

# THE LIGHTNING THIEF

**PERCY JACKSON** is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. 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 ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on 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 betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.



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# THE LIGHTNING THIEF

## Study guide

Based on the book by Rick Riordan



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**Dear Teacher,**

**We have created the following study guide to help make your students theatre experience with the musical, THE LIGHTNING THIEF as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long lasting. Our study guide provides pre and post-production discussion topics, as well as related activities. These are just suggestions; please feel free to create your own activities and areas for discussion.**

**We hope you enjoy the show!**

### **Background**

**Our musical is based on the book, The Lightning Thief by author Rick Riordan.**

## **Author: Rick Riordan**

Born: June 5, 1964

Place of Birth: San Antonio, TX

Rick was influenced early on by J.R.R. Tolkien when he read 'The Lord of the Rings', noting he probably read it ten times. He also admits to liking Greek and Norse mythology since he was in middle school. He taught mythology almost every year that he was a teacher, admitting "It was always my favorite thing, and the students liked it, too!"

For more facts about Greek mythology or for a teacher's guide for THE LIGHTNING THIEF, check out his Rick's website at [www.rickriordan.com](http://www.rickriordan.com).

## **Composer/Lyricist Robert Rokicki and Book Writer, Joe Tracz**

Robert Rokicki is a composer/lyricist and performer from Colorado who now lives in New York. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Actor's Equity and alumni of the Tony award winning BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. His musical, *Love, NY* (co-written with Mike Ruby) won the 2009 American Harmony Award and was presented at New World Stages.

For more information on Robert visit his website at [www.robertrokicki.com/page1/index.html](http://www.robertrokicki.com/page1/index.html)

Joe Tracz is a Book Writer and playwright from Northville, MI who resides in Brooklyn, New York. He wrote the play, *Up North* and works with Blue Sky Studios writing an action fantasy film called *Leafmen*.

## List of Greek Gods & Mythical Creatures



In the book *The Lightning Thief*, main character, Percy Jackson discovers he's not completely human. He's part God, or a Demigod. Throughout the book, author Rick Riordan references Greek Mythology. Below is a list of Gods and mythical creatures that are mentioned in Theatreworks USA's new musical based on the book.

Greek God/ Mythical Creature Names	WHAT THEY REPRESENT:
<b>APOLLO</b>	The youthful God of the sun and music.
<b>ARES</b>	The fierce God of war.
<b>ATHENA</b>	The Goddess of wisdom and arts.
<b>CENTAUR</b>	Mythical creature with head and torso of a man and body of a horse.
<b>CHIRON</b>	Eldest and wisest of the centaurs.
<b>CYCLOPS</b>	One-eyed giant.
<b>FURIES</b>	Avenging spirits controlled by Hades.

<b>HADES</b>	God of the underworld and brother to Poseidon and Zeus.
<b>HARPIES</b>	Female monsters in the form of birds with human faces.
<b>HERCULES</b>	Son of Zeus. Mortal hero.
<b>HERMES</b>	God of the trade.
<b>KRONOS</b>	Titian God of time and the ages. Sired the Gods and Goddesses of Mt. Olympus.
<b>MEDUSA</b>	Gorgon sister who bragged about her beauty and was turned into a monster by Athena.
<b>MINOTAUR</b>	Monster with body of a man and head and tail of a bull.
<b>ODYSSEUS</b>	Leader in the Trojan War.
<b>PAN</b>	God of the wild, shepherds and flocks.
<b>POSEIDON</b>	God of the sea, brother of Zeus and Hades and Father of Percy Jackson.
<b>PROMETHEUS</b>	Titan God of Forethought. Entrusted with task of molding mankind out of clay.



<b>SATYRS</b>	Poets and companions to Pan.
<b>TITANS</b>	The Elder Gods who ruled the earth before the Olympians overthrew them.
<b>ZEUS</b>	King of the Gods, ruler of mankind.

For more information on Greek mythology, check out these websites:

[www.greekmythology.com](http://www.greekmythology.com)

[www.theoi.com/](http://www.theoi.com/)

## Activity: Using the Power of the Gods



Percy Jackson is pretty shocked when he finds out that he's a Demigod and the son of Poseidon, the God of the sea. The Greek's believed the God's had the power to change the fate of mortals, which is what makes Greek mythology so intriguing. The tales are also great examples of stories with messages. For example, perhaps Medusa would still be beautiful had she not bragged about her looks in a public place, challenging her appearance against that of Athena. To prove that beauty is only skin deep, Athena turned Medusa into a hideous monster who couldn't view her reflection without turning herself to stone. No wonder her snake hair was so out of control. It was never wise to anger a God, with all those powers they had, why risk it?

