

**TheaterWorksUSA presents:**

# **THE LIGHTNING THIEF**

**TYA EDITION**

**STUDY GUIDE**



## **Welcome to Camp Half-Blood!**

Inside this study guide, you'll find everything you need to know about our most famous campers, more information about the musical production, and activities that explore some of the themes in the story that you fellow half-bloods might also encounter in your everyday lives.

Join us on the quest through **THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION!**

# THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION

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. 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. 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 that warns him of betrayal by a friend, and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

This musical production is based on THE LIGHTNING THIEF book series by author, Rick Riordan.

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Play:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience.

**Musical:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience that also involves singing and dancing.

**Genre:** The style of a play.

**Adaptation:** a piece of writing rewritten into a new form. Ex: THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION was adapted from THE LIGHTNING THIEF book series.

**Theme:** A unifying concept. Usually a word or phrase that indicates a universal truth or life lesson of the story.

**Plot:** The timeline of actions in the story from beginning to end.

**Setting:** Where a story takes place. Real or fictionalized. Some stories begin in a KNOWN world and then transition to an UNKNOWN world as the plot unfolds.

**Conflict:** A problem that arises when two forces (characters or society) is at odds or against each other.

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Characters:** Who the story is about.

**Objective:** What a character wants to achieve or solve in the story. In other words, a character's goal.

**"Moment before":** an acting term that encourages actors to consider what is going on in their character's life just before the present moment. Ex: If the scene begins with a character entering a room feeling excited and on top of the world, the actor may want to explore what happened/made them feel that way in the "moment before" they entered the room.

**Protagonist:** The story's hero. This is the character who is out to accomplish a goal or find purpose.

**Antagonist:** The story's villain. This character is usually against what the protagonist(s) needs to accomplish their objective or goal.

**Dialogue:** a conversation between two or more people in a play or musical.

**Blocking:** Movement the director gives to the actors to show them where to go on the stage and when.

**Choreography:** A sequence of dance moves assigned to a dancer in a musical number (song) that are used to help tell the story.

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Design:** An idea that is sketched, drawn, or molded to artistically show how the world of a play will take shape on stage.

**Set Designer:** The artist who creates what the world of a story will look like on stage. This can include furniture and scenery that can help tell the audience where the story takes place.

**Sound Designer:** an artist that creates the mood or atmosphere of the play through the use of sound, sound effects, and music in a play or musical.

**Costume Design:** A costume designer chooses and creates the articles of clothing that characters wear on stage to help tell the audience who the characters.

**Props:** Objects used by a character on stage to help tell the story. Ex: A character may use a prop like an umbrella on stage if it is raining in that scene of the play.

**Make-up:** Artistically designed cosmetics to enhance an actor's portrayal of a character. Ex: make-up can be used to show a character's age and/or personality.

**Author:** a writer of a book or article.

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Playwright:** The writer, or writers, of the play.

**Composer:** The artist, or artists, who writes music for a musical.

**Lyricist:** The artist, or artists, who writes words to the music in a musical.

**Actor:** an artist/performer that embodies a character or characters in a play or musical to tell that character's story to the audience.

**Audience:** a group of people who attend a live event like a theatre performances to watch, listen, and respond to the event on stage.

**Broadway:** Theatre performances that are presented in 41 theaters in the theater district of New York City in theaters with more than 500 seats.

**Box Office:** Where audience members pick up their tickets to the show.

## VOCABULARY SPOTLIGHT!

**ADHD:** ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder which is a condition that describes differences in brain development and activity often resulting in hyperactive behavior and impacting a person's ability to sustain attention. ADHD is also an important marker for identifying a demigod in *The Lightning Thief*; a demigod's struggle to pay attention and control their impulses is actually the signs of a demigod's natural battle skills and reflexes.

**DYSLEXIA:** A learning disability that affects the areas of the brain in charge of processing language. This often makes reading challenging, as it can cause difficulty with deciphering the relationship between words and speech sounds. In the *Percy Jackson* series, this is one of the key identifiers for confirming someone is a demigod, as dyslexia is the result of half-bloods' brains being hardwired for Ancient Greek.

