

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Jill Rising

Literature Focus Unit

EDU 315

Literature Selection

Fiction:

- *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *The Seven Labors of Jack* by Tracey West
- *Harry And Hortense At Hormone High* by Paul Zindel
- *It's All Greek to Me* by Jon Scieszka
- *The Trojan Horse: How the Greeks Won the War* by Emily Little
- *Aphrodite the Beauty* by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams
- *The Demigod Diaries (The Heroes of Olympus)* by Rick Riordan

Nonfiction

- *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- *Greek Myths (DK Readers Level 3 Series)* by Deborah Lock and Caryn Jenner
- *She's All That!: A Look-It-Up Guide to the Goddesses of Mythology* by Megan Bryant
- *Oh My Gods!: A Look-It-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology* by Megan Bryant
- *Lightning (Nature in Action)* by Stephen Kramer
- *Lightning (What on Earth?)* by Brian Williams
- *How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning* by Rosalyn Schanzer
- *Nature Activities Weather Watcher* by John Woodward
- *A True Book: Experiments with Weather* by Salvatore Tocci

Theme Study

- Students will take part in a thematic unit on Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. This unit will integrate reading and writing with social studies, science, mathematics, art, music, and physical education.
- Students will develop an understanding of Greek mythology, Greek gods and goddesses and how natural phenomena such as thunder, lightning, and weather were explained in nonscientific terms.

Language Arts: Reading Activities

- Students will become “Lightning Readers” and read various fiction and non-fiction books. poetry and Greek Mythology through silent reading, partner reading, guided reading, reading aloud, and reader’s theatre.
- Students will read their Camp Half Blood stories and Greek God Mythology Haiku poems.
- Students will share their weather journals.
- Students will each read from *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.
- Teacher will read aloud from *D’Aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Parin D’Aulaires about a new God that is from *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan every day.
- Students will share personal entries about what they know about Greek Gods on the class chart of who’s who.

Language Arts: Writing Activities

- Students will write entries in a double entry journal as they read *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan about how they can relate to different quotations throughout the book.
- Students will write a story about if they were a Half-Blood, who their parents would be, what would their special abilities be, and why.
- Students will write an obituary for Medusa. They will include facts about her life and death, where people can send flowers and view her body.
- Students will write personal reflections on the good and bad things about thunderstorms on the class chart.
- Students will write a haiku poem about Greek Gods and a concrete poem about Lightning.
- Students will add weather words to the Greek Word Wall.
- Students will write lyrics to a song about thunderstorms.
- Students will record the weather and types of clouds every morning in their weather journal.
- Students will create and write on a KWL chart about Greek Mythology.
- Students will write about a personal narrative about a thunderstorm.
- Students will write a story about “If I were a Greek God...”
- Students will be able to identify Greek and Latin roots of the word and be able to identify them in other words.

Language Arts: Speaking Activities

- Students will join in a grand conversation about what they like or dislike about thunderstorms.
- Students will take turns as the weather person to relate the daily forecast.
- The students will use the author's chair to read their stories and poems to the class.
- Students will participate in a literature discussion circle conversing about *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.
- Students will participate in a reader's theatre, teaching the class about their assigned God or Goddess.
- Students will share their KWL charts about Greek Mythology.
- Students will play the game, "Sparkle", using the Greek Word Wall words.

Language Arts: Listening Activities

- Students will listen respectfully to their peers as they share their stories, poems, and journal entries.
- Students will listen to their peers' opinions during grand conversations.
- Students will listen to Ancient Greek Songs.
- Students will listen to the sounds of a thunder storm.
- Students will listen to the teacher during Greek gods and goddesses introduction time.
- Students will listen as the teacher discusses thunderstorms and lightning and how/why they happen scientifically.

Language Arts: Viewing Activities

- Students will take a virtual online tour of the Greek art at <http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-museum/museum-departments/curatorial-departments/greek-and-roman-art>
- Students will watch thunderstorm and lightning videos (See Technology Ideas)
- Students will examine photographs of lightning and cloud formations.
- Students will enjoy the art work by their peers such as lightning bolts and Greek God Haiku Poems.
- Students will visualize the spellings of the words on the Greek Word Wall.
- Students will examine the class's KWL chart.

Language Arts: Visually Representing Activities

- Students will display their Haiku poems in an artistic presentation by illustrating their chosen god or goddesses.
- Students will create their own lightening bolt using tag board, makers, and glitter.
- Students will find words for the Greek Word Wall.
- Students will write and illustrate an ad for Crusty's Waterbed Palace.
- Students will study lightning with electricity experiment (See Science).
- Students will explore static electricity with balloons (See Science).
- Students will experiment with making clouds (See Science).
- Students will create together a chart that represents ancient Greek Gods and the weather elements they controlled.

