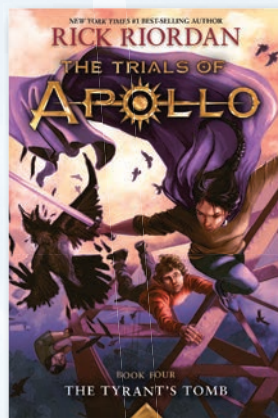
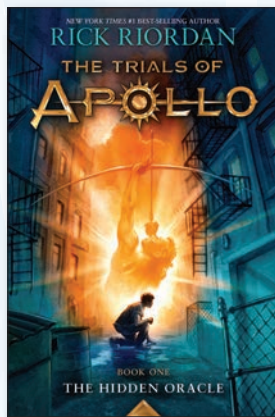


RICK RIORDAN

THE TRIALS OF APOLLO



This guide is aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards for Literature, Writing, Language, and Speaking and Listening. The broad CCR standards are the foundation for the grade level-specific Common Core State Standards.

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION

ABOUT THE BOOKS

THE HIDDEN ORACLE

The Trials of Apollo, Book One

How do you punish an immortal? By making him human.

After angering his father, Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy. Now without his godly powers, the four-thousand-year-old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favor.

But Apollo has many enemies—gods, monsters, and mortals who would love to see the former Olympian permanently destroyed. Apollo needs help, and he can think of only one place to go . . . an enclave of modern demigods known as Camp Half-Blood.



THE DARK PROPHECY

The Trials of Apollo, Book Two

Zeus has punished his son Apollo—god of the sun, music, archery, poetry, and more—by casting him down to earth in the form of a gawky, acne-covered sixteen-year-old mortal named Lester. The only way Apollo can reclaim his rightful place on Mount Olympus is by restoring several Oracles that have gone dark. What is affecting the Oracles, and how can Apollo/Lester do anything about them without his powers?

After experiencing a series of dangerous—and, frankly, humiliating—trials at Camp Half-Blood, Lester must now leave the relative safety of the demigod training ground and embark on a hair-raising journey across North America. Somewhere in the American Midwest, he and his companions must find the most dangerous Oracle from ancient times: a haunted cave that may hold answers for Apollo in his quest to become a god again—if it doesn't kill him or drive him insane first. Standing in Apollo's way is the second member of the evil Triumvirate, a Roman emperor whose love of bloodshed and spectacle makes even Nero look tame. To survive the encounter, Apollo will need the help of son of Hephaestus Leo Valdez, the now-mortal sorceress Calypso, the bronze dragon Festus, and other unexpected allies—some familiar, some new—from the world of demigods. Come along for what promises to be a harrowing, hilarious, and haiku-filled ride. . . .



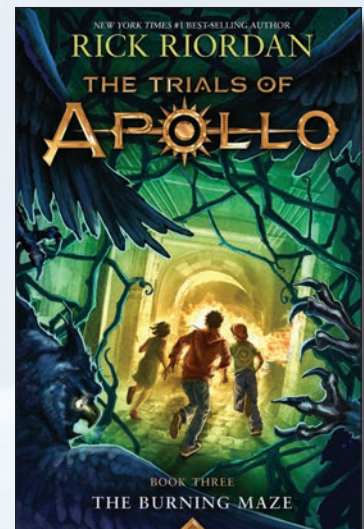
THE BURNING MAZE

The Trials of Apollo, Book Three

With the help of some demigod friends, Lester managed to survive his first two trials: one at Camp Half-Blood and one in Indianapolis, where Meg received the Dark Prophecy. The words she uttered while seated on the Throne of Memory revealed that an evil triumvirate of Roman emperors plans to attack Camp Jupiter.

While Leo flies ahead on Festus to warn the Roman camp, Lester and Meg must go through the Labyrinth to find the third emperor—and an Oracle who speaks in word puzzles—somewhere in the American Southwest.

There is one glimmer of hope in the gloom-filled prophecy: *The cloven guide alone the way does know*. They will have a satyr companion, and Meg knows just whom to call upon. . . .

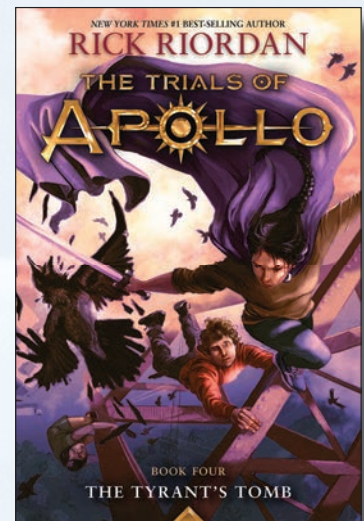


THE TYRANT'S TOMB

The Trials of Apollo, Book Four

It's not easy being Apollo, especially when you've been turned into a human and banished from Olympus. On his path to restoring five ancient Oracles and reclaiming his godly powers, Apollo (aka Lester Papadopoulos) has faced both triumphs and tragedies. Now his journey takes him to Camp Jupiter in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the Roman demigods are preparing for a desperate last stand against the evil Triumvirate of Roman emperors.

