

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS

Lexile 700L

Percy Jackson and the Olympians is a series of **bestselling** books by Rick Riordan. Books that are bestselling are purchased by many readers. The Percy Jackson books are mainly written for young readers.

The books tell the story of Percy, a boy who has many adventures. Percy's adventures are based on **myths**. These are made-up stories that try to explain the world. Many myths are about heroes, gods, and monsters.

Riordan has written five Percy Jackson books. He has also written other books about myths and adventures. Riordan's books have sold millions of copies. Readers around the world enjoy them. Two Percy Jackson books have been made into movies.

Background

Rick Riordan was a teacher. He loved teaching about myths. Some of his favorite myths were from **ancient**, or long ago, times. Some myths were about gods and monsters. Others were about heroes' exciting adventures.

Riordan's son, Haley, enjoyed hearing myths as bedtime stories. Riordan told Haley all the myths he knew. Then Haley asked him to make up new myths. Riordan made up new stories about myths that take place in the real world.

Riordan used many **characters** from ancient myths. Characters are people in a story. He also made up new characters. The most important character was Percy Jackson. Percy was a twelve-year-old student who had many adventures. Riordan wanted Percy to be like Haley.

Percy had ADHD and dyslexia. These are disorders that affect how people think and act. Percy was different from other students in a good way. He had a lot of energy and could think in ways that other kids could not.

The Percy Jackson Story

The five Percy Jackson books are *The Lightning Thief*, *The Sea of Monsters*, *The Titan's Curse*, *The Battle of the Labyrinth*, and *The Last Olympian*. Each book has its own adventures. But they all work together to show Percy grow up and do great things.

In these books, Percy is a **demigod**, or a person who is part god. He and other demigod children must attend a special camp, Camp Half-Blood. There, the children learn how to use their special powers.

Periodicals

Riordan, Rick and Minion Potter. "Rick Riordan: 'I've Loved Mythology Since I Was a Child.'" *The Guardian*, 4 Oct. 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/oct/04/rick-riordan-magnus-chase-interview-percy-jackson>. Accessed 20 April 2017. This article is an interview with Riordan in which he explains some of his motivations, preferences, and writing techniques.

Williams, Sally. "Percy Jackson: My Boy's Own Adventure." *The Guardian*, 8 Feb. 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/feb/08/percy-jackson-rick-riordan>. This article discusses the unusual character of Percy Jackson and the messages it may send to young readers.

Websites

"Percy Jackson and the Olympians." *Disney*, readriordan.com/series/percy-jackson-and-the-olympians/. Accessed 20 April 2017. This website lists and describes the books of the Percy Jackson series, follow-up books, and the characters in the stories.

"Percy Jackson and the Olympians." *Rick Riordan Website*, rickriordan.com/series/percy-jackson-and-the-olympians/. Accessed 20 April 2017. This guide on the author's official website summarizes each book in the Percy Jackson series.

"Rick Riordan." *Scholastic*, 2017, <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/rick-riordan/>. Accessed 20 April 2017. This webpage includes a description of Riordan's work and facts about his personal and professional life.

■ By Mark Dziak

Mark Dziak is a writer of fiction and nonfiction who has produced educational testing and reference materials since 2004.

COMPREHENSION TEST

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who stays at Camp Half-Blood?
 - A. human students
 - B. missing gods
 - C. evil Titans
 - D. demigod children
 2. When was the first Percy Jackson book published?
 - A. 2005
 - B. 2009
 - C. 2010
 - D. 2013
 3. In which book does Percy visit a maze?
 - A. *The Sea of Monsters*
 - B. *The Titan's Curse*
 - C. *The Battle of the Labyrinth*
 - D. *The Last Olympian*
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Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. A person who is part god may be called a _____.
5. Using a _____ may hurt or kill other people.
6. Another word for an adventure is a _____.

COMPREHENSION TEST ANSWERS

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who stays at Camp Half-Blood?

A. human students

B. missing gods

C. evil Titans

D. demigod children

2. When was the first Percy Jackson book published?

A. 2005

B. 2009

C. 2010

D. 2013

3. In which book does Percy visit a maze under the ground?

A. *The Sea of Monsters*

B. *The Titan's Curse*

C. *The Battle of the Labyrinth*

D. *The Last Olympian*

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. A person who is part god may be called a demigod.

5. Using a weapon may hurt or kill other people.

6. Another word for an adventure is a quest.