### What powers would you choose?

- Read a few of the Greek myths found on Rick Riordan's website.
- Think about what powers you would want if you were a God or a Goddess. What would you look like as a God/Goddess and what would your powers be?
- Name your God/Goddess.
- Draw a picture of yourself in action. For example, so many pictures of Zeus include him with his lightning bolt, or Poseidon is often seen rising out of the sea.
- For older students, write a short story as the God/Goddess you create for yourself using the Greek myths as a guide.

**Activity: Create your own Camp Half Blood**

Percy goes to Camp Half Blood and learns more about the Greek God's and Goddesses than he ever thought possible. After creating your God or Goddess, think about what events would take place if you and your friends were attending Camp Half Blood. Think about what powers you created for your God or Goddess and what activities would be useful for teaching people to use those powers?

- Design a poster for your own Camp Half Blood
- Make a schedule of events for one day at the camp
- If you could have one of the God's or Goddesses in Greek Mythology visit your camp, who would it be?

## Activity: Studying Ancient Greece



There is a line in the musical where they sing, “We were geeking out on ancient Greek at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. We stopped by all the statues and learned about the Gods.”

No need to ‘geek out’ if you can’t get to New York to see the exhibit. The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art has a fascinating website which allows students to browse some of the exhibits. Check out [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org) to learn more.

### More activities:

- The Greek language is over 2500 years old and has influenced many other languages including English. Can you list ten words with Greek origin?
- Besides the alphabet and mythology, what other things are the Greeks known for? See how many you can list. Here’s a clue for your first one: The symbol for this has five rings adjoining each other.
- Check out a map of ancient Greece by looking online. How does it compare to Greece today?
- Make a Greek mythology timeline
- Hold a mock version of the Olympics using your imaginary powers you selected from an earlier activity in the study guide. What kinds of activities are in your Olympics?

# Greek Mythology Word Find

Y M M M K R W V S A H G D D A L S F H N H H X A T  
 V M F E B Y S A E U N W C M I J B E Q C K E R D N  
 D O G C D A G C U I T B S D S O R E D H F D R U U  
 Q K E M Q U O M N P O S E I D O N A W A Y N Y A O  
 T S T I U R S T H I E F E V P N J H R H H F P U M  
 Z C I Y G I H A X B O T Z A Y M H L N D J J M H D  
 Q H D H E G S Q Y O V W X Y H H Y C Z I N P F T C  
 M W O F I R E T E M E D S V F P B O A F E J N D I  
 J N R L J G T W A P L E H I G Z E Y P U M L N Q Q  
 D C H D Q Z H P J W D R J L M M Q H O I H C Q F J  
 W L P Q T H Z B S E V Z E A A E T J L O Y N J G W  
 Q K A E E Z X S M D A N K Q U R T Q L Y O O T S K  
 W U A K Q L S I G G Q D M X O U N R O Z Q B H D K  
 D N Y N K E G J E L V U H Y M A K T A I Y N I C J  
 G I F N D O D B M S Z R T A W U G E R R X T R Z K  
 V M O D D C X C T L S O D C I D E R V I I V I M U  
 J D O N W I S Q E E M U N G A T X F A T P F A S P  
 K G J I Y D A B J Q V A S W A W V D A Y C R E P J  
 L L K Q V S B N A L E X U N Y B C N Q B Z Z F R E  
 S O L R W I U S C S R O P L F Z S A W T E M Y M M  
 M I M J H L L S K Q E A M L Y S M Z N O F I K M F  
 D J K A H U B W S V D K Y X K R O N O S M C Y F D  
 X Q D P S L C X O N B H L K B V Z Z J C A V A Z D  
 L K J U M T G M N O E G O Z V I C E Q M Q K D U O  
 S N A B T F C Q U R A I T Z V Y X U U V T G Q W H  
 C F A I S H L L K L Q I T K P U G S N U U V K T S  
 B U H A L Z B B T C X D Y V B T C M A K T A D E J  
 Q D Y C L Z S U J F E J L D K C E M E Q G K D W P  
 O J F L M J E X G Y C O J Q C M X H M L X X D I Z  
 Q I X G F S Q L L R C J C S F L X J C Q B A Z P O