Hazel, Reyna, Frank, Tyson, Ella, and many other old friends will need Apollo's aid to survive the onslaught. Unfortunately, the answer to their salvation lies in the forgotten tomb of a Roman ruler—someone even worse than the emperors Apollo has already faced.

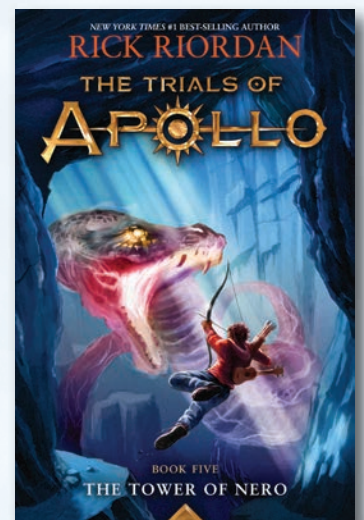


THE TOWER OF NERO

The Trials of Apollo, Book Five

Will the Greek god Apollo, cast down to earth in the pathetic mortal form of a teenager named Lester Papadopoulos, finally regain his place on Mount Olympus?

Lester's demigod friends at Camp Jupiter just helped him survive attacks from bloodthirsty ghouls, an evil Roman king and his army of the undead, and the lethal emperors Caligula and Commodus. Now the former god and his demigod master, Meg, must follow a prophecy uncovered by Ella the harpy. Lester's final challenge will be at the Tower of Nero, back in New York. Will Meg have a last showdown with her father? Will this helpless form of Apollo have to face his archnemesis, Python? Who will be on hand at Camp Half-Blood to assist? These questions and more will be answered in this book that all demigods are eagerly awaiting.



EXPLORING THE TRIALS OF APOLLO THROUGH DISCUSSION AND WRITING

The following questions may be used throughout the study of the Trials of Apollo series as targeted questions for class discussion and reflection. Alternatively these questions can be used as reflective writing prompts.

The Hidden Oracle Questions

- 1 As the novel begins, Apollo states, “My name is Apollo. I used to be a god.” By opening the novel this way, what does Apollo help the reader understand? Based on your background knowledge about his character, what do you predict has happened to cause Apollo to lose his godly status?
- 2 Consider the things Apollo credits himself for. Which did you find most interesting or amusing?
- 3 Apollo asks, “Is anything sadder than the sound of a god hitting a pile of garbage bags?” How does this question capture his bewilderment at being punished by his father, Zeus?



- 4 Apollo thinks, “Zeus needed someone to blame, so of course he’d picked the handsomest, most talented, most popular god in the pantheon: me.” In what ways does his statement fully capture Apollo’s sense of self at the novel’s beginning? In what ways does having to become Lester Papadopoulos overwhelm him? Do you predict the experience will be a worthwhile one?
- 5 How is this, Apollo’s third punishment of being made mortal, differ from his previous experiences?
- 6 How does Apollo ascertain that his mugging in the alley is the work of a god? Why might this be important?
- 7 Describe the meeting of Apollo and Meg. How does their initial interaction set the stage for their relationship? In what ways does their relationship change throughout the course of the series?
- 8 After Apollo accuses Meg of enslaving him, she counters by saying, “It’s more like mutual cooperation.” Do you agree with her assessment of their relationship? Why or why not?
- 9 Though they’ve had a tumultuous relationship in the past, Apollo chooses to go to Percy Jackson for help. Why do you think he does? Is his choice a wise one? If so, in what ways?
- 10 When Meg remains vague about her family, Apollo thinks, “My highly advanced people-reading skills told me she was hiding something, but that was not unusual for demigods. For children blessed with an immortal parent, they were strangely sensitive about their backgrounds.” What are possible other reasons for Meg to be evasive?
- 11 Apollo calls Meg a “feral demigod.” In your opinion, is this a fitting description of her? Using textual evidence, support your position.
- 12 Upon their meeting, Will Solace tells Apollo that “Meg seems cool. She’s already poked Conner Stoll in the eyes and kicked Sherman Yang in the crotch.” Why does Will believe that Meg will “get along just fine here”? Do you agree?
- 13 Why does meeting each other feel so odd for Apollo and Will Solace? How does Will react to discovering that his father has been punished by Zeus and now is a teen boy named Lester?
- 14 In your opinion, what are the greatest lessons Apollo learns from his time at Camp Half-Blood? Do you believe this experience has changed him in any way? If so, how?
- 15 In what ways is the Grove of Dodona so important? To what lengths will Apollo and the demigods go to protect it?
- 16 Consider Apollo’s response to learning of Meg’s relationship with Nero. Do you think it’s appropriate? Why or why not?

The Dark Prophecy Questions

- 1 The first chapter of *The Dark Prophecy* begins with a haiku:

Lester (Apollo)

Still human; thanks for asking

Gods, I hate my life

How does this opening set the tone for Apollo's state of mind? What makes being a mortal so difficult for him? What do you believe are the greatest lessons he will learn from this experience?

