



# The Lightning Thief Teaching Ideas

# PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF

## Book Unit Samples

Get a sample of the novel study Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief and the Book Unit [here](#).

**The Lightning Thief - Chapter 1**

1. Check all the character traits that describe Percy Jackson.

- ADHD
- dyslexic
- half-blood
- has attended one special school for LD kids his entire life
- trouble magnet
- many friends
- troubled kid
- traveled to Switzerland over the summer

2. Read this passage from Chapter 1.

I asked Grover where Mrs. Dodds was.

3. Foreshadowing are hints about what is going to happen in the future. List one example of foreshadowing from Chapter 1.

4. Draw a picture of what Mrs. Dodds looked like after she changed.

**The Lightning Thief - Chapter 2**

1. Fill in the blanks.

The reader learns in Chapter 2 that Mrs. Dodds was \_\_\_\_\_ The students and staff at Yancy Academy forgot about her existence by a \_\_\_\_\_ that kept them from remembering. The two people that knew \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. List the pros and cons of Yancy Academy according to Percy.

Pros	Cons
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3. What do you think Mr. Brunner means when he says "not normal"?

"No, no. What? Percy. That's nothing to be—" "Thanks," I blurted. "Thanks a lot, sir, for reminding me." "Percy—" But I was already gone.

If Percy had not run off, what might Mr. Brunner have told him? What did he mean by Percy was "not normal"?

**Chapter 1 (probation and vaporizer)**

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **probation**.

beat	upset	improving period
leaf	at all	desirable
trout	conflict	outdoor
only	leaf	experimentation

2. Is **probation** used correctly in the sentence below? "True or false?"

\_\_\_\_\_ The club accepted me after a three month **probation** period.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a **probation** that might work.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam was on **probation** after going to jail for breaking into his neighbor's house.

3. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **vaporizer**.

incredible	amuse	happen
legend	fade away	disappear
upset	show	smoke
blow	evaporate	leaf

Page 1

**Constructed Response - Point of View**

After answering the following questions about point of view, write a response in paragraph form.

5. Narrator

Who is telling the story? \_\_\_\_\_

From which point of view is the story told? What is the perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the narrator's view change how the events are being described? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the narrator's view influence how the events are described? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the narrator described the events the way he did? \_\_\_\_\_

How would the story be different if a different character was the narrator? \_\_\_\_\_

**Constructed Response - Point of View**

After answering the following questions about point of view, write a response in paragraph form.

Who is telling the story? •Percy Jackson

From which point of view is the story told? What is the narrator's perspective? •first person point of view

How does the narrator's point of view change how the events are being described? •The story is told from the central character. It is almost like reading Percy's personal diary.

How does the narrator's point of view influence how the events are described? •Percy tells the reader everything including how he feels about the other characters in the story and how he perceives situations.

Why do you think the narrator described the events the way it did? •The reader gets an upclose personal view of the story through Percy's eyes. Everything he knows and thinks is told.

How would the story change if a different character was the narrator? •the story had been in 3rd person point of view the reader would not have the same close connection to Percy. The author wants the reader to experience what Percy experiences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6 Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.  
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.8 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.  
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9 Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

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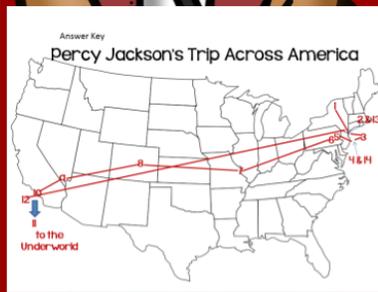
# The Lightning Thief

## Percy Jackson's Journey Free Activity

# Percy Jackson's Trip Across America



1	Yancy Academy	→
2	Sally and Percy's Apartment	→
3	Montauk Beach	→
4	Camp Half-Blood	→
5	Auntie Elm's Garden Gnome Emporium	→
6	Woods	→
7	St. Louis Gateway Arch	→
8	Denver (Waterland)	→
9	Las Vegas (Lotus Hotel)	→
10	Los Angeles (Crusty's Water Bed Palace)	→
11	The Underworld	→
12	Santa Monica Bay	→
13	Mount Olympus	→
14	Sally and Percy's Apartment in Queens then Camp Half-Blood	→