<b>APHRODITE</b>	<b>DIONYSUS</b>	<b>HERA</b>	<b>MOUNT</b>	<b>TITANS</b>
<b>APOLLO</b>	<b>GOD</b>	<b>HYDRA</b>	<b>OLYMPUS</b>	<b>TROY</b>
<b>ARTEMIS</b>	<b>GODDESS</b>	<b>JACKSON</b>	<b>PERCY</b>	<b>ZEUS</b>
<b>DEMETER</b>	<b>HADES</b>	<b>LIGHTNING</b>	<b>POSEIDON</b>	
<b>DEMIGOD</b>	<b>HEPHAESTUS</b>	<b>MEDUSA</b>	<b>THIEF</b>	

## Activities for Teachers: Songwriting tells a story



THE LIGHTNING THIEF (the musical) is based on the book of the same name. When you see the performance you'll notice that much of the story is summed up succinctly in the lyrics. Here is a sample of the lyrics from the opening number, 'The Day I Got Expelled (Part 1).'

(PERCY)

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED  
WAS THAT ALL A CREEPY, CRAZY DREAM  
MY TEACHER WAS A CREATURE,  
THEN SHE VANISHED IN THE ETHER  
WITH A SCARY SCREAM  
THE NEXT THING THAT I KNEW  
I WAS WHERE DETENTION WAS HELD  
THE DAY IT ALL GOT REAL  
THE DAY I GOT (Expelled) -

While the songs fly by effortlessly, writing lyrics isn't as easy as it seems. Have your students try their hand at writing a verse by using this basic rhyme scheme.

A – sentence stands on its own and introduces subject matter

B – sentence has a different ending sound than the first line

A – end of this sentence rhymes with the first line

B – end of this sentence rhymes with the second line

Here is an example:

PERCY JACKSON IS A DEMIGOD  
WHO GOT EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL  
HIS STORY IS A BIT FLAWED  
BUT THE RESULTS ARE REALLY COOL!

Once students have mastered this style of writing, have them try adding “a hook” which is a repetitive line at the beginning or end of each verse. In the above example from the show, the hook would be the line “The Day I Got Expelled” which is also the title of the song (as hooks usually are).

### **Reading Activities:**

- Have students read the book before seeing the musical and then discuss the differences. Was the musical how you imagined it from the book? Then compare it to the film. How are the three mediums different? Discuss what versions they liked best and why.
- Make a family tree for Percy Jackson using the references in the book to Greek mythology.
- Have students each draw a name of one of the Greek Gods/Goddesses out of a hat. Then have them research the name they picked and give a short presentation on their God/Goddess.
- Percy Jackson often feels like an outsider, or like he’s not “normal” until he finds out the reason why and discovers he’s a demigod. Have students write about a time when they felt different. Did it make them feel special? Did they feel alone? How did they deal with their feelings?
- Percy has special powers along with the Gods on his side but often when students see trouble at school like bullying they don’t

know who to turn to. Have students write down one or two incidents when this happened to them at school or with friends. Then, have them put their answers in a hat so it's anonymous. Draw from the hat and talk about each scenario. Then, if students are comfortable, role-play solutions.



## Theatre Etiquette:

We want your students to have the best experience when they see a performance live so below is a list of reminders of how to behave when they see the show.

- Keep in mind that the actors on stage can hear you if you talk, so always be courteous to the actors and other audience members around you by paying attention during the performance and not talking or texting.
- Arrive early. Seeing a show is a special experience and you don't want to miss any of it. 😊
- Remember not to bring any food, beverages or gum into the theatre or where you're seeing the show unless you're told its okay.
- No taking pictures or recording during the performance.
- Be sure to laugh and applaud when appropriate and remember to have fun!

## See you at the show!



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Bringing the stage to you

## Program Information

Theatreworks USA

Barbara Pasternack  
Artistic Director

Ken Arthur  
Producing Director

Presents

### THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Book by  
Joe Tracz

Music, Lyrics & Orchestrations by  
Rob Rokicki

Adapted from the Book by  
Rick Riordan

Scenic Design by  
Lee Savage

Costume Design by  
Sydney Maresca

Music Director  
Nathan Dame

Associate Choreographer  
Chloe Treat

Stage Manager  
Sean McCain

Originally Directed by  
Stephen Brackett

Originally Choreographed by  
Sam Pinkleton

Fight Direction by  
Turner Smith

Choreographed by  
Sam Pinkleton

Directed by  
Nick Saldivar

### CAST (alphabetical by role)

Annabeth .....	Rosemary Fossee
Mr. Brunner & Others.....	Sean Coughlin
Grover.....	Max Sangerman
Luke & Others.....	Matt Maretz
Percy Jackson .....	Sean Doherty
Sally & Others.....	Olivia Gjurich

The taking of pictures and/or making of visual or sound recording is expressly forbidden.

Please check the houseboard for any program changes.