- 2 Consider the quest Leo, Cal, and Apollo have embarked upon. What do you believe will be the biggest challenges faced by the trio?
- 3 Apollo tells Calypso, "Well, excuse me, sorceress! Perhaps if *you* had helpful visions, I'd listen to you more often!" What does the banter between the two of them indicate about their relationship?
- 4 Think about the order Apollo heard Nero give Meg: *Go west. Capture Apollo before he can find the next Oracle. If you cannot bring him to me alive, kill him.* How does his relationship with Meg complicate matters?
- 5 Consider the past relationship of Apollo and Hemithea (Emmie). Do you feel Apollo is justified in feeling uneasy? In what ways are Emmie and Josephine helpful hosts at the Waystation? How do they show their support?
- 6 In your opinion, does the relationship between Leo and Cal change over the course of *The Dark Prophecy*? If so, in what ways?
- 7 Consider the Waystation. What makes it so important to demigods, monsters, and Hunters of Artemis? Why is Commodus determined to destroy it?
- 8 The importance of preserving and protecting the Oracles is a significant part of the Trials of Apollo series. Given what you've learned in *The Dark Prophecy*, why are the Oracles so important? What are the consequences of not protecting them?



Meg

- 9 Apollo states, “Commodus blames me for his death. . . . Probably because I killed him.” In regard to his understanding of this world, what is the best way to describe Apollo/Lester?
- 10 Using the phrase, “This is a story about . . .,” supply five words to describe *The Dark Prophecy*. Explain your choices.
- 11 The characters in *The Dark Prophecy* exhibit a variety of strengths. Who most impresses you with their skills/gifts? Explain your choice.
- 12 Commodus tells Apollo, “You’re damp and speckled with bat poop, Lester. You’re a pathetic child who has been dragged through the darkness. That darkness is still in your mind. I see the fear in your eyes. This *is* your true form, Apollo! You’re a fraud!” What is the significance of Commodus calling Apollo by his godly name? What does Apollo’s blasting the room with radiance likely mean?
- 13 Consider the discovery of Grover Underwood at the conclusion of *The Dark Prophecy*. What do you predict will be the adventures and obstacles in store for the characters in *The Burning Maze*, the next installment of the Trials of Apollo?

The Burning Maze Questions

- 1 As the novel opens, Apollo/Lester declares, “NO. I refuse to share this part of my story. It was the lowest, most humiliating, most awful week in my four-thousand-plus years of life. Tragedy. Disaster. Heartbreak. I will not tell you about it.” Though he seems quite insistent that he will not share his story, Apollo does so anyway. What does this indicate about his personality? Based on his description of his week, do you believe it to be as awful as he implies?
- 2 While speaking of Grover, Apollo states, “Like me, he had quickly come to fear Meg’s displeasure.” What is it about Meg that causes Apollo and Grover to feel this way? Do you see this as an overreaction? Why or why not?
- 3 Why does Apollo feel that Zeus “expects” him to tell us the story as part of his punishment? Do you think that’s actually the case? What does Zeus have to gain by having Apollo record his shame?
- 4 Apollo tells Meg, “The satyr is supposed to be our guide. We don’t have much choice but to trust him.” Based on his reputation and prior experiences, do you believe Grover has proven himself worthy of their trust and respect? Explain your position.
- 5 For Grover, why does knowing Meg is a daughter of Demeter intimidate him? Why do you think he finds Apollo less threatening than her?
- 6 Apollo shares with readers that he has grown weaker and more defenseless each day. Predict what this, coupled with waking visions that sometimes paralyze him, means. Why do you think he is unwilling to share this information with others? Why is he so afraid that the more time he spends as a human, the more likely it is that it will have a long-term effect on him?

- 7 Of the three emperors they encounter (Nero, Commodus, and Caligula), which do you believe to be the most problematic for Apollo and Meg?
- 8 While describing the strixes, Apollo tells Meg, “They are birds of ill omen. When they show up, bad things happen.” Why does their appearance concern Apollo so much?
- 9 In your opinion, is the Arrow of Dodona useful to the trio? Explain your position.
- 10 Why does learning that Grover’s scream summons Panic surprise Apollo so much? Can you think of any ways this ability might be useful to the future of this quest?
- 11 While reminiscing about the Erythraean Sibyl known as Herophile, “friend of heroes,” Apollo remembers her strong voice and recalls her, as a young woman, “wandering the Mediterranean to share her wisdom” with “too much good advice to share.” What might be the biggest struggles for Herophile as she wandered the earth for hundreds of years sharing predictions and prophecies with mankind? In regard to Caligula, why does Apollo fear for her?
- 12 Why do you believe Triumvirate Holdings targets Piper and her father? What do they have to gain from doing so?
- 13 When describing her complicated relationship with Jason, Piper states, “You thought what? That we’d be together forever like Percy and Annabeth? Things change. People change.” From what you learn from Piper, what makes the relationship between Piper and Jason one that’s particularly difficult to maintain? How does learning Jason’s true motivation change things?
- 14 Why is Apollo so frustrated to learn the mystery behind how Piper acquired Helen of Troy’s dagger? Do you believe Piper is deserving of such an important and historical weapon? Why or why not?
- 15 What are some of Piper’s specific qualities that Apollo admires? Do you agree with his assessment of her? Why or why not?
- 16 Why is Meg’s planting of the seeds that her father had ultimately planned to reincarnate the Meliai with so important to the quest’s overall success?
- 17 Describe Jason’s sacrifice; what makes it important and in what ways does it help Apollo become his best self? How are Leo and Piper affected by this traumatic event?
- 18 Though Camp Jupiter has won its battle, it has done so with heavy casualties. Considering this and the ending of *The Burning Maze*, predict what’s to come for Apollo and the others in *The Tyrant’s Tomb*.

