

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

The Lightning Thief

By Rick Riordan
Percy Jackson and the Olympians Book One
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Scholastic Publisher

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The Lightning Thief
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Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

1 I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-Algebra Teacher Pp. 1-15

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where found)

devil **spawn** (, 4) to produce offspring; generate

vitally important (7, 7) concerned with or necessary to the maintenance of life

some deep **philosophical** comment (11+, 8) a critical study of fundamental beliefs

triumphant fire in her eyes (6, 10) to celebrate victory or success exultantly

pulverize (10,11) to reduce or be reduced to very small particles

distracted (6, 14) to draw the attention of the mind to a different object

Comprehension Questions

1. **Who was Percy Jackson? P. 1** He was a half-blood, 12 years of age. He was a troubled youth who was a boarding school student at Yancy Academy.
2. **Where was Percy's 6th grade class being taken? Pp. 2-3** Two teachers from his school were taking 28 mental-case kids to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC.
3. **Who was Mr. Brunner? Pp. 2-3** He was a Latin teacher who was middle-aged and in a motorized wheel-chair.
4. **Who was Grover? Pp. 2-3** He was a friend of Percy's who was scrawny and crippled. He has been held back several grades.
5. **Who was Nancy Bobofit? Pp. 2-3** She was trouble-maker who enjoyed tormenting Grover.
6. **Why couldn't Percy make Nancy stop teasing Grover? Pp. 2-3** Percy had already been threatened with suspension. He was on probation.
7. **How did Percy draw attention to himself while Mr. Brunner was lecturing? Pp. 4-5** He told Nancy to shut up.
8. **When Mr. Brunner asked to see Percy, what did he tell Percy? Pp. 6-7** He expected Percy to answer his questions because what he was learning from Brunner was vitally important.
9. **What happened to Nancy when Percy got so mad his mind went blank? Pp. 8-9** Nancy ended up sitting in the fountain screaming that Percy had pushed her.

- 10. What did Mrs. Dodds, the teacher who adored Nancy, ask Percy to do?**
Pp. 10-11 Percy was asked to come with her. Percy experienced several blank moments when time hurried on, but he didn't remember some parts of the events.
- 11. What happened to Mrs. Dodds? Pp. 12-13** She transformed into a monster with wings and fangs.
- 12. What saved Percy? Pp. 12-13** Mr. Brunner appeared and gave Percy his pen which turned into a sword. Percy vanquished Mrs. Dodds. She was gone.
- 13. When Percy asked Grover about Mrs. Dodds, what did Grover say? Pp. 14-15**
He acted like he didn't know a Mrs. Dodds. Mr. Brunner reacted the same way except to tell Percy to bring his own pen next time.

2 Three Old Ladies Knit the Socks of Death Pp. 16-28

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where found)

hallucination (11, 16) perception of objects with no reality; delusion, illusion; mirage

old **sot** (, 17) a habitual drunkard

obnoxious (10, 17) repugnant; offensive

summer **solstice** (12, 19) time of year when sun is farthest north of equator about June 22

suspiciously (5, 20) open to or arousing mistrust; uncertainty, doubt; skepticism

sarcastic little kissing motions (9+, 21) a cutting or contemptuous action

confound it all (10, 22) to throw into disorder or confusion; bewilder; puzzle; perplex

fidgety (8, 23) uneasiness or restlessness as shown by nervous movements

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What finally got Percy thrown out of Yancy School? Pp. 16-17** He called his English teacher “an old sot” for admonishing Percy about being too lazy to study spelling.
- 2. What did Percy overhear one evening when he went to see Mr. Brunner about the Latin exam? Pp. 17-18** Brunner and Grover were discussing Percy, things like the boy need to mature more and something about a summer solstice deadline. Grover said that he, Grover, had failed.
- 3. What did Percy realize that was quite clear? Pp. 19-20** He was in danger.
- 4. When school was over, who happened to be on the same bus going to the city with Percy? Pp. 21-22** Grover was on the bus. He seemed fidgety like he expected something bad to happen.
- 5. Why did the bus stop on a stretch of country road? Pp. 23-24** The engine compartment made clanking noise, and bus filled with smoke.
- 6. What had Grover just told Percy? Pp. 23-25** “I kind of have to protect you.”
- 7. What were the three old ladies at the old-fashioned fruit stand doing? Pp. 25-28** They were knitting over-sized socks. Grover said he and Percy had to get back on the bus. Grover was completely overly anxious. He said something like, they never get past 6th grade.