**Answer Key**

1	Yancy Academy	NY	to the Underworld
2	Sally and Percy's Apartment	NY	
3	Montauk Beach	NY	
4	Camp Half-Blood	CT	
5	Auntie Elm's Garden Gnome Emporium	NJ	
6	Woods	NJ	
7	St. Louis Gateway Arch	MO	
8	Denver (Waterland)	CO	
9	Las Vegas (Lotus Hotel)	NV	
10	Los Angeles (Crusty's Water Bed Palace)	CA	
11	The Underworld	CA	
12	Santa Monica Bay	CA	
13	Mount Olympus	CA	
14	Sally and Percy's Apartment in Queens then Camp Half-Blood	NY	

- Number the map 1-14 based on the locations Percy travels throughout the novel *The Lightning Thief*.
- On the chart, write the place Percy traveled to under the number. In the arrow portion of the chart, write Percy's means of travel.
- Glue the map and chart side-by-side in your interactive notebook.

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# Percy Jackson's Trip Across America



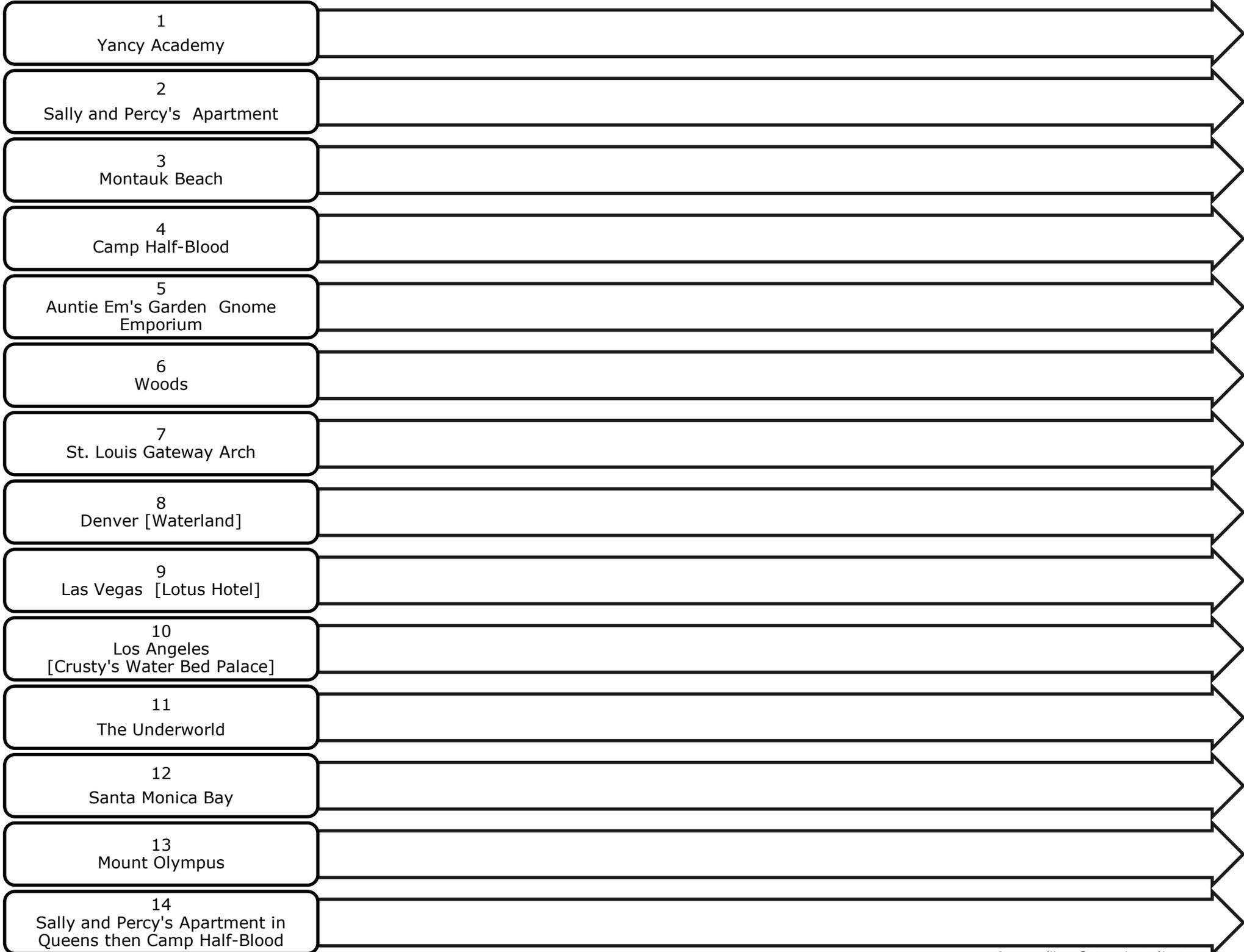
## Answer Key

# Percy Jackson's Trip Across America



This image shows a vertical list of 14 numbered boxes, each with a long arrow pointing to the right. The numbers are 1 through 14, arranged from top to bottom. Each box is white with a black border and rounded corners. The arrows are black and extend from the right side of each box. The numbers are written in a blue font.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14



## Answer Key - Short Answer

1 Yancy Academy	• starting point
2 Sally and Percy's Apartment	• Greyhound bus
3 Montauk Beach	• Sally drives them in Gabe's car.
4 Camp Half-Blood	• Sally drives them in Gabe's car.
5 Auntie Em's Garden Gnome Emporium	• Greyhound bus
6 Woods	• on foot
7 St. Louis Gateway Arch	• Amtrak train
8 Denver [Waterland]	• Amtrak train to Denver ~ walk to Waterworld
9 Las Vegas [Lotus Hotel]	• on the back of a wild animal transport truck
10 Los Angeles [Crusty's Water Bed Palace]	• taxi
11 The Underworld	• Charon ferries
12 Santa Monica Bay	• magic pearls
13 Mount Olympus	• by airplane
14 Sally and Percy's Apartment in Queens then Camp Half-Blood	• taxi

## Answer Key – Longer (Detailed) Answer

1. Yancy Academy

•Percy leaves Yancy Academy which is in Upstate New York on a Greyhound bus to head back home to New York City.

2. Sally and Percy's Apartment in Queens

•Percy's mother Sally drives them to the beach.