The Tyrant's Tomb Questions

- 1 At the opening chapter of *The Tyrant's Tomb*, Apollo tells readers, "I believe in returning dead bodies. It seems like a simple courtesy, doesn't it?" Why is it so important to Apollo to bring the body of Jason Grace back to Camp Jupiter? Considering the obstacles he and Meg face in doing so, what can be understood about Apollo from his actions?
- 2 While traveling through San Francisco, Apollo reflects on some prior musical experiences he had with some of the area's most well-known musicians throughout the decades. Given what we know about Apollo, why is this an important detail?
- 3 Though Medea has been killed, the Burning Maze has been extinguished, and the Erythraean Sibyl has been freed, what are the most pressing dangers still facing Camp Jupiter? What strategies do the demigods need to utilize to protect it?
- 4 Beyond defeating the Triumvirate, in your opinion, what makes Python such a dangerous adversary to Apollo? What do you believe to be the best strategy for Apollo's ultimate success?
- 5 After Apollo not-so-assuredly tells Meg he knows how to get them to Camp Jupiter, she playfully tells him, "You're the dumbest god ever." What does the banter between the two of them indicate? In your opinion, what are the ways the relationship between the two of them has changed throughout their quest?
- 6 Consider the role Lavinia plays in *The Tyrant's Tomb*. In what ways is she integral to the success of the mission?
- 7 Apollo tells readers, "One of the many annoying things about being incarcerated in my puny mortal body: I was Meg McCaffrey's servant. I was bound to obey her direct commands." What are the most obvious disadvantages to this requirement? Can you think of any ways in which this servitude ultimately benefits Apollo?



- 8 In your opinion, why does Apollo wait to share about his injury from the eurynomos scratch? What do you think he gains by keeping this secret? Ultimately, what are the ways in which it's better for him that others know?
- 9 The eurynomos tells Hazel Levesque, "You of all people should understand the fragile boundary between life and death." Though it is monstrous, in what ways is its statement accurate? How have Hazel's past experiences allowed her to have a unique perspective between these worlds?
- 10 Speaking to his coffin, Hazel tells Jason's body, "I'm so angry at you. Doing this to Piper. To us. Not letting us be there for you. What were you thinking?" What do you believe she means by this statement? Though it's typically regarded as a strength, in what ways can independence be a shortcoming?
- 11 In what ways is Venus's warning to Apollo to stay away from Reyna significant? Can you think of ways it's beneficial for him not to heed her warning?
- 12 In what ways does Apollo's song "The Fall of Jason Grace" also signify the growth of Apollo as a character? What are some of the specific changes you've witnessed through his journey in the Trials of Apollo, but specifically in *The Tyrant's Tomb*?
- 13 After learning more about Jason's hopes for Camp Jupiter, Frank states, "We'll realize Jason's dream . . . Everything he envisioned. We'll build it all in one weekend." Why do you believe the Camp Jupiter legionnaires commit to this incredibly ambitious undertaking? Besides honoring Jason's legacy, what else does rebuilding Temple Hill offer this Roman camp?
- 14 Considering what you've learned in the novel, why are the Sibylline Books so critical to the overall outcome of each side of this war?
- 15 Why is Frank's life force being connected to a piece of wood a topic generally avoided by everyone? As *The Tyrant's Tomb* unfolds, in what ways does this connection play an unexpected role?
- 16 Apollo shares that he plans on keeping his promise that when he returns to his godly form and has all his powers, he will remember what it's like to be human. Given what you've witnessed in *The Tyrant's Tomb*, do you think he's capable of doing so? Explain your answer.
- 17 When Apollo and Harpocrates finally meet again, and knowing he deserves his wrath, Apollo thinks, "Do what you want with me. Just spare my friends. Please." Does knowing that Apollo bullied Harpocrates in the past make you more sympathetic to his need to punish Apollo in return? Why is the imprisonment of Harpocrates so problematic? In what ways are the emperors using him as a weapon against the Roman camp and demigods?
- 18 Given the ending of the battle, what outcomes surprised you most and why? Were there any particular characters that you felt really stepped up to serve and sacrifice? What are your predictions for the final book in the Trials of Apollo series?

Correlates to Common Core Standards: Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration SL. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3.



The Tower of Nero Questions

- 1 As the novel opens, Apollo notes the changes in Meg. He shares that “with her pageboy haircut beginning to grow out and an angry red zit erupting on her chin, she no longer looked like a kindergartener. She looked almost her age: a sixth grader entering the circle of hell known as puberty.” Does this seem like a fair assessment of Meg? Do you think puberty is universally hard on everyone? If so, in what ways?
- 2 Apollo states, “After six months in this miserable mortal body, I was approaching my endgame. Meg and I had blundered our way across the United States and back again. We’d freed ancient Oracles, defeated legions of monsters, and suffered the untold horrors of the American public transportation system. . . . [W]e had triumphed over two of the Triumvirate’s evil emperors, Commodus and Caligula, at Camp Jupiter. But the worst was yet to come.” Do you think he is right to feel this way? What do you predict is in store for Meg and Apollo?
- 3 When Meg detaches herself from Luguselwa’s side to tell her that Nero will think she’s dead and she should stay with them, Lu smiles and tells Meg, “No, Sapling. I’ll have to go back.” Think about the nickname Lu has for Meg. What does this help readers understand about the relationship between Meg and Lu?
- 4 Describe Luguselwa (Lu). Though Apollo is slow to trust her, why does he change his mind? How does she prove herself to be faithful to both Meg and him?