This program from Theatreworks USA is supported, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



The actors and stage manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Director/ Choreographer is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

"The Day I Got Expelled" .....	Company
"Strong" .....	Sally
"The Weirdest Dream" .....	Percy Jackson
"Their Sign" .....	Chiron, Luke, Percy Jackson
"Put You in Your Place" .....	Clarisse, Annabeth, Ensemble
"The Oracle" .....	The Oracle, Ensemble
"Killer Quest" .....	Percy Jackson, Grover, Luke, Annabeth
"Kickball Tournament" .....	Grover, Ensemble
"The Tree on the Hill" .....	Percy Jackson, Annabeth, Grover, Charon
"In the Same Boat" .....	Ares, Percy Jackson, Annabeth, Grover
"Put You in Your Place (Reprise)" .....	Company
"The Last Day of Summer (Part 1)" .....	Percy Jackson, Annabeth
"Good Weird" .....	Company
"The Last Day of Summer (Part 2)" .....	Company

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(alphabetical by role)

**ROSEMARY FOSSEE** (Annabeth) is thrilled to be joining Theatreworks for *The Lightning Thief*. Favorite credits include, Meg -*A Wrinkle in Time*, Ellen- *Number the Stars* (Nashville Children's Theatre) Lulu -*Cabaret* (Tennessee Repertory Theatre) Catherine -*Pippin*, (Boilerroom) Thea- *Spring Awakening* (Street Theatre Company), and Elea-*Devil Sedan* (Playhouse Nashville).

**SEAN COUGHLIN** (Mr. Brunner & Others) is excited to be here with a delightful show, this excellent company, and you, the greatest audience in all of recorded history. Now, that last part isn't included in every program but he had a good feeling about this crowd in particular and knows that you'll live up to the hype.

**MAX SANGERMAN** (Grover) is so excited to be a part of his first tour with Theatreworks USA. Born and raised in Gary, Indiana. Education: B.F.A., Emerson College. NY credits include *Blue Man Group*, *999 B.C. A New Musical*, *The Shakespearean Jazz Show*. All my love to my dad, mom and sister for their endless support.

**MATT MARETZ** (Luke & Others) is honored to be working with Theatreworks USA on this production. Off-Broadway: *American Games*. Regional: *The Who's Tommy* (San Diego Rep), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Syracuse Stage). Matt has a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University.

**SEAN DOHERTY** (Percy Jackson) is thrilled to be joining Theatreworks for his first tour with *The Lightning Thief*! He has been seen recently at Tent Theatre in *Forever Plaid*, *110 in the Shade*, and *Damn Yankees*. Thanks to his friends and family for always supporting him.

**OLIVIA GJURICH** (Sally & Others) is thrilled to be a part of her first Theatreworks USA tour in *The Lightning Thief*. Past credits include *Billy Elliot* (Muny), *Hair* (MusicalFare Theatre), *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *As You Like It*. Many thanks to the

whole team and my ever-supportive friends and family. BFA Syracuse University!

**JOE TRACZ** (Book) is a playwright and screenwriter whose work has been developed with Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout, and Second Stage, and published in "Best American Short Plays". Film/TV credits include *Epic* (20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox) and *Lights Out* (FX). His musical *Be More Chilly* (with composer Joe Iconis) will premiere at Two River Theatre in 2015. He is also developing an original musical with Craig Carnelia. Joe is a former Playwrights Realm writing fellow and an Ars Nova Play Group alum. He has a BA from Kalamazoo College and an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

**ROB ROKICKI** (Music/Lyrics/Orchestrations) is a songwriter, performer and music director in NYC. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Actor's Equity, and alum of the Tony Award-winning BMI workshop. Rob is the co-author (with Michael Ruby) of two award-winning musicals: *Love, NY* and *Strange Tails* and is hard at work on others including *Relativity* and the multi-media *Monstersongs*. *Martha & Me* (NY Fringe), *Samson's Fire* (The Cell), *Gingerbread House* (NYFA). Rob has performed in national tours, at Carnegie Hall and is a frequent performer with Joe Iconis & Family. Music Directing: *Departure Lounge* (Public); *ReWrite* (Goodspeed); *Hairspray*, (Engeman). He recently released his first studio album featuring wonderful Broadway friends available on itunes. [www.robertrokicki.com](http://www.robertrokicki.com) Camp Half-Blood!