3. Montauk Beach

•Grover shows up at the beach house to warn Percy and Sally of the dangerous situation between Zeus and Poseidon. Sally races them toward Camp Half-Blood in Gabe's car. The car is hit by a lightning bolt close to camp. Percy fights the Minotaur. He then carries Grover into the camp.

4. Camp Half-Blood

•Angus, the head of camp security, chauffeurs Percy, Grover, and Annabeth to the nearest bus depot in Manhattan. Angus drops them off at a Greyhound station in Queens, NY (near Percy's house).

5. Auntie Em's Garden Gnome Emporium

•The bus catches fire soon after leaving New York City. Percy, Grover, and Annabeth take off walking toward the woods until they come to Auntie Em's Garden Gnome Emporium.

6. Woods

•The group leave Auntie Em's Garden Gnome Emporium on foot. Grover talks to a pink poodle who tells him to return him to his owner to collect the reward money. The three walk Amtrak station half a mile away. They use the reward money to purchase tickets on the west-bound train.

7. St. Louis Gateway Arch

•The train has a three hour-layover in St. Louis. The three walk to the St. Louis Gateway Arch. The three head back to their Amtrak train which departs for Denver.

8. Denver [Waterland]

•Ares offers the group a ride if they retrieve his sword from Waterland. Their ride west is on the back of a wild animal transport truck.

9. Las Vegas [Lotus Hotel]

•The group walk the streets of Las Vegas until they find the Lotus Hotel. They stay for 5 days. When leaving, they are given Platinum cards. They use these to catch a taxi to Santa Monica Beach.

10. Los Angeles [Crusty's Water Bed Palace]

•While running away from a group of bullies, the group runs into Crusty's Water Bed Palace. There they find a portal to the Underworld.

11. The Underworld

•Charon ferries the group across the River Styx to Hades. The group walks into Hades' Palace. After confronting Hades, the group use the magic pearls to leave the Underworld.

12. Santa Monica Bay

•A Coast Guard boat picked up the three from the bay. They take an airplane back to New York City. Percy rides the elevator up to the 600<sup>th</sup> floor of the Empire State Building to reach Mount Olympus.

13. Mount Olympus

•Percy takes a cab home.