- 5 After seeking help from the Arrow of Dodona, it tells Apollo, *THE EMPEROR'S WHATNOT IS FORMIDABLE INDEED. . . . BUT THOU ALREADY KNOWEST THE ANSWER TO THY QUESTION, O LESTER. SEEKEST THOU THE PLACE OF THE SEVEN-LAYER DIP*. Why do you believe the Arrow sends Apollo, Meg, and Lu to the home of Percy Jackson? What are the benefits to seeking the help of Percy and his family? What are the risks in doing so?
- 6 Sally tells Apollo, Meg, and Lester, “*Anyone* who needs help is always welcome. Believe me, we’ve been in danger before, and we’ve come through it.” Consider Sally’s statement. What are some examples of times when Sally or her family have been in danger?
- 7 Despite his very vocal complaints to the contrary, why does Apollo suddenly feel saddened about the possibility of no longer being Lester Papadopoulos?
- 8 Meg tells Apollo, “Come back to me. . . . That’s an order.” Consider this final command of Meg’s to Lester/Apollo. How is it reflective of the complexities of their relationship? How has each of them changed?
- 9 Python is described as follows: “The monster himself, roughly the size of a dozen jackknifed cargo trucks, took up the back quarter of the cavern. His body was a mountain of reptilian coils, rippling with muscle, but he was more than simply a big snake. Python shifted and changed as it suited him—sprouting clawed feet, or vestigial bat wings, or extra hissing heads along the side of his body, all of which withered and dropped off as rapidly as they formed.” What makes him the ultimate foe for Apollo?
- 10 Chiron states, “We all have a duty to rescue each other.” In regard to the larger context of humanity, what does Chiron mean? How could this apply to you?
- 11 Toward the end of the novel, Chiron mentions attending meetings dealing with problems in other pantheons. Might this be a hint of new worlds to be explored?
- 12 Right before he attacks Python, Apollo thinks, “This was for Meg. This was for Jason. This was for everyone who had fought and sacrificed to drag my sorry mortal butt from quest to quest for the last six months, just to get me this chance at redemption.” What does this reaction by Apollo really indicate to readers?
- 13 Python tells Apollo, “YOU ARE NO GOD!” Why does Python understate Apollo? What are the dangers in doing so to an enemy?
- 14 When Apollo finally returns to Mount Olympus, while everything is the same, it feels vastly different to him. Why do you believe that to be so?
- 15 As *The Tower of Nero* closes, the trials and tribulations experienced by Apollo are vast; in what ways do you anticipate Apollo being a different kind of god moving forward?

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCHING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Before starting each book, have students complete an anticipation guide structured in the following manner:

BEFORE READING	AFTER READING	STATEMENTS
		It is best to trust in the wisdom of those older or more experienced than you.
		If you know yourself well enough, you cannot be influenced by others.
		No matter the situation, you should always trust your family.
		There are consequences for every action an individual takes.

Instruct students to complete the guide by placing a “+” sign in the box next to the statements they agree with, and a “0” next to those they disagree with. They must commit to agreement or disagreement—there can be no conditional responses. Reassure students that there are no correct or incorrect positions.

Once all students have had the opportunity to complete the anticipation guide, have them consider and discuss their positions on these statements. They should provide rationale for their conclusions.



LANGUAGE ARTS

YOU, TOO, CAN HAIKU!

In the Trials of Apollo series, each chapter is introduced with a clever haiku reflecting the events of the chapter. A haiku is a Japanese poem divided into three lines of five, seven, and five syllables. Sometimes it evokes images of the natural world.

The Hidden Oracle, Chapter 1

*Hoodlums punch my face
I would smite them if I could
Mortality blows*

The Dark Prophecy, Chapter 1

*Lester (Apollo)
Still human; thanks for asking
Gods, I hate my life*

The Burning Maze, Chapter 1

*Once was Apollo
Now a rat in the Lab'rinth
Send help. And cronuts*

The Tyrant's Tomb, Chapter 1

*There is no food here
Meg ate all the Swedish Fish
Please get off my hearse*

The Tower of Nero, Chapter 1

*Two-headed snake dude
Jamming up my quiet ride.
Also, Meg's shoes stink.*

Like Apollo, you, too, can write haiku. Select a favorite character or favorite scene from the Trials of Apollo series and create your original haiku. It should offer an overview of that event or capture the spirit of your selected character.

Remember, haiku has a structure, but beyond that, have fun playing with words!

