



**E.T. RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

2024

**FOR INCOMING
6TH GRADERS**



Springfield School District
Springfield, PA



Incoming Sixth Graders

SUMMER READING 2023



REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS:

All incoming sixth grade students will be reading Rick Riordan's novel *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*.

Amazon Summary:

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. No matter how hard he tries, he can't seem to stay out of trouble. But can he really be expected to stand by and watch while a bully picks on his scrawny best friend? Or not defend himself against his pre-algebra teacher when she turns into a monster and tries to kill him? Of course, no one believes Percy about the monster incident; he's not even sure he believes himself.

Until the Minotaur chases him to summer camp.

Suddenly, mythical creatures seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. The gods of Mount Olympus, he's coming to realize, are very much alive in the 21st-century. And worse, he's angered a few of them: Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect.

Now Percy has just 10 days to find and return Zeus's stolen property, and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. On a daring road trip from their summer camp in New York to the gates of the Underworld in Los Angeles, Percy and his friends, one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena, will face a host of enemies determined to stop them. To succeed in his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of failure and betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

Assignment for Incoming 6th LA Plus Students

****On-level 6th Reading students do not have an assignment to complete; however, it is highly recommended to take notes while reading.****

Your task is to select to EITHER respond to five of the ten questions below, OR create a project from the list below.

A. **Respond:** Students will respond to a variety of comprehension questions ranging among the literal, interpretive, and critical levels. These questions will require the use of higher order skills and citing of evidence from the text.

● Answer a minimum of 5 of the 10 questions.

- As a son of the sea god Poseidon, Percy possesses many water-related abilities. Pick three of the other Greek gods (including those for whom Camp Half-Blood cabins are only honorary). Based on what those gods have command of, what powers might their children possess and why?
- When describing his mother, Percy says, "She's the best person in the world, which just proves my theory that the best people get the rottenest luck." How does this apply to Percy's mom? Is this theory true in life?
- What significance do Grover and Annabeth play in Percy's quest?
- How does Percy's relationship with his father grow and change over the course of the novel.
- Annabeth chooses to return home rather than stay at Camp Half-Blood for the year as she usually does. What does this say about her character?
- Which God/Goddess would you likely be related to? Which cabin would you prefer to live in (even if it is different from the God/Goddess you think you would be related to)? Why?
- How do the Oracle's predictions come true? Be sure to reference the text and be specific.
- How does the last line of the prophecy — "*you shall fail to save what matters most in the end*" — come true? What do you think of this ending? Did Percy make the right choice? What would you have done in his place?
- Do you think it is necessary to be familiar with the Greek myths in order to enjoy this book? Why or why not? Be sure you reference scenes from the text to support your answer.
- How is Percy's dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) helpful to him? What do they allow him to do?

B. **Create:** Students will choose **one** of the following interdisciplinary activities to complete.

OPTION 1:

You are the chef of the dining hall at Camp Half-Blood. What are you serving the students?

- You need to create a sample menu for a week of summer camp.
- Your menu should include a description of the food and answers to the following questions under each proposed meal.
 - What will the campers eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert?
 - How will this food help Percy and his friends with their adventures? What are the benefits of it?
 - What flavors do you think the campers will experience? Why?

OPTION 2:

The Gods are opening their own theme park. What rides, events, and decor would they include in their park?

- Your Theme Park must include the following:
 - Be on a poster:
 - This should be no smaller than one half of a poster board and no bigger than a full poster board.
 - It should be neat and colorful.
 - No more than 50% of your poster may be computer generated. At least half of the poster must be your own.
 - Include a creative name.
 - Contain at least five rides that feature Gods/Goddesses and/or important people or events from mythology.
 - Contain at least two events (parade, show, etc) that feature Gods/Goddesses and/or important people or events from mythology.
 - Utilize traditional Greek style in the buildings and design.
 - You will need to include a description of the rides, features, and events and how they connect to the Gods/Goddesses.
 - The descriptions should be 1-2 sentences and explain what the ride, feature, or event is; which God/Goddess, important figure, or historical event it connects to; and it should also explain why it is included in the theme park.

OPTION 3:

Pretend *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* is going to be made into (another) movie. It's your job to design a poster that advertises the movie.

- *Movie Poster Requirements*
 - This should be no smaller than one half of a poster board and no bigger than a full poster board.

- It should be neat and colorful.
- No more than 50% of your poster may be computer generated. At least half of the poster must be your own.
- You must include an explanation of why you chose certain actors, colors, images, etc. Your explanation should be typed, double spaced, one inch margins, and a minimum one full page.
 - What actors and actresses would you have appear in the movie? What roles would they play? Why?
 - What kind of colors/scenes/images/background would you use in the poster?
 - You should include at least three important scenes from the text.
- Must be neat.
- Grammar/spelling must be correct.
- You CANNOT copy any poster made for prior versions of the book cover and/or movie or TV series.

UPON RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL:

All students will engage in an introductory unit to sixth grade. This unit will cover *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* as well as introduce key concepts that will be studied through the year. At the end of the unit there will be an assessment on *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*.

If you read *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* at the start of the summer, please review the text prior to the start of the school so that you are able to actively participate in class discussions and activities. It is highly recommended and encouraged that you take brief notes during your reading so that you remember the core concepts and ideas of the text.

AS YOU READ YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Plot Development
 - What happens in the story?
- Character Development
 - How do the characters change throughout the story?
- Theme
 - What is the 'big idea' or critical belief about life the author is trying to make?