

Demigods and Monsters Table of Contents
With Essay Summaries

Introduction ~ Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson series author Rick Riordan discusses the difference between writing a story and analyzing it, how his son's ADHD and dyslexia inspired the Percy Jackson series, and the power of Greek mythology.

“Monster Recognition for Beginners” ~ Rosemary Clement-Moore**

Author Rosemary Clement-Moore relates the lessons she's learned from the Percy Jackson series on spotting monsters—and the value of clear eyes and quick wits.

“Why Do So Many Monsters Go Into Retail?” ~ Cameron Dokey*

Author Cameron Dokey looks at all the salesmonsters Percy and his friends encounter in *The Lightning Thief* and the part they place in the story, and in Percy's development as a hero: *caveat emptor* (“let the buyer beware”), because what you see isn't always what you get.

“Stealing Fire From the Gods” ~ Paul Collins*

Author Paul Collins compares Percy's journey in *The Lightning Thief* to the classic Rags to Riches plotline: both are about growing up, becoming aware of the world around you, and in a way, rebellion from authority—parental, divine, or both.

“Would You Want to Be One of Artemis's Hunters?” ~ Carolyn MacCullough**

Author Carolyn MacCullough ponders the pros and cons of becoming one of Artemis' hunters. Along the way she compares the Artemis we see in the series to the Artemis we see in Greek myth (both are associated with freedom and independence, not to mention girl power) and looks at why Artemis' deal might have looked like a such a good one in ancient Greece.

“Dionysus: Who Let Him Run a Summer Camp?” ~ Ellen Steiber

Author Ellen Steiber looks at the Dionysus of ancient Greek myth, and suggests that the cranky god we meet in the Percy Jackson series may actually be the best possible choice for director of Camp Half-Blood: in both guises (camp director and god of wine and madness), Dionysus acts as gatekeeper between one world and the next, giving mortals access to the divine.

“The Gods Among Us” ~ Elizabeth M. Rees**

Author Elizabeth M. Rees explores the Percy Jackson series' idea that the gods walk among us, unseen, and the gods' relationship to the ancient Greeks, Percy and his fellow demigods, and the rest of us mortals.

“Eeny Meeny Mienny Mo(m)” ~ Jenny Han

Author Jenny Han debates the upsides, and downsides, of having each of the twelve chief Greek gods as a parent.

“Percy, I Am Your Father” ~ Sarah Beth Durst**

Author Sarah Beth Durst ponders the number of bad parents in fantasy novels, and gives out letter grades to the parents, both divine and mortal, in the Percy Jackson series.

“Not Even the Gods Are Perfect” ~ Elizabeth E. Wein*

Author Elizabeth E. Wein discusses the literary tradition of imperfect heroes, and how Percy and the other dyslexic, ADHD half-bloods fit in. She also compares the way dyslexia works in the series to the way it works in the real world.

“Frozen Eyeballs” ~ Kathi Appelt**

Author Kathi Appelt explores the notion of prophecy in the Percy Jackson series, from the prophecies Percy and his friends receive from the Oracle, to dreams, to everyday prophecies like the ones built into each of our DNA.

“The Language of the Heart” ~ Sophie Masson*

Author Sophie Masson relates her own childhood experiences with Greek myth, and shows how reading myths can help us deal with the scary things in our own lives.

“Glossary of Ancient Greek Myth” ~ Nigel Rodgers

A section of compact, accessible glossary of people, places, and things from Greek myth.

While you don't need to have read the Percy Jackson series to appreciate most of the essays in this volume, pairing the essays with the text they cover will enrich their meaning.

* You only need to have read *The Battle of the Labyrinth* to understand or use this essay.

** You may need to have read the full series to understand or use this essay.