5 syllables _____

7 syllables _____

5 syllables _____



CONSIDERING CHARACTER

CREATE AN “I AM” POEM

The purpose of this strategy is to help students demonstrate knowledge of a character from the Trials of Apollo books by following written prompts to complete a poem about the individual. They should structure their poems as follows:

FIRST STANZA:

I am (name the character)
I wonder (something the character is actually curious about)
I hear (a sound the character might hear)
I see (a sight the character might see)
I want (something the character truly desires)

SECOND STANZA:

I pretend (something the character actually pretends to do)
I feel (a feeling the character might feel)
I touch (something the character might touch)
I worry (something that really bothers the character)
I cry (something that makes the character very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

THIRD STANZA:

I understand (something the character knows is true)
I say (something the character believes in)
I dream (something the character might actually dream about)
I try (something the character really makes an effort to do)
I hope (something the character actually hopes for)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

USING THE TRIALS OF APOLLO FOR LANGUAGE DISCOVERY

Greek and Roman mythology's influence is evident in our daily language. It's difficult to imagine reading or writing without drawing upon myth-oriented adjectives or idioms. As part of your everyday curriculum or a separate word-study unit, ask your students to research the histories of words that come from the Greek and Roman myths. For instance, ask them what it means to have an "Achilles heel." To provide clarity, share the myth with them or allow them to research Achilles's story. Next, ask them to speculate on the meaning of the following modern-day expressions:

- Labyrinth
- Atlas
- Herculean effort
- Midas touch
- Panic
- Tantalize
- Titanic

Pair students up and ask them to find as many Greek or Roman myth language connections as they can. To extend the activity, have students use the collected words as a bank to create their own myth.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

All the characters in the Trials of Apollo series mature and grow over the course of the novels. Ask students to decide, based on their observations, which character they believe demonstrates the greatest growth. Have each student compose a short persuasive essay offering his or her position on this issue. While considering the selected character's experiences, they should use textual evidence to provide specific examples supporting their case.



Peaches

ESSENTIAL QUOTES ANALYSIS

Instructions for students: Reflect on some of the book’s salient ideas—points the author seems to be making that might get at the heart of the book’s intended meaning for readers. Select four quotes from the Trials of Apollo series that seem to signify main ideas or “life lessons” he is trying to express to readers. The quotes might be from the characters’ dialogue or could be part of the narration. When selecting your top four “essential quotes,” look for examples that have relevance to your own and others’ lives, as though the author is speaking directly to you through the novels. (Remember to include page numbers.) Next, explain why each quote seems to be so significant. How does it contribute to the book’s “message” or deeper meaning? What meaning does it have beyond the characters and situations of the book—what is its universal application to readers’ lives?

Essential Quotes from The Trials of Apollo

QUOTE	BOOK # PAGE #	RELEVANCE IN NOVEL	MESSAGE TO READERS (UNIVERSAL APPLICATION)

Correlates to Common Core Standards for Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. RL. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3; Integration of Knowledge and Ideas C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. RL. 4.7, 4.9, 5.7, 5.9, 6.7, 6.9; Writing: Production and Distribution W. 4.4, 5.4, 6.4.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

In the Trials of Apollo books, the complexities of the Greek and Roman deities, their relationships, and the situations in which they find themselves provide students the opportunity to dig deep into the Greek and Roman myths. Have them examine and answer one of the following prompts:

- 1 As Triumvirate Holdings leaders, Emperors Nero, Commodus, and Caligula play significant roles in the Trials of Apollo series. Select one of these infamous Roman emperors and, using library and internet resources, investigate your selected individual to learn more about his role in history. Be sure to include the following:

- Dates of birth and death
- Family's rise to power
- Years as emperor
- Achievements

Share what you've learned with your classmates.

- 2 Ancient Greece and ancient Rome are two of the most fascinating civilizations in world history. The lifestyle, architecture, and language were all reflections of the power of the Greeks and Romans and the tremendous influence of the gods they worshipped. In order to better understand references to these historical periods in the Trials of Apollo series, you should examine the period itself and the daily life of the ancient Greeks and ancient Romans. According to your interest, select one of the following aspects to research.

- Political and economic activity
- Daily life
- Culture
- Religion, funerals, and the afterlife
- Intellectual achievements

Using the digital tool of your choice, create a digital poster showcasing what you've learned. Once it's completed, display and share the unique features of your poster with your class or online.