# CREATORS

**Rick Riordan** is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over twenty novels for young readers, including the Percy Jackson book series. For fifteen years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. While teaching in San Antonio, Saint Mary's Hall honored him with the school's first Master Teacher Award. Riordan turned to children's fiction when he started creating THE LIGHTNING THIEF as a bedtime story for his oldest son!



Rick Riordan, Author

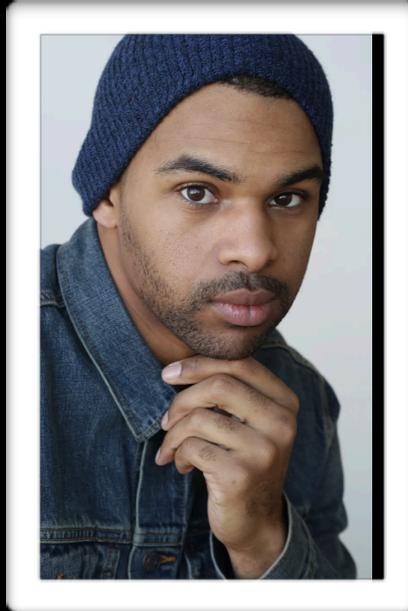


Robert Rokicki, composer/lyricist and Joe Tracz, Book Writer (playwright)

**Robert Rokicki** is the composer & lyricist of THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL. The show was nominated for Lortel, Off-Broadway Alliance, and three Drama Desk Awards, including Outstanding Musical, before touring across North America. Robert is also the composer of the graphic novel musical, MONSTERSONGS! Rob is originally from Colorado and now lives in New York.

**Joe Tracz** is the playwright of THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL. He also wrote the play, UP NORTHLAND and was the playwright for the popular Broadway musical, BE MORE CHILL. He is originally from Northville, Michigan and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

# CREATORS



## **Josiah Davis, Director of THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION**

Josiah Davis is an artist who is originally from Dallas, Texas. A director, choreographer, designer and actor, his work combines movement, live music, and technology to breathe new life into physical storytelling. Most recently he was the video designer/editor for LESSONS IN SURVIVAL (Vineyard Theatre) and CAPSULE by Whitney White and Peter Mark Kendall at Under The Radar (at the Public Theater). He is a graduate from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television, a Brown/Trinity MFA Directing 2020, a company member of Theatre Lumina, a NYTW 2050 fellow, National Black Theatre Soul Directing Resident, Clubbed Thumb Directing Fellow, and Associate Artistic Director of On The Verge Theatre Festival in Santa Barbara.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR, JOSIAH DAVIS:

THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION is a coming of age story. This is the story of a generation that is tired of fighting the monsters created by the generations before. A generation wielding a righteous rebellion that is kicking and screaming for a better existence on this planet. A generation who feel discarded by their parents, who want to be wanted, who want to be fully seen.

It is the story of a group of friends who find each other, see each other, protect each other, rage for each other, and become family. With their powers combined, they must face the impossible and reestablish peace in their world.

This brand new, reimagined production will take the form of a live, pop punk concert from which the theatrical event will erupt! We will channel the inherent theatricality of a live concert to create Percy, Annabeth, and Grover's journey to the underworld.

# CREATORS



**Jean Kim, Scenic Designer**

JEAN is a New York based set designer from South Korea. Jean trained as an Illustrator at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and as a Set Designer at Yale School of Drama (YSD). Her recent set design credits include *Detroit'67* at Julliard School of Drama, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Once on this Island* at Le Petit Theater, *Comedy of Errors* at Two River Theater, *Constellations* at TheaterWorks-Hartford, and *Intimate Apparel* at Theater Squared Theater. At Yale School of Drama her works include; *Cymbeline* at Yale Repertory Theater, *Winter's Tale* and *The Seagull* at Iseman Theater.



