review. It should reiterate whether you would or wouldn't recommend *The Lightning Thief* to someone else.

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# Activity Three

## A Sequel of Your Own



*The Lightning Thief* is just the first story in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympians* series. Let's imagine for a moment that you've been selected to continue on Percy's story from where it left off at the end of the book. You've been given the reins to take the story in any direction you choose. Where do you think Percy would go from here? What would he do? Will he face off against Luke? Will Grover be the first seeker to return to Camp Half-Blood?

These are all questions that you will have the opportunity to answer. Your sequel to *The Lightning Thief* should have your own original title. It should be written in the same first-person style as the book. The story must continue to be told from Percy's perspective.

Before you begin, take some time to think about what you want your characters to do. Jot down some notes about what you want to happen in the story. Who is the antagonist? What are some action points or plot twists you want to include? What happens during the final conflict? How is it resolved?

Make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end. Ensure your characters' motivations are clear.

Make sure your story includes:

- At least four returning characters.
- A minimum of two monsters.
- An interesting or exciting plot twist.
- A new weapon that rivals the power of Zeus's master bolt.
- At least two new characters.
- A new setting similar to the Gateway Arch or the Empire State Building.



Your finished product should be at least three typed, double-spaced pages in length.

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# Activity Four

## Character Development



At the beginning of *The Lightning Thief*, Percy Jackson is a 12-year-old student at Yancy Academy. This is a boarding school for troubled kids. He's been kicked out of every school he's attended. He is about to be expelled from Yancy as well. A perpetual C- student, Percy struggles with ADHD and dyslexia. Little does he know these are really clues to his real parentage.

Percy is attacked by his math teacher Mrs. Dodds while on a field trip. He is attacked again by the Minotaur. After this, Percy discovers he's really half human and half Greek god.

These revelations lead Percy down a road of self-discovery. The same could be said for characters such as Grover, Annabeth and Luke.

Pick two characters from the book. Go back through the story from the beginning and pay attention to your chosen characters' progressions. How have they changed from the beginning of the story to the end? Has their outlook changed? What impact did the events of the story have on your characters?

Write a few paragraphs for each character describing your findings. What connections are there between plot events and the development of your chosen characters? Your descriptions should include motivations of your characters, actions, quotes, and anything else that illustrates your point.

The finished product should be about 300 words for each character.



Percy Jackson from the 2010 movie, *The Lightning Thief*



Percy Jackson from *The Lightning Thief* The Graphic Novel

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# Activity Five

## Half-Blood Harmonies



As you've seen in movies and television shows, choosing the right music can help establish the tone of a scene and increase its effectiveness. Music can increase anticipation or amplify emotions.

In this task, you will attempt to choose a soundtrack for *The Lightning Thief*.

Choose five important scenes from the book. Imagine what kind of music might enhance it. Replay the scene in your mind as if it were a movie.

Is Percy performing some kind of heroic action? Are the heroes fleeing security ghouls in the underworld? Is there a song you think would accompany these events?

The music can be any genre you wish from rock to rap or anything in between. As long as you feel it represents what's happening in your chosen scenes.

Choose one song for each of your scenes from the book. Once you've selected your songs, write a paragraph explaining why you believe your song fits the scene. Describe what the song does for the scene. For example, its impact on the tone or emotion of the scene.

Partner with two classmates. Discuss what songs you chose and why.

Make sure you choose partners who have selected at least one scene the same as you. Make sure you have chosen different songs to represent those scenes.

Discuss these differences and your reasoning for choosing the music you did.

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# Activity Six

## Comic Strip



*Mr. Brunner, who'd been out in front of the museum a minute before, wheeled his chair into the doorway of the gallery, holding a pen in his hand.*

*"What ho, Percy!" he shouted, and tossed the pen through the air.*

*With a yelp, I dodged and felt talons slash the air next to my ear. I snatched the ballpoint pen out of the air, but when it hit my hand, it wasn't a pen anymore. It was a sword—Mr. Brunner's bronze sword, which he always used on tournament day.*

*Mrs. Dodds spun toward me with a murderous look in her eyes.*

*My knees were jelly. My hands were shaking so bad I dropped the sword.*

*She snarled, "Die, honey!"*

*And she flew straight at me.*

*Absolute terror ran through my body. I did the only thing that came naturally: I swung the sword.*

*The metal blade hit her shoulder and passed clean through her body as if she were made of water Hisss!*

—Rick Riordan

*The Lightning Thief*

In this activity, you will use a scene from the book such as the one above. Illustrate it as if it were a comic book or comic strip. Your comic should have at least eight panels. It should include all of the dialog from the book.

You don't have to be an artist, just do your best to illustrate the scene. Make sure it is an important scene to the overall plot of the book.

Once you've finished drawing, write a paragraph explaining why you chose the scene you did. Your paragraph should be at least 150 words in length. It should explain your reasoning.