- 3 Part of the legacy of ancient Greece and ancient Rome is the monuments these civilizations erected. Choose one of the great monuments (the Parthenon, the Acropolis, or the Colosseum, for example) and research the conservation efforts being made to preserve it. Consider the following:
- What is the current structural condition of your chosen monument?
 - What specific conservation efforts are being made or have been made in recent history?
 - Who are the invested parties in these endeavors and what is the prognosis of these efforts?
- Using Smore or another digital presentation tool, share your findings with the class.
- 4 The creatures that colored the mythology of ancient Greece and ancient Rome were fearsome and fascinating beasts, and many appear in the Trials of Apollo series. Using library and internet resources, select a specific creature featured in the books and conduct research to share with your peers.
- 5 Consider the gods and goddesses featured in the Trials of Apollo books. What are common characteristics of these deities? In what ways are their personalities and the challenges they face similar to those of people today? Using what you learned, decide which of the gods or goddesses you are most like. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting yourself with the Greek or Roman god or goddess of your choice.
- 6 In small groups, select a favorite scene from the Trials of Apollo series and create a graphic novel for that scene. You can draw illustrations manually or use a digital comic strip creator (<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix> or <http://infinitecomic.com>, for example) to create a storyboard for your group's selected scene. Alternatively, have each member of your group assume the role of one of the characters (keeping in mind each one's personality and voice) and interact with one another in an extension of a scene from the book.
- 7 Though the stories of the major players in the Trials of Apollo books were created in ancient Greece and ancient Rome, if these characters lived in our time, they would likely use the same social media that is popular now. Select a Greek god or goddess and create a faux Facebook page for that character, being sure to complete all pertinent information, such as education, relationships, groups to follow, and pages to like. Also include two to three status updates.
- 8 Though Apollo says of cats that they are “self-centered, smug, and thought they owned the world” (much like him), he shares that “for Romans . . . cats were a symbol of freedom and independence.” Cats actually play a critical role in a number of world mythologies. Using the library and internet resources, learn more about mythological felines, being sure to discover the following:
- What are some of the other world mythologies where cats play an important role?
 - In what ways are felines believed to be godlike?
 - What responsibilities/roles do cats have in these myths?
 - Who are some of the most significant feline-related gods/goddesses?
- Upon completion of your research, share your findings with others.

9 The Sibyls/Oracles are an essential part of the adventure and the ultimate success of Apollo in the Trials of Apollo series. Using print and digital resources from the library, learn more about these women, making sure to learn:

- Who were the ancient Oracles?
- What are they most known for?
- How are each of them unique?
- How are the Oracles often depicted in art?

Taking what you've learned about each of the Sibyls in the series, draft a statement to the gods sharing your thoughts on their importance.

10 In *The Tyrant's Tomb*, as she departs, the Sibyl's voice tells Apollo, "I forgive you. Not because you deserve it. Not for your sake at all. But because I will not go into oblivion carrying hate when I can carry love." Do you believe this message she shares to be an important one? Select from the following extensions to make a case for your position:

- In a journal entry, answer one of the following prompts: Do you believe carrying love is more important than hate? Draft a persuasive essay making a case for your position on this question.
- Using a medium of your choice, create a piece of original art that reflects your position.
- Make a playlist that reflects your position on whether you agree with the Sibyl or not. After each song, provide a rationale for your selection.

11 In *The Tower of Nero*, after finally defeating Nero, Apollo realizes his final battle with Python is one that he must fight by himself, and though they have been almost inseparable for months as they worked together through countless challenges, Apollo tells Meg, "I must do this alone." Why is it essential for Apollo to do so? Would you want to do the same? In a timed writing, reflect on this challenge faced by Apollo and then answer the following: Think about your own life—why is it so essential to have the support of others? Who are the people you turn to when you need help? When was the last time you were really challenged? Did you have the support of others, or did you have to deal with the obstacle independently? How did you handle that experience, and what did you learn from it?

12 Consider Apollo's complicated journey of self-discovery and growth through the Trials of Apollo. Looking at each installment of the series, create a character growth chart for Apollo, focusing on the following analysis for each book:

- Using your own words, describe Apollo in this particular book.
- What were the biggest challenges faced by Apollo in this volume, and how does he handle each of them?
- What were (up to) three positive outcomes?
- In what ways was he negative?
- Consider what he says and thinks that supports your positions. Include selected quotes from Apollo that offer textual evidence.

These activities correlate to the following Common Core Standards: Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy RL. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Integration of Knowledge and Ideas C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy RL. 4.7, 4.9, 5.7, 5.9, 6.7, 6.9; Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge W. 5.4, 6.4, 7.4.

TRIALS OF APOLLO MEMORY MATCH

The Trials of Apollo books are filled with fascinating characters, creatures, places, and villains. Test your memory by matching the correct answer to the following questions.

1 God of the North Wind

2 The first primordial deity and the creator of the universe

3 A being with a human body and a dog's head

4 A beautiful naiad that she transformed into a laurel tree in order to escape Apollo

5 The paradise to which Greek heroes are sent when the gods grant them immortality

6 The god of silence

7 Mother of Artemis and Apollo

8 The Muse of comedy

9 The darkest pit in the Underworld and where monsters go when they are slain

10 The priestess of Apollo's prophecies; the name given to every Oracle of Delphi

WORD BANK

☐ Elysium

☐ Chaos

☐ Leto

☐ Cynocephalus

☐ Boreas

☐ Harpocrates

☐ Thalia

☐ Daphne

☐ Pythia

☐ Tartarus



1. BOREAS 2. CHAOS 3. CYNOCEPHALUS 4. DAPHNE 5. ELYSIUM
6. HARPOCRATES 7. LETO 8. THALIA 9. TARTARUS 10. PYTHIA

WHO SAID IT?

The Trials of Apollo books are filled with great one-liners. See how well you know the characters by identifying who spoke each of these lines.