Science Activities

- Students will learn about the types of clouds that bring weather events. They will use the websites: <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/weather/> and <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/lightning-interactive/> to learn about weather and lightning.
- Students will identify, classify, and record the clouds every morning by using the book *The Weather Identification Handbook* by Storm Dunlap.
- Students will investigate the causes and effects of lightning and thunderstorms.
- Students will research how meteorologists predict the weather.
- Students will create a Venn diagram by comparing thunderstorms to snowstorms.
- Students will perform an experiment demonstrating electricity and lightning from the book *Nature Activities Weather Watcher* by John Woodward.
- Students will explore static electricity with balloons in the classroom.
- Students will perform “Experiment 8, Making Clouds” from the book *A True Book: Experiments with Weather* by Salvatore Tocci.
- Students will discuss safety tips and advice for Thunderstorms.
- Students will compare and contrast myths of thunder and lightning with modern scientific knowledge.

Mathematics Activities

- Students will graph the daily temperatures and the daily moisture amounts, as well as daily wind speeds.
- Students will take a survey on who likes/dislikes thunderstorms and will graph the results.
- Students will solve word problems containing characters from *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- Students will use the dimensions of Ancient Greek structures to find the area and perimeter of them.
- Students will convert and learn about Greek currency.

Social Studies Activities

- Students will complete a KWL chart about Greek Mythology
- Students can dress in tunics.
- Students will identify ancient Greece on a map and identify major cities and structures.
- Students will identify the different gods and goddesses in Greek Mythology.
- Students will study the Greek World View Map and compare it to a real map of the world.
- Students will identify ways Greek mythology has transferred and is represented in today's world in advertising.
- Each student will be assigned a Greek God or Goddess and will act out and teach the class about their God.
- Students will research and learn how geography affected Ancient Greek life.
- Students will be given time to play and use interactive online games on websites such as:
<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/interactive/arcade.htm> and
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/athens_games/game.htm

Music and Art Activities

- Students will display their Haiku poems in an artistic presentation by illustrating their chosen God or Goddesses.
- Students will create their own lightning bolt using tag board, makers, and glitter.
- Students can each create their own shield, using tag board, markers, and scissors.
- Students will create a Weather Word Wall.
- Students will write and illustrate an ad for Crusty's Waterbed Palace.
- Students will listen to Ancient Greek Songs from the CD "Ancient Greek Music" by Atrium Musicae de Madrid & Gregorio Paniagua, which can be found on iTunes.
- Students will write and sing songs about Thunderstorms.
- Students will perform a "rain shower" on their desks using their hands softer and louder in the sequence of a real thunderstorm.
- Students will listen to Thunderstorm sounds on the CD found on iTunes named "Storms, Weather, Thunder, and Lightning Sound Effects."

Physical Education Activities

- Students will host the Olympics and participate by:
 - Throwing plungers and frisbees
 - Arm wrestling
 - Three-legged Race
 - Wheel-barrow Race
- Students will participate in the basketball game “Lightning.” In this game, you need two basketballs. Everyone forms a line and will shoot free throws. If the second person in line makes the free throw before the first, they are out of the game. If the first person in line makes it before the second person, they go to the back of the line and the game keeps going until there is only one person left.
- Students will participate in the game “Capture the Flag” like in the book *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.

Technology

- <http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-museum/museum-departments/curatorial-departments/greek-and-roman-art>
- <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/lightning-interactive/>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/weather/>
- <http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/interactive/arcade.htm>
- www.mythweb.com
- www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/greek/articles.html
- www.theoi.com
- www.wingedsandals.com
- CD found on iTunes named “Storms, Weather, Thunder, and Lightning Sound Effects.”
- CD “Ancient Greek Music” by Atrium Musicae de Madrid & Gregorio Paniagua, which can be found on iTunes.

Language Arts Strategies

- Activating background knowledge: students will think about what they already know about thunderstorms and Greek Mythology.
- Brainstorming: students will think of many ideas related to thunderstorms and Greek Mythology through writing activities.
- Connecting: students will relate topics to the world around them by journaling and creating a weather log and by role playing Greek gods.
- Predicting and Monitoring: Students will predict the daily weather and keep track of weather patterns in a weather log.
- Playing with Language: Students will use language creatively through stories, poems, and journals.
- Revising: Students will make changes to written activities.
- Visualizing: students will draw pictures in their minds.