14. Sally and Percy's Apartment in Queens then Camp Half-Blood

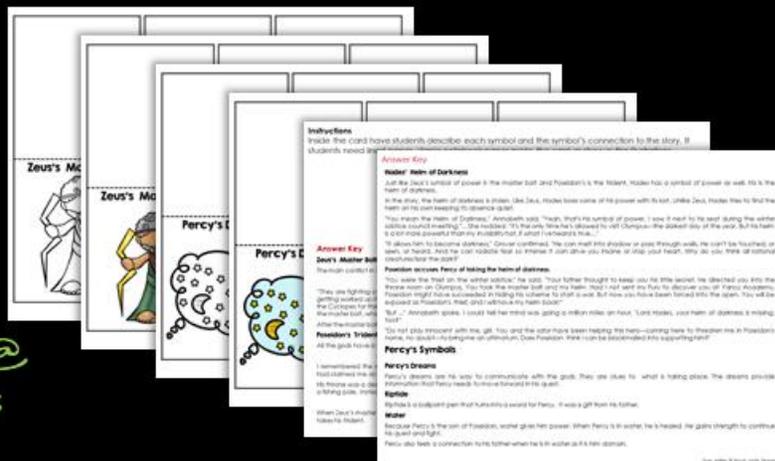
•The book doesn't say how Percy traveled to Camp Half-Blood. More than likely Sally drove him.

# PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF

## Symbolism



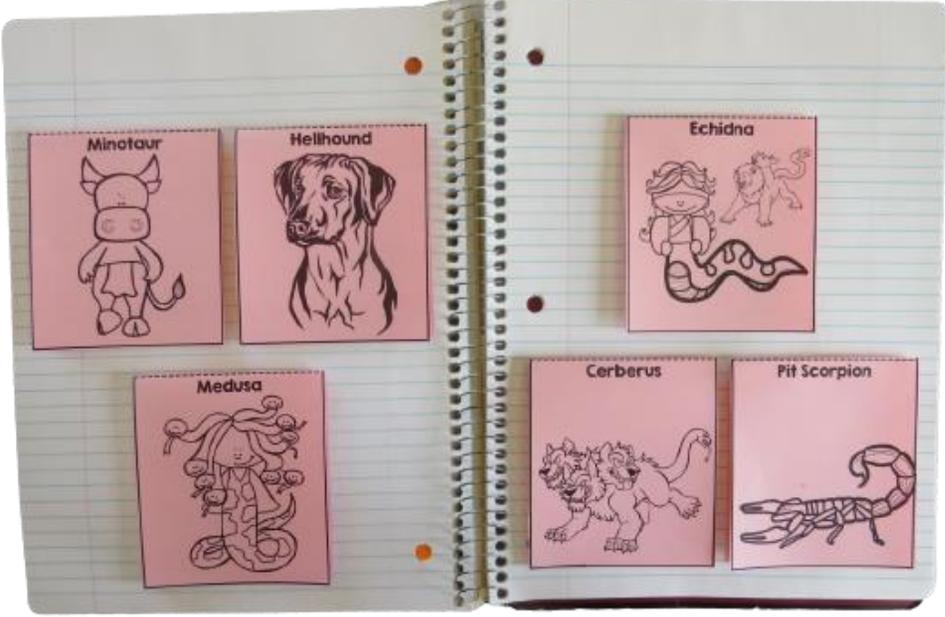
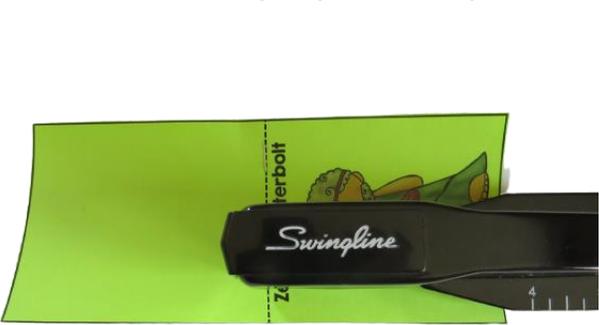
# Symbolism in Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief



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# Instructions

Inside the card have students describe each symbol and the symbol's connection to the story. If students need lined paper, staple notebook paper inside the card as shown in the illustrations.



## Answer Key

### Zeus's Master Bolt

The main conflict in *The Lightning Thief* is that Zeus's master bolt is stolen...

