

PERCY JACKSON

AND THE OLYMPIANS

THE CHALICE OF THE GODS



BY NEW YORK TIMES #1 BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

RICK RIORDAN

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

HYPERION



Photo Credit: Becky Riordan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

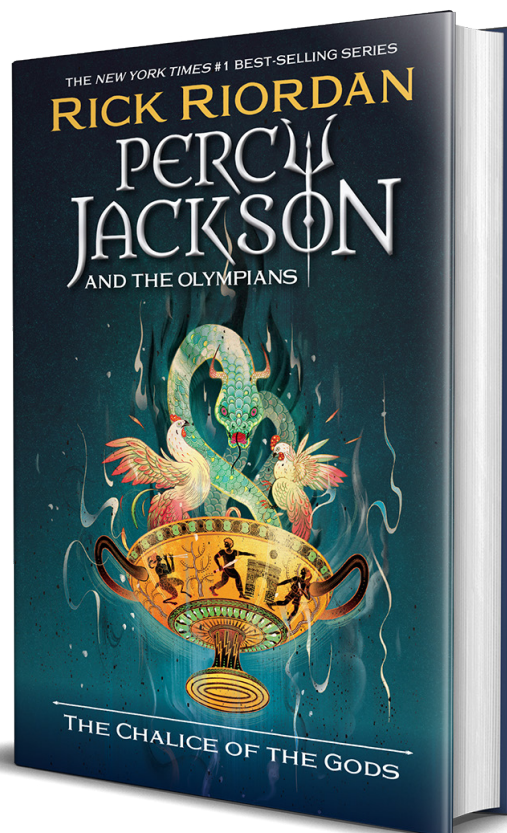
RICK RIORDAN (www.RickRiordan.com) is the author of three *New York Times* #1 best-selling series with millions of copies sold throughout the world: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, the Kane Chronicles, and the Heroes of Olympus. His Greek myth collection, *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods*, was a *New York Times* #1 best seller as well. His previous 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.

ABOUT THE CHALICE OF THE GODS

After saving the world multiple times, Percy Jackson is hoping to have a normal senior year. Unfortunately, the gods aren't quite done with him. Percy will have to fulfill three quests in order to get the necessary three letters of recommendation from Mount Olympus for college.

The first quest is to help Zeus's cupbearer retrieve his goblet before it falls into the wrong hands. Can Percy, Grover, and Annabeth find it in time?

Readers new to Percy Jackson (this book can be enjoyed as a stand-alone) and fans who have been awaiting this reunion for more than a decade will delight equally in this latest hilarious take on Greek mythology.



EXPLORING *THE CHALICE OF THE GODS* THROUGH DISCUSSION AND WRITING

The following questions may be utilized throughout the study of *The Chalice of the Gods* as targeted questions for class discussion and reflection or, alternatively, these questions can be used as reflective writing prompts.

- Percy tells readers, “Most of the time, being a demigod blows chunks. Anybody who tells you different is trying to recruit you for a quest.” Based on what you know from his past experiences, does it seem appropriate for Percy to feel this way? In what ways have the gods seemingly taken advantage of Percy, Annabeth, and Grover before?
- As the novel opens, Percy states, “Look, I didn’t want to be a high school senior. I was hoping my dad could write me a note.” Why do you believe Percy is so hesitant to embark on his senior year of high school? He goes on to share, “My textbooks were spilling out of my arms, and I had no idea where to find my third-period English class. Math and biology had already melted my brain. I wasn’t sure how I was going to make it to the end of the day.” Are there any ways in which Percy’s apprehensions and first-day experiences are similar to ones you’ve had as a student? If so, in what ways?
- In *The Chalice of the Gods*, readers are reminded that Percy has been “battling gods and monsters” and saving the world since he was twelve. While that has clearly been difficult, what do you think are the most valuable lessons he’s learned from those experiences? In what ways has it helped make him the person he is today?
- While offering more about his new alternative high school and need to finish successfully so that he can move forward with Annabeth, Percy shares that “the plan was that I’d graduate on time so we could go to college together. I didn’t want to disappoint her. The idea of her going off to California without me kept me up at night.” Why do you think it’s so important to Percy to not disappoint Annabeth? Why do you believe the idea of her attending New Rome University without him feels so upsetting to him?
- Though Percy has had some unbelievable experiences, a big task captured in *The Chalice of the Gods* is focused on him dealing with the college application process. What does witnessing Percy participating in this often stressful rite of passage help readers understand about him?



- Percy tells Eudora, “If *my father* really wants to help, maybe he should explain this to me himself, rather than sending you here to break the bad news.” Why does Percy seem so frustrated with Poseidon’s hands-off approach to parenting? Based on what you know about their relationship, do you believe Percy is overreacting? Why or why not?
- Percy shares, “You know you’ve been a demigod too long when you’re flushed out of your school straight into the Atlantic Ocean and you’re not even surprised.” Can you think of other unusual ways he’s been summoned to see his dad or any of the other Olympians?
- When visiting his father, Percy observes that “Poseidon always seemed to be gutting, renovating, or expanding. It helped that when it came to undersea building projects, he had pretty much infinite power and free labor.” What might be some reasons for Poseidon’s restlessness and need to constantly make changes and adjustments to his kingdom? Do you see this issue being a bigger challenge for the immortal gods in general? If so, in what ways?
- *The Chalice of the Gods* introduces readers to the god Ganymede, the cupbearer of the gods. What makes the loss (or theft) of his cup so problematic? Why is it significant that he chooses Percy for the task of recovering his cup? In what ways is Percy the perfect choice for this quest?
- While explaining demigods and their relationships to their godly parents, Percy offers, “It’s just hard for gods to be close to their mortal offspring. We demigods don’t live long compared to the gods.” Even given that reality, does it seem right for the gods to take a hands-off approach with their mortal children? Why or why not?
- While reflecting on his childhood and the need to send Percy away to boarding schools, Percy shares, “My mom did her best. Everything she did was to protect me, including living with Gabe, whose stench threw monsters off my trail. Still . . . my rough past just made me appreciate these times even more.” How did those early family experiences impact Percy? Are there ways that shape the kind of future Percy wants for himself? If so, clarify?