**Meg Powers, Costume Designer**

Meg Powers is a professional costume designer, fourth-year David Geffen School of Drama MFA candidate, and an artist with an emphasis on filmmaking, puppetry, animation, and comics/cartooning. Recent design credits include *L' Orfeo* (Yale Baroque Opera, 2022), *Twelfth Night* (Yale Shakespeare Repertory Project, 2022), *Cabaret* (Yale Dramatic Association, 2021), *Constellations* (Yale Cabaret, 2021), *The Gods of the Mountains* (The Spectral Citadel, 2021), *The Kitchen of Truth* (Yale Cabaret, 2021), *Alice* (Yale School of Drama, 2020), and *TVC15: Long Live the New Flesh* (Yale Cabaret, 2020).

## BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW!

Being an audience member at a live theater performance is a special experience that we're excited to share with you!

Since this is a live performance, the performers can see and hear you in the audience. Please be mindful of the performers and other audience members around you by paying close attention to the story being shared on stage.

The energy of the audience is essential to the live theater experience, so please know you are encouraged to react and laugh at moments you find funny, applaud after musical numbers, and cheer for the performers at end of the show! Just remember to be respectful of the performers (so they can focus on their jobs!) and other audience members (so they can enjoy the story too!).

We hope you will enjoy your experience as an audience member at THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION!

# BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW!

Theater is a community experience. We encourage you to discuss the theater performance as a class before and after the show to prepare for and reflect on your experience.

## Discussion Points: Before the Show!

- Can anyone define what a PLAY is? How about a MUSICAL?
- Have you ever attended a play or musical? If so, what do you recall about your experience?
- Is this your first time experiencing a play or musical? If so, what do you think the experience will be like?
- What do you think the show is going to be about?
- What is the job of the audience at a live theater performance?

## Discussion Points: After the Show!

- What was your favorite scene or moment in the show and why?
- What theatrical elements (lighting, sound, costumes, set) made that moment special for you?
- Which character do you relate to the most and why?
- Was there a moment in the story that surprised you?
- In the musical, each character has their own set of strengths that help their friends when they're in need. What do you consider some of your personal strengths and/or powers that you might use to help your friends when they need support?
- If you had to summarize your theatre experience at THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION in three words, what would they be?

## CAST OF CHARACTERS!

**PERCY JACKSON:** Son of the sea god, Poseidon. Percy is a good kid with ADHD and dyslexia, who can't seem to stop getting into trouble. Percy wants to find a place where he can belong. That opportunity comes from the most unexpected place when Percy is given a quest from the gods to find and return Zeus' lightning bolt, save his mom from the Underworld, and prevent a war between the gods.

**GROVER UNDERWOOD:** Percy's best friend. Unbeknownst to Percy before he goes to Camp Half-Blood, Grover is also a satyr—a child of Pan and protector of demigods.

**SALLY JACKSON:** Percy's hard-working mom. Sally has raised Percy on her own, and would do anything to protect her son.

**MR. D:** Also known as Dionysus, Mr. D is the god of theatre and wine, and the grouchy director of Camp Half-Blood.

**ANNABETH CHASE:** The daughter of Athena. Smart, feisty, and eager to prove herself to her mom, Annabeth is skeptical of Percy at first, but becomes one of his best friends through the trials they face on Percy's quest.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS!

**LUKE CASTELLAN:** Son of Hermes and one of Percy's first friends at camp. He helps Percy come to terms with finding out that he's a demigod and provides advice when the gods give Percy his quest.

**CLARISSE LA RUE:** The daughter of Ares. Competitive and tough-as-nails, she's known for her prickly demeanor and battle skills in "Capture the Flag".

**POSEIDON:** Percy's dad, the sea god Poseidon. He's a bit of a beach bum.

**HADES:** Poseidon's brother, the god of the Underworld.

**CHARON:** The ferryman to the Underworld.

**KRONOS:** Father of the Olympians, his children trapped him in Tartarus after losing against them in a war.

**ARES:** The god of war.

**MR. BRUNNER/CHIRON:** The kind, but stern Latin teacher. He expects the best out of his students, especially Percy. He also happens to be a centaur.

# INDEPENDENT REFLECTION: SELF DISCOVERY

IMAGINE....YOU JUST FOUND OUT YOU'RE A DEMI-GOD!