"They are fighting over something valuable that was stolen. To be precise: a lightning bolt."..."Zeus's master bolt," Chiron said, getting worked up now. "The symbol of his power, from which all other lightning bolts are patterned. The first weapon made by the Cyclopes for the war against the Titans, the bolt that sheered the top off Mount Etna and hurled Kronos from his throne..." the master bolt, which packs enough power to make mortal hydrogen bombs look like firecrackers."

After the master bolt is taken, the world becomes unsettled. War between the gods begins to take place.

### Poseidon's Trident

All the gods have a symbol of power. Poseidon's is the trident...

I remembered the swirling green trident that had appeared above my head the night of capture the flag, when Poseidon had claimed me as his son.

His throne was a deep-sea fisherman's chair. It was the simple swiveling kind, with a black leather seat and a built-in holster for a fishing pole. Instead of a pole, the holster held a bronze trident, flickering with green light around the tips.

When Zeus's master bolt and Hades' helm of darkness are both stolen, it is easy to accuse Poseidon of the thief since no one takes his trident.

## Answer Key

### Hades' Helm of Darkness

Just like Zeus's symbol of power is the master bolt and Poseidon's is the trident, Hades has a symbol of power as well. His is the helm of darkness.

In the story, the helm of darkness is stolen. Like Zeus, Hades loses some of his power with its lost. Unlike Zeus, Hades tries to find the helm on his own keeping its absence quiet.

"You mean the Helm of Darkness," Annabeth said. "Yeah, that's his symbol of power. I saw it next to his seat during the winter solstice council meeting."...She nodded. "It's the only time he's allowed to visit Olympus—the darkest day of the year. But his helm is a lot more powerful than my invisibility hat, if what I've heard is true...."

"It allows him to become darkness," Grover confirmed. "He can melt into shadow or pass through walls. He can't be touched, or seen, or heard. And he can radiate fear so intense it can drive you insane or stop your heart. Why do you think all rational creatures fear the dark?"

### Poseidon accuses Percy of taking the helm of darkness.

"You were the thief on the winter solstice," he said. "Your father thought to keep you his little secret. He directed you into the throne room on Olympus, You took the master bolt *and* my helm. Had I not sent my Fury to discover you at Yancy Academy, Poseidon might have succeeded in hiding his scheme to start a war. But now you have been forced into the open. You will be exposed as Poseidon's thief, and I will have my helm back!"

"But ..." Annabeth spoke. I could tell her mind was going a million miles an hour. "Lord Hades, your helm of darkness is missing, too?"

"Do not play innocent with me, girl. You and the satyr have been helping this hero—coming here to threaten me in Poseidon's name, no doubt—to bring me an ultimatum. Does Poseidon think I can be blackmailed into supporting him?"

## Percy's Symbols

### Percy's Dreams

Percy's dreams are his way to communicate with the gods. They are clues to what is taking place. The dreams provide information that Percy needs to move forward in his quest.

### Riptide

Riptide is a ballpoint pen that turns into a sword for Percy. It was a gift from his father.

### Water

Because Percy is the son of Poseidon, water gives him power. When Percy is in water, he is healed. He gains strength to continue his quest and fight.

Percy also feels a connection to his father when he is in water as it is his domain.

