

Book Title: *The Lightning Thief*

Book Author: Rick Riordan

Reviewed by: Brian Rokowski, 21

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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The Ancient Greeks lived in a time of oral tradition, honor and Gods. The *Lightning Thief* is a fantasy novel that deals with the Gods of the ancient Greeks. In this novel, Zeus, Hades and Poseidon are as real as the 4:15 B.A.R.T. train to Embarcadero. The Greek Gods rule high from mount Olympus trying not to tamper with the lives of humans. Despite being Gods, these beings are faced with problems just like any human. From sexual tensions to conflict of interest, these Gods have a lot to deal with.

In this novel, Gods have sexual relations with humans leading to off spring called demi-gods, half human half god. Demons run rampant on earth attacking these kids preventing them from doing good deeds in the world. The story follows a particularly special demi-god known as Percy Jackson. Much like Harry Potter, Percy goes the majority of his life without knowing the magical world existed. Evil forces threaten the existence of the world, and as Percy Jackson comes of age he is faced with the problem of saving it. As everyone looks to Percy, he is filled with uncertainty and fear as he struggles to learn the skills he needs to protect the ones he loves.

This book is great for young teens who love reading fantasy novels. Rick Riordan combines the allure of Ancient Gods, Heroes, and modernity all into this one action packed novel. Percy is a perfect archetypal hero, he always keeps the safety of his friends first and he is always willing to put his life on the line for the one's he loves and what is good. This book has a good story, action, romance and brevity all into one.

Other Recommended Books:

The Amulet of Samarkand

The Golem's Eye

Ptolemy's Gate

The Lightning Thief

Rick Riordan

Reviewed by: Hannah Yang, age 11

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I will start out by saying that this book is *amazing*. I picked up this book when I was bored and I didn't know what else to read, but quickly became hooked. The quirky chapter titles, fun dialogue, and nicely-paced action never got me tired of this novel. I've read this quite a few times by now, and would highly recommend it to grades 5 and up, especially those who love action-filled novels.

The *Lightning Thief* is the first book of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. It is about a 12 year old boy called Percy Jackson, who is dyslexic and has ADHD. He gets kicked out of school often, because he does 'strange' things- sometimes things he can't explain himself. His father is absent, but becomes known later in the book (I'm not giving any spoilers for now), and his mother, Sally Jackson, is married to Gabe Ugliano (known to Percy as 'Smelly Gabe'). Basically, he finds out that he's a half-blood, and he goes to camp, where he trains for battle. Then he's accused of stealing Zeus's master bolt, and has to go on a quest to find and return it. This book is mainly based around Greek mythology.

I wouldn't have noticed the similarities between Harry Potter and Percy Jackson, but I wouldn't make too much of a deal on this. Riordan has changed Harry Potter into a quickly paced book with action at every turn. I love the Greek mythology base, and how Riordan has transformed the world of mythology into our modern time. The creativity and originality of how Riordan has changed the United States by hiding mythology (Mt. Olympus on the 600th floor of the Empire State Building, the Underworld in Los Angeles, etc.) in places that make sense and seem believable is stunning.

I would like to say I'm slightly disappointed in how easily Percy gets away with everything. He battled Medusa, escaped the Furies, fought Echidna, dueled Ares, and got out alive after a pit scorpion bite... it seems unlikely a 6th grader could do all that. I will agree it gives Percy's heroic edge a little more sparkle. The book would have more action, though, if there was less jumping into pools of water.

One of my favorite parts of this book is how Percy let his mom decide whether to get rid of Smelly Gabe or not. Usually, I've noticed, it's the boy hero kicking all the butt. But now, what do you know, Percy's mom steps in the spotlight and gets rid of Smelly Gabe. I *like* that. It shows that girls are strong, too.

This book demonstrates detailed descriptions (I am picky about descriptions, but this book fully satisfied me) and fun dialogue. I love how sharp and blunt Percy is. Similar to me... I think what I want to think and say what I want to say. Percy's not afraid to do what he wants- a strong, honest main character. I will applaud Riordan for that. This book made me laugh- I don't usually laugh out loud when I read books, but that's exactly what I did here.

Amazing job- you will love this if you read it! Suitable for all ages, with not too much violence, and never too little action. Great write, Riordan!