3 Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants Pp. 29-43

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where found)

nauseous (7+, 31) causing disgust; sickness of the stomach causing vomiting

twinge of sympathy (9, 32) a sudden sharp stab of pain or distress

incredibly (7, 35) too extraordinary and improbable to be believed

detect (7, 36) discover

sarcasm (7, 36) cutting remark or action

rebellious streak (7+, 38) inclined to resist authority

cloven hooves (, 43) a foot like a goat with the front part divided into two parts

Comprehension Questions

1. **Who was Smelly Gabe? Pp. 29-30** He was Percy's stepfather who pretended to be nice until after Percy's mother married him. He was a real creep.
2. **Why did Gabe ask Percy for money? Pp. 31-32** A poker game was going on in his mom's apartment. Percy didn't want to give Gabe his money, but he had to.
3. **What was Percy's mom like? Pp. 33-34** She made Percy smile. She told Percy the two of them were going to the beach cabin they had been going to for years.
4. **What would Gabe blame Percy for even if Percy didn't drive? Pp. 35-36** He blamed Percy for any mark on his '78 Camaro.
5. **What kind of food did Sally delight in making and why? Pp. 37-38** Sally, Percy's mom, liked to make anything the color blue because Gabe once told her there was no such thing as blue food.
6. **Where had Percy's father wanted to send Percy, but his mom didn't want Percy to go? Pp. 39-40** Percy's father wanted him to go to a special summer camp. Sally was afraid she would lose Percy if he went.
7. **Who came to the cabin during a dark and storm night? Pp. 41-42** Grover came. He spoke in Ancient Greek, but Percy could understand what Grover was saying.
8. **Why was Grover so strange? P. 43** He had shaggy hindquarters, and his feet were cloven hooves.

Student's Guide

1 I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-Algebra Teacher Pp. 1-15

Vocabulary

devil **spawn** (4)

vitally important (7)

some deep **philosophical** comment (8)

triumphant fire in her eyes (10)

pulverize (11)

distracted (14)

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Percy Jackson? P. 1
2. Where was Percy's 6th grade class being taken? Pp. 2-3
3. Who was Mr. Brunner? Pp. 2-3
4. Who was Grover? Pp. 2-3
5. Who was Nancy Bobofit? Pp. 2-3
6. Why couldn't Percy make Nancy stop teasing Grover? Pp. 2-3
7. How did Percy draw attention to himself while Mr. Brunner was lecturing? Pp. 4-5
8. When Mr. Brunner asked to see Percy, what did he tell Percy? Pp. 6-7
9. What happened to Nancy when Percy got so mad his mind went blank? Pp. 8-9
10. What did Mrs. Dodds, the teacher who adored Nancy, ask Percy to do? Pp. 10-11
11. What happened to Mrs. Dodds? Pp. 12-13
12. What saved Percy? Pp. 12-13
13. When Percy asked Grover about Mrs. Dodds, what did Grover say? Pp. 14-15

2 Three Old Ladies Knit the Socks of Death Pp. 16-28

Vocabulary

hallucination (16)

old **sot** (17)

obnoxious (17)

summer **solstice** (19)

suspiciously (20)

sarcastic little kissing motions (21)

confound it all (22)

fidgety (23)