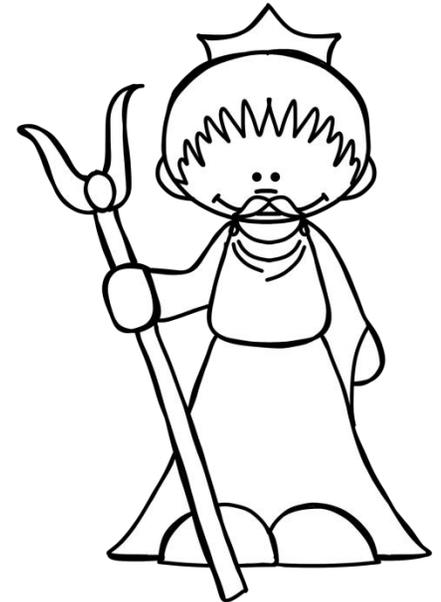
**Zeus's Masterbolt**



**Poseidon's Trident**



**Hades' Helm of Darkness**



**Zeus's Masterbolt**



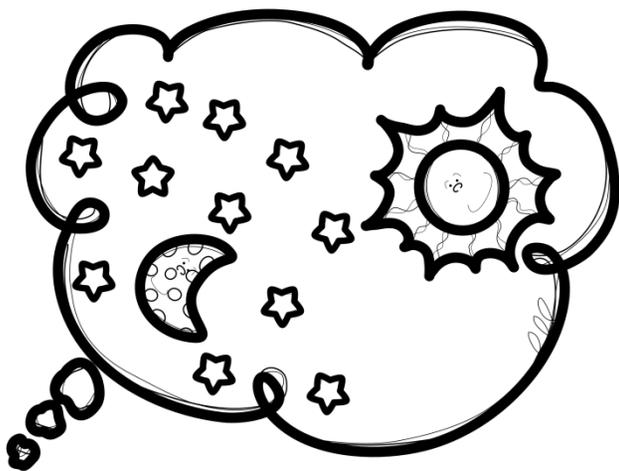
**Poseidon's Trident**



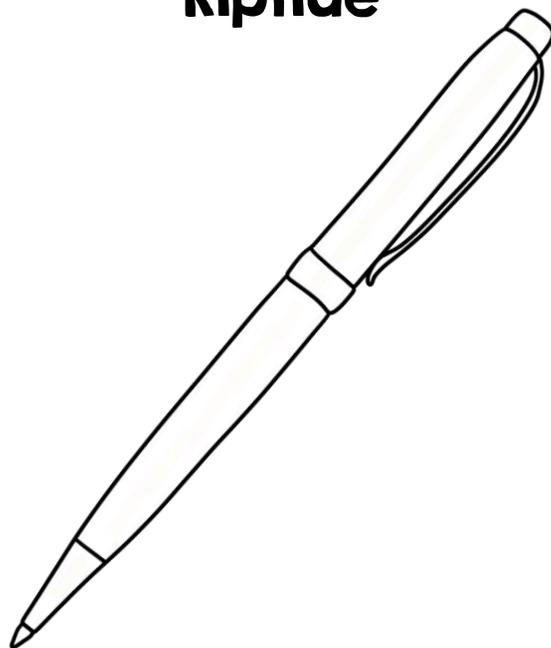
**Hades' Helm of  
Darkness**



**Percy's Dreams**



**Riptide**



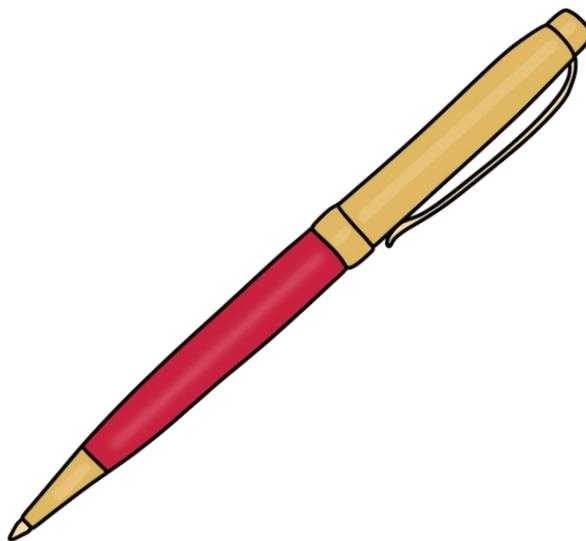
**Water**



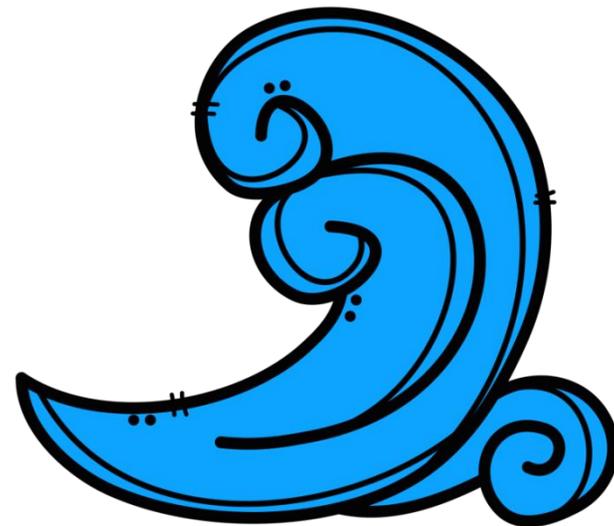
**Percy's Dreams**



**Riptide**



**Water**





## Answer Key

Have students describe the monsters and tell their connection to the story.