Grouping Patterns

- Large group: grand conversations, wearing tunics, participating in the Olympics, singing songs, capture the flag, viewing videos, reader's theatre, Venn diagram, and daily temperatures and weather forecast.
- Small Group: Peer conferencing, small group discussions, creation of storm sounds, creating song lyrics, writing weather reports, identification of Ancient Greece, identifying parts of the United States that receives thunderstorms,
- Individual: Writing stories, personal narratives, poems, letters, journal entries, making decorations and art projects,

Assessments

- Journal entries and KWL chart: Rubric
- Participation in grand conversations
- Analytical Writing Traits Rubrics and peer conferences for stories and poems using a numerical score.
- Informal observation of author's chair, reader's theatre, sparkle, small group work, and Olympic games.
- Venn diagrams and social studies maps: checklist
- Spelling test with words from Greek Word Wall
- If students can correctly perform and participate in science experiments: science lab reports- checklist
- Active participation in music performances.
- Portfolio of art work: Haiku backgrounds, lightning bolts, Thunder songs.
- Greek maps: accuracy assessment
- Performance and participation in Reader's Theatre.
- Physical Education: Likert Scale
- Math problems and questions: accuracy scale.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Conversations • Read Aloud: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths • Lightning Readers: <i>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Aloud: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths • Writer's Workshop: "If I were a Half-Blood.." • Create Greek Word Wall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Aloud: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths • Writer's Workshop: Greek Mythology Haiku 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Aloud: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths • Word Wall: Sparkle • <i>Lightning Readers: Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Aloud: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths • Author's Chair: Half-Blood Stories • Lightning Readers: <i>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</i>
	Art/Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View online Art Gallery • Listen to Ancient Greek Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rain shower" on desks • Listen to Thunderstorm sounds • Write Thunderstorm songs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Artistic background for Haiku Poems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an advertisement for Crusty's Waterbed Palace • Create lightning bolts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist's Gallery • Perform Thunderstorm Songs
	P.E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Olympics: Plungers & Frisbee Throwing Contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arm Wrestling Tournament • Relay Races 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-legged Races • Wheelbarrow Races 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture the flag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightning Basketball
Afternoon	Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graph Survey about likes/dislikes of thunderstorms • Record & Graph Daily weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record & Graph Daily Weather • Lightning Thief Word Problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record & Graph Daily Weather • Convert Greek Currency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record & Graph Daily Weather • Find the square footage and dimensions of Ancient Greek Structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record & Graph Daily Weather • Compare weather from Day to Day • Lightning Thief Word Problems.
	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin cloud journals • Learn about clouds using online interactive sites • Venn Diagram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud journals • Static electricity experiment with balloons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud journals • Lightning Experiment from <i>Nature Activities Weather Watcher</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud journals • Making Clouds Experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud journals, share and discuss • Thunderstorm safety advice and discussion
	Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KWL Mythology Chart • Study Map of Greece and Mark Major Cities • Greek World View Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will study how Greek Mythology is in our World today. • Study Greek Currency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark ancient structures and buildings on Greek Map. • Study ancient Greek structures and buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study how geography affected Ancient Greek Life. • Interactive online Greek Games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress in Tunics • Reader's Theatre- Greek Gods and Goddesses

State Standards- 4th Grade

English Language Arts

- 4.RL.2. - Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
- 4.RL.4. - Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Hercules).
- 4.RL.9. - Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.
- 4.RI.3. - Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- 4.W.3. - Write narratives* to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- 4.SL.5. - Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

Visual Arts

- 4.1.1 Students explore a wide range of visual art media* and materials, tools*, equipment, and technologies*.

Physical Education

- 4.2.1 Apply basic offensive/defensive strategies (e.g., marking and guarding, keep away) in pairs and small groups.
- 4.3.2 Participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity (e.g., free play, play with peers, organized activity)

Math

- 4.OA.3.- Solve multistep word problems posed with whole numbers and having wholenumber answers using the four operations, including problems in which remainders must be interpreted. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding.

Science

- 4.5.1. Describe how as water condenses small droplets of water form clouds and fog.
- 4.5.5. Identify components of our solar system (e.g., planets, moons, Sun)

Social Studies

- 4.2.2 Use chronological terms (i.e., decade, century, generation)

Music

- 4.9.1 Know music from various historical periods.
- 4.9.2 Know how elements of music are used in music examples from various cultures.