What demi-god power would you want to possess and why?



What problem(s) would you try to solve with this demi-god power?



Who's the first person you would tell if you found out you were a demi-god and why?



What "monsters" do you see in the real world today? What actions do you think you or other people can take to effect change?



# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

## What Is Greek Mythology?

Greek Mythology is a group of stories about gods, goddesses, heroes, and creatures of Ancient Greece.

Just like Rick Riordan's original Percy Jackson books, the musical is inspired by different Greek mythological sources. Many of the characters in the books and musical are based on and have qualities of Greek gods, goddesses, heroes, and creatures.

For example, Percy Jackson is named after the Greek hero Perseus, who was the demigod son of Zeus. Although Percy Jackson is not exactly like Perseus, they share some of the same qualities and both have a fateful encounter with Medusa!

# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Here are some other crossover characters that appear in the musical that you might also recognize from Greek mythology:

- **CHIRON:** In the world of Percy Jackson, Chiron is a centaur (half human, half horse) who trains and guides demigods. His role in Greek mythology was similar; known for his medicinal knowledge and calm temperament, Chiron trained some of the greatest heroes of myth, including Heracles and Achilles.
- **POSEIDON:** The Greek god of the sea, Poseidon was one of Kronos' three most powerful sons.
- **DIONYSUS:** The Greek god of theatre and wine, Dionysus had a mysterious birth (some myths say he's a son of Zeus and a mortal, others claim his parents are Zeus and Persephone, or Demeter), which gave him an outsider status in Olympus—much like Mr. D.
- **ATHENA:** The Greek goddess of wisdom, battle strategy, and the arts. Similar to the way Annabeth assists Percy during their encounter with Medusa, Athena helped Perseus defeat Medusa by loaning her bronze shield to Perseus so he could hide from Medusa's dangerous glare.

# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

- **THE FURIES:** Just like math teachers, the Furies (the three goddesses of vengeance) were known for being strict. Ruthless observers when it came to the rules, they punished anyone who stepped outside the laws of society. So you can see why they have a constant bone to pick with the Olympians and their children.
- **THE ORACLE OF DELPHI:** The Oracle was a famous high priestess named Pythia, who served Apollo in his temple at Delphi. In the theatre, she is most well-known for prophesying that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother—talk about a complicated family!
- **CERBERUS:** The three-headed dog charged with guarding the Underworld and preventing the deceased from leaving.
- **MINOTAUR:** A monster with the torso of a human, and the head, tail, and legs of a bull.
- **ARES:** The Greek god of war. The male counterpart to Athena, Ares represented all of the violence and direct aggression of war.
- **APHRODITE:** The Greek goddess of love and beauty.
- **DEMETER:** The Greek goddess of agriculture, grain, fertility, and the harvest.

# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

- **CHIMERA:** A Greek monster comprised of a goat's body, a lion's head, and a serpent's tail.
- **SATYR:** Half-human, and half-goat. Satyrs were creatures closely associated with Dionysus.
- **CHARON:** Not to be confused with Chiron. Charon was the ferryman to the Underworld; just like in the musical, Charon charged a fee to deliver the deceased from our world to the Underworld.
- **KRONOS:** The youngest of the Titans, and father to several of the Olympians, including Poseidon, Zeus, and Hades.
- **ZEUS:** The Greek god of lightning and thunder, and the king of Mount Olympus. Zeus represented the pinnacle of the Greek religion; to the Greeks, Zeus was a symbol of justice.
- **HADES:** The Greek god of the Underworld, and Kronos' eldest son. Along with his brothers, Zeus and Poseidon, Hades ruled over the cosmos after he and his siblings defeated their father in battle.
- **HERMES:** The Greek god of transitions and boundaries, Hermes is most well-known as the messenger god.

## NAME THE GODS!

Can you identify the Greek god or goddess based on their image below?



A. \_\_\_\_\_



B. \_\_\_\_\_



C. \_\_\_\_\_



D. \_\_\_\_\_



E. \_\_\_\_\_



F. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus Activity:** Draw your yourself as a god or goddess. What power would you want to possess?