### **Minotaur**

The minotaur is a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man.

When Sally, Percy's mother, takes Percy to Camp Half-Blood, Sally is attacked by a minotaur. She disappears in a flash of light. Percy then kills the minotaur by stabbing it with one of its own horns.

### **Hellbound**

Hellhounds are guard dogs to the Underworld.

A hellhound attacks Percy when he is captured in the flag game. Chiron fires arrows at the hellhound.

### **Medusa**

Medusa is a woman with snake-hair, Anyone who looks into her eyes turns to stone.

Medusa disguises herself as Aunty Em to lure people to her. Percy, Annabeth, and Grover go to Aunty Em's Emporium when they smell delicious food cooking. Aunty Em tries to get the group to pose for a photograph, so she can turn them into statues. Annabeth and Grover realize who Aunty Em really is. Eventually, Percy defeats Medusa when he cuts off her head with Riptide.

### **Echidna and Chimera**

Echidna is half woman-half snake. The Chimera is a creature that is a mix of a fire-breathing lion, goat, and diamondback rattlesnake.

Percy, Annabeth, and Grover encounter Echidna at the top of the Gateway Arch. She is with Chimera that is disguised as a Chihuahua. Echidna isolates Percy from the others. She becomes upset when Percy mixes her up with an anteater.

The snake lady made a hissing noise that might've been laughter. "Be honored, Percy Jackson. Lord Zeus rarely allows me to test a hero with one of my brood. For I am the Mother of Monsters, the terrible Echidna!"

I stared at her. All I could think to say was: "Isn't that a kind of anteater?"

She howled, her reptilian face turning brown and green with rage. "I hate it when people say that! I hate Australia! Naming that ridiculous animal after me. For that, Percy Jackson, my son shall destroy you!"

The Chimera charged, its lion teeth gnashing. I managed to leap aside and dodge the bite.

After Percy fights the Chimera, Echidna taunts Percy into jumping from several stories up into the water. Percy does and is healed by the water.

# Answer Key

## **Cerberus**

Cerberus is a the three-headed dog that guards the gates of the Underworld.

Annabeth plays with Chimera using a large red rubber ball, while Percy and Grover sneak past him on their way to see Hades.

Annabeth produced a red rubber ball the size of a grapefruit. It was labeled WATERLAND, DENVER, CO. Before I could stop her, she raised the ball and marched straight up to Cerberus.

She shouted, "See the ball? You want the ball, Cerberus? Sit!"

## **Pit Scorpion**

A pit scorpion is an extremely poisonous scorpion that can jump 15 feet. Its venom kills a person in exactly 60 seconds.

He snapped his fingers. A small fire burned a hole in the ground at my feet. Out crawled something glistening black, about the size of my hand. A scorpion.

I started to go for my pen.

"I wouldn't," Luke cautioned. "Pit scorpions can jump up to fifteen feet. Its stinger can pierce right through your clothes. You'll be dead in sixty seconds."

"Luke, what—"

Then it hit me.

*You will be betrayed by one who calls you a friend.*

"You," I said.

He stood calmly and brushed off his jeans.

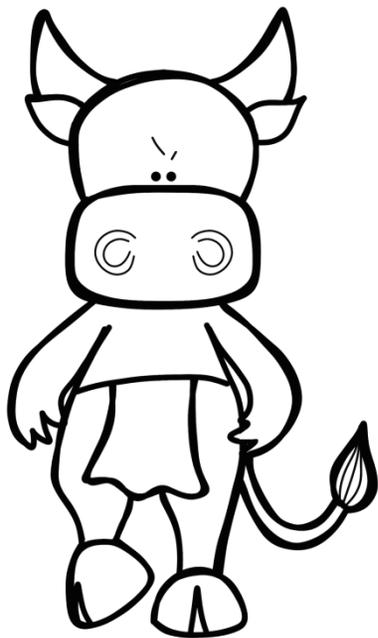
The scorpion paid him no attention. It kept its beady black eyes on me, clamping its pincers as it crawled onto my shoe...

I swatted it away with my hand and uncapped my sword. The thing jumped at me and I cut it in half in midair.

I was about to congratulate myself until I looked down at my hand. My palm had a huge red welt, oozing and smoking with yellow guck. The thing had gotten me after all.