Comprehension Questions

1. What finally got Percy thrown out of Yancy School? Pp. 16-17
2. What did Percy overhear one evening when he went to see Mr. Brunner about the Latin exam? Pp. 17-18
3. What did Percy realize that was quite clear? Pp. 19-20
4. When school was over, who happened to be on the same bus going to the city with Percy? Pp. 21-22
5. Why did the bus stop on a stretch of country road? Pp. 23-24
6. What had Grover just told Percy? Pp. 23-25
7. What were the three old ladies at the old-fashioned fruit stand doing? Pp. 25-28

3 Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants Pp. 29-43

Vocabulary

nauseous (31)

twinge of sympathy (32)

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rebellious streak (38)

cloven hooves (43)

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Smelly Gabe? Pp. 29-30
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6. Where had Percy's father wanted to send Percy, but his mom didn't want Percy to go?
Pp. 39-40
7. Who came to the cabin during a dark and storm night? Pp. 41-42
8. Why was Grover so strange? P. 43

Student's Workbook

1 I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-Algebra Teacher Pp. 1-15

2 Three Old Ladies Knit the Socks of Death Pp. 16-28

Vocabulary

triumphant fire in her eyes (10) _____

distracted (14) _____

obnoxious (17) _____

suspiciously (20) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Percy Jackson? P. 1 _____

2. Who was Mr. Brunner? Pp. 2-3 _____

3. Who was Grover? Pp. 2-3 _____

4. Why couldn't Percy make Nancy stop teasing Grover? Pp. 2-3 _____

5. What happened to Nancy when Percy got so mad his mind went blank? Pp. 8-9 _____

6. What finally got Percy thrown out of Yancy School? Pp. 16-17 _____

7. When school was over, who happened to be on the same bus going to the city with
Percy? Pp. 21-22 _____

3 Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants Pp. 29-43
4 My Mother Teaches Me Bullfighting Pp. 44-56

Vocabulary

incredibly (35) _____

detect (36) _____

sarcasm (36) _____

anticipating (47) _____

kicking and **pummeling** the air (53) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Smelly Gabe? Pp. 29-30 _____

2. Where had Percy's father wanted to send Percy, but his mom didn't want Percy to go?
Pp. 39-40 _____

3. Why was Grover so strange? P. 43 _____

4. When the Camero that Sally was driving was blasted off the road, what did she tell her
son, Percy, to do? Pp. 48-49 _____

5. What heroic deed did Percy do even though he put himself in great peril? Pp. 50-51

6. What terrible act caused Percy's fear to be replaced with anger? Pp. 52-53

7. What was the last thing Percy remembered before he half-carried Grover onto the
wooden porch? Pp. 56-57 _____

Teacher's Key to Workbook

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2 Three Old Ladies Knit the Socks of Death Pp. 16-28

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- 3. Who was Grover? Pp. 2-3** He was a friend of Percy's who was scrawny and crippled. He has been held back several grades.
- 4. Why couldn't Percy make Nancy stop teasing Grover? Pp. 2-3** Percy had already been threatened with suspension. He was on probation.
- 5. What happened to Nancy when Percy got so mad his mind went blank? Pp. 8-9** Nancy ended up sitting in the fountain screaming that Percy had pushed her.
- 6. What finally got Percy thrown out of Yancy School? Pp. 16-17** He called his English teacher "an old sot" for admonishing him about being too lazy to study.
- 7. When school was over, who happened to be on the same bus going to the city with Percy? Pp. 21-22** Grover was on the bus. He seemed fidgety.

3 Grover Unexpectedly Loses His Pants Pp. 29-43
4 My Mother Teaches Me Bullfighting Pp. 44-56

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where found)