- One of the goals of author Rick Riordan with *The Chalice of the Gods* is to get into some internal family politics among the Olympians—how does getting a closer look at their family dynamics prove that they really aren’t any different than mortal families?
- After Percy tells Annabeth and Grover that they don’t need to assist him on his mission to find Ganymede’s cup, Grover grins and retorts, “A chance to do quests, just the three of us? Like old times? The Three Musketeers!” Is this the reaction you’d expect from Grover? Why or why not? Why do you believe he is so enthusiastic?
- In what ways is Percy’s resilience a quality that Annabeth finds she greatly admires in her boyfriend? Though Percy and Annabeth are different in so many ways, why do you believe their relationship works so well, even when times are challenging?
- What are some of the ways that Sally Jackson and her husband, Paul, show their support of Percy and his friends? Predict how the change in their family unit will impact Percy.
- *The Chalice of the Gods* is told in the first-person point of view, through Percy. In what ways would the novel change if it were in third person or told by either Annabeth or Grover, and do you believe it would make it better or worse in any way?
- Consider Grover’s relationship with Percy. Are there ways you think it’s changed over the years? Based on what you discover in the novel, what do you believe Grover fears most about their futures?
- For those of you that have read any (or all) of the previous Percy Jackson books, in what ways has Percy changed or grown since the last time we saw him on the page?
- Like *The Lightning Thief*, the book that introduced us to Percy Jackson, *The Chalice of the Gods* is also a whodunit mystery. What were your favorite parts of following Percy, Annabeth, and Grover as they try to solve the mystery to determine who stole the chalice of the gods? Did you have any guesses on who the thief might be and why they stole it?

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- While facing the challenges of his quest, Percy thinks, “When you’re a demigod, you worry a lot about staying alive. You hardly ever think about old age. . . . Getting old might be scary and difficult. It involved things I didn’t want to think about, like arthritis and varicose veins and hearing aids. But if you grew older with people you loved, wasn’t that better than any other alternative?” Do you agree? Explain your answer.
 - As they are sparring, Gary tells Percy, “You lasted longer than most. . . . It was a good try.” Reflect on this wrestling match. Why is it so unusual, and what do you think each of them learns from the experience?
 - As a demigod, Percy has learned not to ever take anything for granted. In what ways is that a universal lesson for everyone?
 - As *The Chalice of the Gods* concludes, in what ways does Percy realize his father is far more invested in him and proud of his accomplishments than he thought?
 - By the end of the novel, Percy has successfully completed his quest to earn him his first college recommendation letter from a god. Knowing that he still needs two more letters, predict which gods may need his assistance in the future and why they might need his help.

EXPLORING *THE CHALICE OF THE GODS* THROUGH EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following extension activities may be utilized throughout the study of *The Chalice of the Gods* as a means of creating to extend the novel’s instructional impact and learning for readers.

WRITE A RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR PERCY

In *The Chalice of the Gods*, readers witness the lengths Percy goes to procure a college recommendation letter from Ganymede. Using what you’ve discovered about Percy from your reading of *The Chalice of the Gods* or any of the other books in the Percy Jackson world, compose your own letter of recommendation for Percy Jackson being sure to offer specific details about his character that you believe would make him a worthwhile student for New Rome University.

WANT A SIP? YES? NO? MAYBE SO?

In *The Chalice of the Gods*, readers learn that all mortals who drink from Ganymede's cup are given the power of immortality. Taking what you learned from the novel, ask yourself: If you have the opportunity to take a sip, would you? After an opportunity for consideration, draft a letter to Ganymede explaining why you'd want (or not want) a shot at a drink.

SOCIAL MEDIA REEL OR TIKTOK VIDEO CHARACTER PROFILE

Over the course of the novel, readers witness the trials and tribulations endured by characters of *The Chalice of the Gods*. Assuming the identity of either Percy, Annabeth, or Grover, create an Instagram Reel or TikTok video capturing an epic moment of your choosing.

PERSONAL SHOWCASE

One of the major themes of *The Chalice of the Gods* is celebrating and honoring the privilege of change, which comes from experiences and aging—getting to grow, adapt, and change. Using the ways that Percy, Annabeth, and Grover understand this in the novel as inspiration, create either a digital or physical personal showcase about yourself focusing on sharing how the changes you've experienced have helped you grow as a person and what you look forward to most as you age.

FRIENDSHIP EXPLORATION

Consider the long-term friendship and relationships between Percy, Annabeth, and Grover. Explore the idea that when friends respect each other enough to accept each other for who they are, their relationship will work well. Consider your own relationships. Is there a particular one that you feel fits this model? Create a journal-entry reflection where you showcase this particular relationship and offer details about what makes it work well for you and the other person.



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