My ears pounded. My vision went foggy. The water, I thought. It healed

**Minotaur**



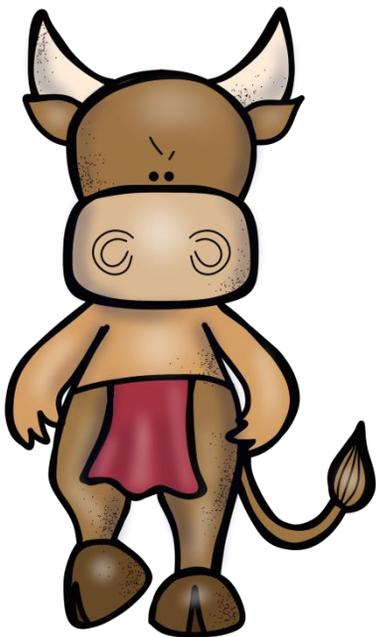
**Hellhound**



**Medusa**



**Minotaur**



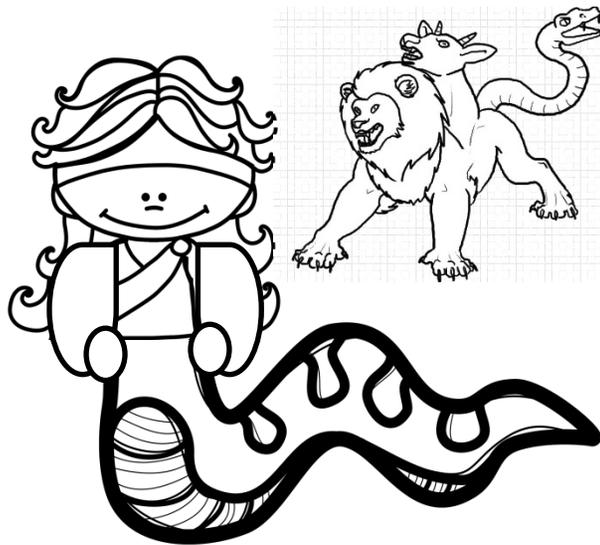
**Hellhound**



**Medusa**



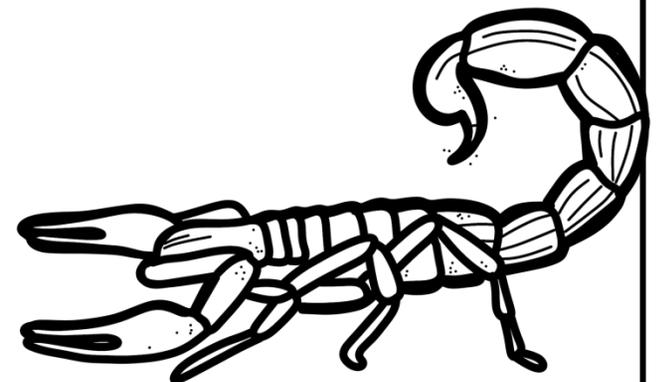
**Echidna and Chimera**



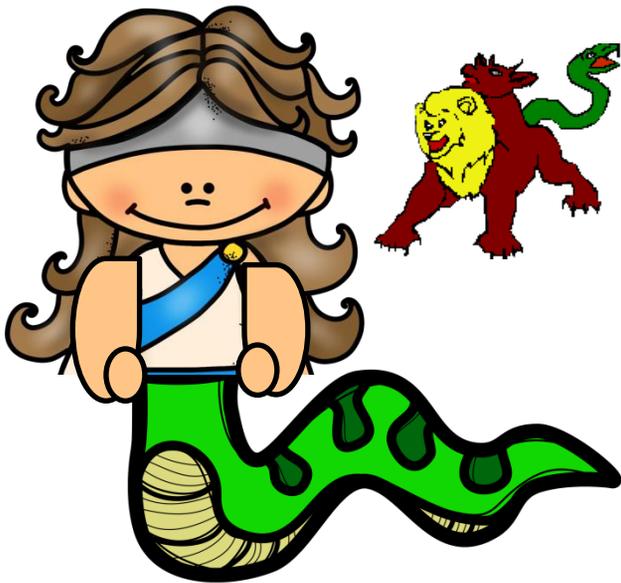
**Cerberus**



**Pit Scorpion**



## Echidna and Chimera



## Cerberus



## Pit Scorpion



Percy Jackson and the Olympians:  
**The Lightning Thief**  
Book Unit



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