**NICK SALDIVAR** (Director) Nick's work has been recognized by the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, where he was awarded a SDC Student Directing Fellowship. He has worked for the Hangar Theatre, National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival, RWS & Associates, Holland America Lines, Orlando International Fringe Festival, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, and Theatreworks USA. Most recently, Nick was the recipient of a SDCF Observership on Randy Newman's *Faust: The Concert* directed by Thomas Kail. He has also served as the Literary Associate for the Hangar

Theatre and is a proud SDC Associate. [www.Nick-Saldivar.com](http://www.Nick-Saldivar.com)

**SAM PINKLETON** (Choreographer) Off-Broadway: *Mr. Burns*; *Fly By Night*; *Stage Kiss*; (all at Playwrights Horizons), *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (Kazino); *Marie Antoinette* (Soho Rep); *Tamburlaine, Parts I & II* (Theatre for a New Audience), *Buyer and Cellar* (Barrow Street/Tour). Regional: *The Understudy* (McCarter) *Spring Awakening* (Olney Theater Center). Sam is co-director of The Dance Cartel's long-running *ONTHEFLOOR* at the Ace Hotel and teaches *Bustin' Moves* at NYU. He is an Associate Artist with The Civilians and Witness Relocation. Currently: *Kansas City Choir Boy* (Prototype), *Pretty Filthy* (The Civilians), *Amelie* (Berkeley Rep). [www.sampinkleton.com](http://www.sampinkleton.com)

**CHLOE TREAT** (Associate Choreographer) is a director and choreographer who graduated from Tisch School of the Arts. Recently, she's worked on productions of *Buyer and Cellar* at the Barrow Street Theatre, *The Fairy Tale Lives of Russian Girls* at Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as two previous workshops of *The Lightning Thief*. Additionally, Chloe teaches a dance class ostensibly called "how to fake extensive dance training" at Joria Productions, which teaches actors physical precision, stamina and commitment.

**TUNER SMITH** (Fight Director) is a stunt performer and fight choreographer working in both film and theater. He is a graduate of NYU/Tisch Drama where he focused on Acting and Fight Direction, and has extensive training in a variety of stunt techniques, weapon styles and martial arts. He has provided fight choreography for dozens of theatrical productions in New York City on and off Broadway. He teaches frequently at workshops and master classes throughout the New York area and remains a frequent assistant teacher at Combat, Inc. and Fights 4, the two most respected stage combat training programs in New York.

**NATHAN DAME** (Music Director) is originally from Ogden, Utah and makes his home in Brooklyn, New York. Some recent credits: Music Director: *A Little Night Music* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Adam Lives* by Rob Baumgartner (Goodspeed NMF); *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Geva Theatre); *The Lightning Thief* (Theatreworks

USA); *Outlaws* (ASCAP). Music Supervisor: *Mr. Burns* by Anne Washburn, music by Michael Friedman (Playwrights Horizons). Assoc. Music Director: *What's It All About?* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Fly By Night* (Dallas Theater Center); *Triassic Park: The Musical* (Amas Musical Theatre); *Himself and Nora* (NYMF, Tritone Productions); *40 Naked Women, a Monkey, and Me* (O'Neill Cabaret Conf.); *Nightmare Alley* (NYMF, Tritone Productions). Music Assistant: First National Tour of *The Addams Family*.

**SEAN MCCAIN** (Stage Manager) Selected credits: *Charlotte's Web* (Theatreworks USA), *The Most Deserving*, *Row After Row* (The Women's Project), *The Truth Quotient*, *Shakespeare's Slave*, *The Master Builder* (Resonance Ensemble), *A Dish For the Gods*, *Getting the Business*, *Dally With the Devil* (Rachel Reiner Productions), *All Hands* (Hoi Polloi), *Jackson Heights 3AM*, *You Are Now The Owner of This Suitcase* (Theatre 167), *Jack*, *When We Met*, *Republic* (York Theatre Company). Up Next: Off-Broadway revival of *The Snow Orchid*.

**THEATREWORKS USA** (Producer) founded in 1961, is America's foremost professional theatre for young and family audiences. Its mission is to create imaginative and thought-provoking shows that are educational, entertaining and thought-provoking. Their 2014-2015 touring repertoire includes *Charlotte's Web*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Click, Clack, Moo*; *Curious George*; *Fly Guy & Other Stories*; *Freedom Train*; *Junie B. Jones*; *Skippyjon Jones*; *The Lightning Thief*; *The Teacher From the Black Lagoon & Other Story Books* and *We The People*. Theatreworks' honors include a Drama Desk Award, Off-Broadway's Lucille Lortel Award, the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, the William M. Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence given by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and the Medal of Honor from the Actors' Fund of America. [www.TWUSA.org](http://www.TWUSA.org)

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the U.S. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).