- 1 _____ "You're gonna be like Aquaman? Get the fish to fight for you?"
- 2 _____ "I *hate* to study. I've been guaranteed admission with a full scholarship to New Rome University, but they're still requiring me to pass all my high school courses and score well on the SAT. Can you believe that? Not to mention I have to pass the DSTOMP."
- 3 _____ "I was thrilled that some of my old skill remained intact, but I imagined Chiron would be annoyed if I drove the entire music class into major depression."
- 4 _____ "I hate bugs."
- 5 _____ "Peaches. Where is that stupid diaper demon when we need him?"
- 6 _____ "That pretty much describes my entire life: *Because Poseidon*."
- 7 _____ "Does that mean the Ares cabin should stick Apollo's head in a toilet?"
- 8 _____ "When in doubt, I usually assumed the conversation was about me."
- 9 _____ "Suck it up. Winners don't complain."
- 10 _____ "You can do it, Dad. You're already good. *Very* good. You've just got to adjust your expectations. Be patient; be brave. You'll get better."
- 11 _____ "You call me a TELEMARKETER? We run a full-service PR firm!"
- 12 _____ "You cannot die here. You have work to do. You made an oath."
- 13 _____ "Showers are good. Perhaps not as good as bacon, but good."
- 14 _____ "Peace, Apollo. I don't want to bum you out, but we need to talk."
- 15 _____ "Nothing is more tragic than loving someone to the depths of your soul and knowing they cannot and will not ever love you back."
- 16 _____ "Zeus did not answer. He was probably too busy recording my humiliation to share on Snapchat."
- 17 _____ "Will you be my buddy?"
- 18 _____ "Things can turn out differently, Apollo. That's the nice thing about being human. We only have one life, but we can choose what kind of story it's going to be."
- 19 _____ "No. No more. You can't give up on Meg. You guys are bound together. Besides, she's one of the good guys."
- 20 _____ "Whoa, buddy! We've talked about this. No blowtorching public monuments!"



RHEA

KAYIA

DAPHNE



CONNOR

WILL

LEO



LAUREL

RACHEL



PETE

1. MEG
2. PERCY
3. APOLLO
4. MEG
5. APOLLO
6. PERCY
7. CONNOR
8. APOLLO
9. LAUREL
10. KAYIA
11. PETE
12. DAPHNE
13. APOLLO
14. RHEA
15. APOLLO
16. APOLLO
17. WILL
18. RACHEL
19. PERCY
20. LEO

APOLLO FACT OR FICTION?

Test your knowledge of the sun god by completing this Apollo trivia handout.

- 1 Apollo is the son of Leto and Zeus. He was born on the island of Delos.

FACT or FICTION

- 2 Apollo and Athena, his twin sister, share an aptitude for archery.

FACT or FICTION

- 3 Apollo taught men the art of medicine, so he is often referred to as “The Healer.”

FACT or FICTION

- 4 Apollo defended the oracle at Delphi against Hercules, who was angry at the priestess for having denied him a prophecy.

FACT or FICTION

- 5 The nine Muses were Apollo’s companions; they were goddesses known for inspiring art and music.

FACT or FICTION

- 6 The pine, used in Greece as a status symbol, was Apollo’s tree.

FACT or FICTION

- 7 Apollo is alternately referred to as the god of darkness and the god of deception.

FACT or FICTION

- 8 Apollo killed a serpent named Anaconda as a result of a contest; it was conquered by a single arrow.

FACT or FICTION

- 9 The shark and duck were the animals sacred to him.

FACT or FICTION

- 10 He had many love affairs with both mortals and goddesses.

FACT or FICTION

- 11 Apollo is credited with killing the Cyclops in retaliation for its having armed Zeus with the thunderbolt.

FACT or FICTION

1 FACT • 2 FICTION: Apollo’s twin sister is Artemis.
3 FACT • 4 FACT • 5 FACT • 6 FICTION: The laurel was Apollo’s tree.
7 FICTION: Apollo is alternately referred to as the god of light and the god of truth.
8 FICTION: Apollo killed Python with a single arrow.
9 FICTION: The dolphin and swan were the animals sacred to him.
10 FACT • 11 FACT



This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Brock holds a PhD in library science, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

Many more guides can be found on the Disney • Hyperion website at www.disneybooks.com.

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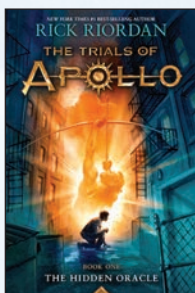
Rick Riordan (www.rickriordan.com) is the author of five *New York Times* #1 best-selling series with millions of copies sold throughout the world: *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, the *Kane Chronicles*, the *Heroes of Olympus*, the *Trials of Apollo*, and *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*. His collections of Greek myths, *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* and *Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes*, were *New York Times* #1 best sellers as well. His novels for adults include the hugely popular *Tres Navarre* series, winner of the top three awards in the mystery genre. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons.



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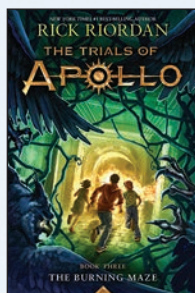
The Trials of Apollo



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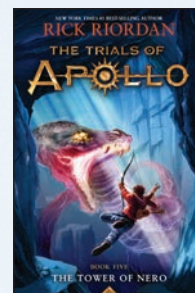
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