## PARTNER UP & ACT IT OUT!

Using what you know know about the characters in the story and Greek mythology, pick a scene and read it out loud with a partner.

Use your voice, body, and imagination to to embody the characters and bring them to life!

## SCENE 1:

Characters: GROVER, PERCY

Setting: They are in the woods, looking for Camp Half-Blood.

Moment Before: Grover turned into a satyr to protect Percy from a minotaur!

**START**

GROVER

Baaaaah!

PERCY

Oh look, a goat. Hey little guy—

*(Grover stands up and turns around.)*

GROVER

Paaaa-ercy!

PERCY

AAAH! Grover? What are you doing here? ...And what happened to your legs?

GROVER

I've been searching everywhere for you guys.

*PERCY*

YOU'RE all furry! What happened to your legs?

GROVER

I'm a Satyr! I'm half-goat?

PERCY

And you couldn't have mentioned that sooner?

**END**

## SCENE 2:

Characters: AUNTY EM (MEDUSA), ANNABETH

Setting: Aunty Em's store of statues.

Moment Before: On the way to find the lightning bolt, Annabeth walks into Aunty Em's store!

**START**

AUNTY EM

Would you mind if I took your picture? I'd like to create a new statue.

ANNABETH

*(flattered)* Of me?

AUNTY EM

You deserve to be immortalized in stone forever. Who's ready for their close-up?

ANNABETH

Don't you need a camera?

AUNTY EM

Why use a camera...when you have a face like mine?

*(Annabeth closes her eyes, just as Aunty Em throws off her turban and sunglasses, revealing her hair is made of writhing snakes.)*

ANNABETH

Close your eyes! Aunty M! For—

AUNTY EM

Medussssa! And your mother and I are old nemesisssss.... Nemesessss...  
ENDNemissississsss... We don't like each other!

**END**

## SCENE 3:

Characters: PERCY, ANNABETH

Setting: In Aunty Em's Store.

Moment Before: Aunty EM/Medusa tried to turn them into stone but Percy saved them.

**START**

ANNABETH

Medusa disrespected my Mom! She was sneaking into Athena's temple to meet up with her boyfriend... (*pointed*) Poseidon. Yeah, Medusa dated your dad.

PERCY

Is that why you don't like me?

ANNABETH

I never said I don't like you.

PERCY

You criticize me. All the time.

ANNABETH

Look. I've studied, I've trained, I've done everything to prove to the gods that I'm the best. And you show up and— You don't even know how to hold a sword. (*Percy grabs his sword.*)

PERCY

Yes I do. (*he hits himself with sword*) Ow.

ANNABETH

(*she corrects his grip*) Hands here.

PERCY

You're smart, you're brave... How could your mom not be proud of you?

ANNABETH

That's what I want to know.

**END**



## COLLABORATION: CREATE A MEGA-MONSTER

Use a chalkboard, butcher paper, drawing tool on your smartboard, or another large surface for the following group activity:

Take turns adding different shapes to the same drawing to create a mega-monster as a group. Each person drawing should label their piece of the monster (eye, tentacle, tooth, hoof, etc).

Encourage each other to explain what your additions to the drawing represent. For example, the monster's teeth could represent friends gossiping, tentacles could represent feeling trapped.

Come up with a name for the mega-monster as a group!

Brainstorm ways that the group might conquer or overcome some of the issues or fears this monster represents. For example, brushing the teeth or clearing up false information can help conquer gossip.

The class can choose to destroy the mega-monster by ripping the paper apart as a class! If you're using a smart board, use digit stickers to cover up the monsters!



# THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION



Photo by Jeremy Daniel. L-R: Kristin Stokes, Chris McCarrell, Jorrel Javier

We hope you half-bloods enjoyed **THE LIGHTNING THIEF: TYA EDITION!**

We hope to see you back at theater again soon!

For more information: [www.TWUSA.org](http://www.TWUSA.org).

ANSWER KEY TO PAGE 23: A. ZEUS B. HERMES C. ARES D. ATHENA E. POSEIDON F. DIONYSUS