The Lightning Thief
Chapters 1-8

Directions: **Before you read** a chapter from *The Lightning Thief*, **preview these comprehension questions** to mentally compose your thoughts for discussions during class lessons. You are **NOT** expected to answer these questions for homework while completing your assigned chapter reading; however, an excellent reading strategy is to have a purpose or questions in mind while reading to improve your comprehension.

**Chapter 1:** Getting to know the main character, Percy Jackson
1. What do you notice about Percy?
2. What do you wonder about Percy?
3. What have we learned about Percy Jackson so far?
4. What kind of student was Percy?
5. Why is Grover bullied by the other students?
6. What is the most important thing you learned about Percy in Chapter 1?
   a. How did the author show this about Percy?

**Chapter 2:** Challenges and Responses
1. What news does the headmaster of Yancy Academy send to Percy’s mom?
2. Whose conversation does Percy overhear?
   a. What are they discussing?
3. How do Percy and Grover travel back to NYC?
4. What challenges does Percy face in this chapter?
   a. How does he respond?
5. Based on Percy’s response to this challenge what can you tell about Percy that the author does not directly tell you?
6. How has the author, Rick Riordan, helped us to get to know Percy so far in *The Lightning Thief*?

**Chapter 3:** Inferring about Character
1. What did Percy’s mother, Sally, want to do with her life?
   a. Why didn’t she?
2. Where do Percy and his mother go?
   a. Why is this place special?
3. Who shows up to get Percy and his mother in the middle of the night?
   a. What is strange about him?
4. What is an example of a challenge Percy faces in pages 38-40?
   a. How does he respond?
5. What does Percy say that he regrets?
   a. What does this tell the reader about him?
6. How does Percy’s mom describe his dad in this scene?
7. At the bottom of page 39, Percy says he’s “not normal.” What does he mean?
   a. Why does he say it?
8. What does Percy think about in this chapter?
9. What do we learn about him based on these thoughts?
10. What has been more important so far in helping you to learn about Percy as a character, his actions or his inner thoughts?
Chapter 4: Making Inference about Percy
1. What is your initial sense of what this chapter is mostly about?
2. What challenges does Percy face in this chapter?
   a. How does he respond?
3. In pages 52-56, think about the challenges Percy faces, and his responses to those challenges.
   a. What do Percy’s choices tell us about his strengths in this section?
   b. Based on the choices Percy made, do you have a good opinion of him?
      i. Why or why not?
   c. How do the events in this scene show how Percy has changed as a character from the beginning of the novel up to this point?

Chapter 5: Aligning “The Hero’s Journey” and The Lightning Thief
1. Percy has just survived a traumatic night and is now in a completely unfamiliar and strange setting. This presents a unique challenge.
   a. How does Percy respond to this challenge?
   b. What inferences can you make based on his response?
      i. Consider his interactions with other characters as well as his inner thoughts
2. What connections do you see between Percy’s experiences in The Lightning Thief and “The Hero’s Journey?”
   a. Do Percy’s experiences in The Lightning Thief align with the hero’s journey?

Chapter 6: Selecting Evidence between “The Hero’s Journey” and The Lightning Thief
1. What new and surprising sights does Percy encounter in this passage?
2. What does Percy learn about Chiron in this passage?
3. Percy’s new environment just means new kinds of challenges.
   a. What types of challenges does Percy face in this chapter?
      i. How does he respond?
4. On page 86, how is the meaning of archetype that we learned connected to this idea of the minotaur as an archetype?

Chapter 7: Writing with Evidence: Percy and the Hero’s Journey
1. How are Percy’s experiences in this chapter aligned with “The Hero’s Journey?”
2. How does one of these challenges help us to see Percy as a hero?
3. Focus on pages 93-95, how is Percy’s experience aligned to different parts of the “The Hero’s Journey?”

Chapter 8:
1. What is a hero?
   a. Is Percy Jackson a hero?
2. How has Percy Jackson changed from the beginning of the book until now?
3. In pages 107-112, how is Percy’s experience aligned to the four different parts of the hero’s journey?
4. What can we learn about Percy, as a hero, based on his response to a challenge he faces?