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detect (7, 36) discover

sarcasm (7, 36) cutting remark or action

anticipating (8, 47) to foresee and provide for beforehand

kicking and **pummeling** the air (, 53) pounding or beating

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Who was Smelly Gabe? Pp. 29-30** He was Percy's stepfather who pretended to be nice until after Percy's mother married him. He was a real creep.
- 2. Where had Percy's father wanted to send Percy, but his mom didn't want Percy to go? Pp. 39-40** Percy's father wanted him to go to a special summer camp.
- 3. Why was Grover so strange? P. 43** He had shaggy hindquarters and cloven hooves.
- 4. When the Camero that Sally was driving was blasted off the road, what did she tell her son, Percy, to do? Pp. 48-49** He was to go without her and Grover.
- 5. What heroic deed did Percy do even though he put himself in great peril?**
Pp. 50-51 He went back for his mom and Grover to save them from the minotaur.
- 6. What terrible act caused Percy's fear to be replaced with anger? Pp. 52-53**
The minotaur "dissolved" his mother.
- 7. What was the last thing Percy remembered before he half-carried Grover onto the wooden porch? Pp. 56-57** A pretty blond girl was saying that he was the one.

Key Questions

Answer in complete sentences. Name _____

1. Who was Percy Jackson? Chapter 1

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. Who was Grover? Chapters 1, 2 and 3

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

3. Who was Annabeth? Chapter 7

a. _____

b. _____

4. Who are the three most important and powerful gods? Chapter 8

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. What symbol appeared in the sky after Percy took down a black hound? Why? Ch. 8

6. What did the Oracle predict? Chapter 9

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

7. What did Annabeth give Percy on the bus to help him escape? Chapter 10

8. Why didn't Annabeth like her dad? Chapter 13

9. Why couldn't Luke bring Chiron to the telecast Percy was having with Luke? Ch. 15

10. What did Grover, Percy, and Annabeth find in the back of the truck? Chapter 16

Key Questions Answer Key

Answer in complete sentences. Name _____

1. Who was Percy Jackson? Chapter 1
 - a. **He was a half-blood, a demigod.**
 - b. **He was 12 years old.**
 - c. **He was a boarding school student at Yancy Academy for troubled youths.**
 - d. **He was a troubled youth according to his school records.**

2. Who was Grover? Chapters 1, 2 and 3
 - a. **Percy knew him as a scrawny, crippled kid at the Yancy Academy.**
 - b. **He was picked on and tormented quite often at school.**
 - c. **On the bus he told Percy that he was with Percy to protect him.**
 - d. **He turned out to be a satyr, part goat with shaggy hindquarters and cloven hooves.**

3. Who was Annabeth? Chapter 7
 - a. **She was a year-round camper of Camp Half-Blood.**
 - b. **She had her heart set on going on a quest.**

4. Who are the three most important and powerful gods? Chapter 8
 - a. **Zeus was the god of the heavens and controlled thunderstorms and sky.**
 - b. **Poseidon was the god of the sea and controlled all aspects of water.**
 - c. **Hades was the god of the Underworld and controlled things like earthquakes.**

5. What symbol appeared in the sky after Percy took down a black hound? Why? Ch. 8

A hologram of green light appeared in the sky. It was a three-tipped spear, a trident. It was the symbol of Poseidon. It meant that Poseidon was Percy's father. It meant that Poseidon was proud of Percy.

6. What did the Oracle predict? Chapter 9

- a. Percy would go west, find, and return the stolen object.**
- b. He would be betrayed by a friend.**
- c. He would save what matters most.**

7. What did Annabeth give Percy on the bus to help him escape? Chapter 10

Annabeth gave Percy her magic baseball cap which was a gift given to her by Athena, her mom. It made a person who wore it invisible.

8. Why didn't Annabeth like her dad? Chapter 13

She felt that her dad didn't care for her. Her stepmother blamed Annabeth for everything. She ran away from home at age seven.

9. Why couldn't Luke bring Chiron to the telecast Percy was having with Luke? Ch. 15

Luke told Percy that Chiron was busy breaking up a fight. The campers were taking sides between Zeus and Poseidon.

10. What did Grover, Percy, and Annabeth find in the back of the truck? Chapter 16

They found three very old and broken down animals: a zebra, a male albino lion, and a weird antelope.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ **Meaning:** _____

2. _____ **Meaning:** _____

3. _____ **Meaning:** _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

