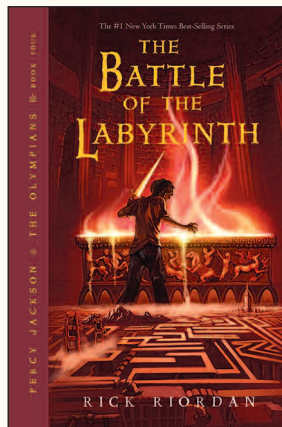


This guide was created by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist at Endeavor Elementary and an award-winning children's author. Visit her Web site at www.tracievaughnzimmer.com to find hundreds of other guides to children's and young adult literature.

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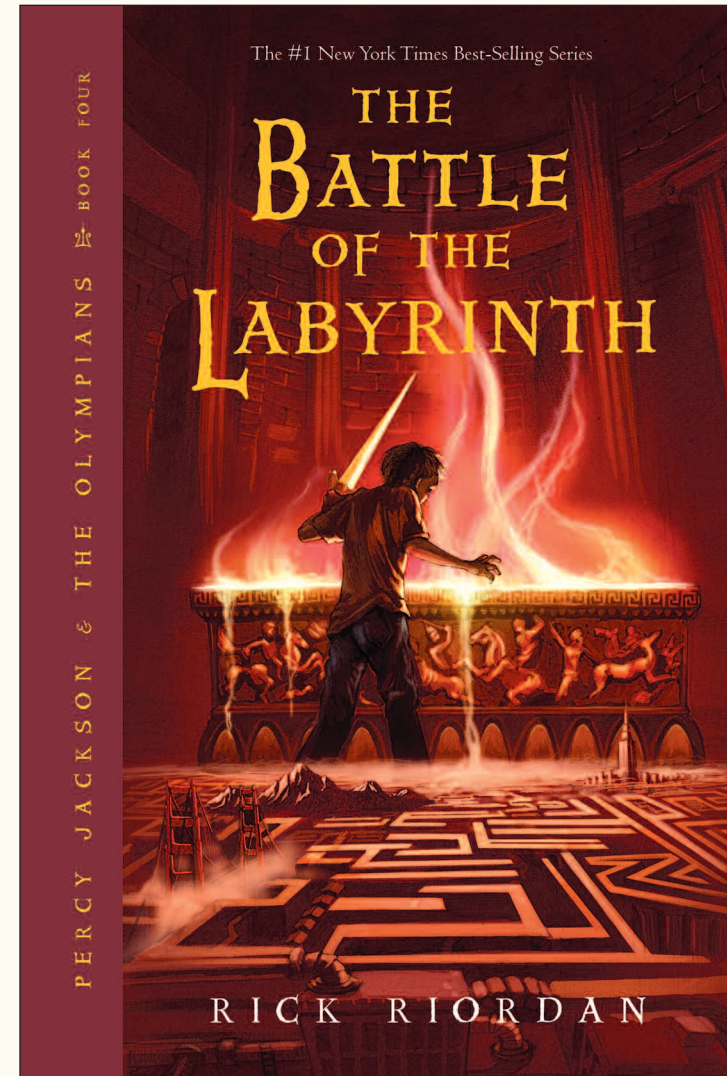
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Percy Jackson isn't expecting freshman orientation to be any fun. But when a mysterious mortal acquaintance appears on campus, followed by demon cheerleaders, things quickly move from bad to worse.

In this latest installment of the blockbuster series, time is running out as war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near. Even the safe haven of Camp Half-Blood grows more vulnerable by the minute as Kronos's army prepares to invade its once impenetrable borders.

To stop the invasion, Percy and his demigod friends must set out on a quest through the Labyrinth—a sprawling underground world with stunning surprises at every turn. Full of humor and heart-pounding action, this latest book promises to be their most thrilling adventure yet.

ABOUT THE GUIDE

This guide includes discussion questions and projects intended to extend the use of the novel into the classrooms, book clubs, and literature circles. It should promote discussion on the themes of the novel, including friendship, leadership, teamwork, family, heroism, and identity.

PRE-READING

Where did our heroes leave off in *The Titan's Curse*? What would you tell someone about the Percy Jackson series if you wanted to them to check it out?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1 Describe what happens at Percy's new school. How does his mom complicate things? Why does he admit his true identity to Rachel?
- 2 Summarize important facts that a reader of the series needs to know in order to understand it. Which details from the Greek myths are your favorites in the story?
- 3 Why do you think Annabeth is so worried about the prophecy? Why is she leading this quest into the Labyrinth? Would you be willing to go? Why or why not?
- 4 What major obstacles (monsters, etc.) do the heroes face inside the Labyrinth? Which is the most frightening to you? Who must they find on their journey? Why?
- 5 How does the setting of this adventure differ from the other Percy Jackson books? Why is setting such an important element to the story? Why do you think Riordan plays with the location of Olympus and other ancient locales? Which setting is your favorite from the Percy Jackson series? Why?
- 6 Why do you think the myth of Icarus and Daedalus is included in the novel? How does it show us what Daedalus is capable of? In the end, does Daedalus change the most or does Percy?

- 7 What offer does Percy make with Geryon? How is he able to complete the task? Why is his mission even harder than Heracles's?
- 8 Grover meets his hero, Pan. How does this meeting go differently than he had planned? What does he learn? Does this part of the story make any connections for you with the environmental movement or being green? How is Grover changed by the experience? When does it come into play?
- 9 Explain what the Labyrinth is, exactly. Why is it so difficult? What tools help to navigate it?
- 10 In chapter ten, the heroes run into the Sphinx who has dropped her traditional riddles for a list of inane facts which Annabeth says are “an insult to her intelligence.” How is Riordan making a commentary on high-stakes testing in public schools with this scene? Is he poking fun?
- 11 Describe how Percy ends up on Ogygia. Who does he meet? Why is it a torture for her to be at that amazing location? Would you stay or go? Why?
- 12 Why does Rachel's help become necessary to guide them through the Labyrinth? What do they run into on the way? How do the heroes escape? Would you trust this invention, or not?
- 13 How does Daedalus try to cheat death? Have there been any other inventions that have the same goal?
- 14 What happens to Camp Half-Blood? Do you think the heroes will face even more challenges with Kronos's army? What do you think will happen in the next story?
- 15 Which book in the series is your favorite so far? Why? What do you think are the qualities of a good series? Which character would you like to eat lunch with and interview for the school newspaper? Why?

PROJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Write a letter to Percy Jackson about his adventures. Explain which part of his story is your favorite and why. Think of important questions you'd like to ask him too!

READING

Read another version of Icarus and Daedalus, or a myth with the Sphinx, and then create a Venn diagram comparing the story featuring these characters in Riordan's books to a more traditional portrait.

ART

Design a WANTED poster for one of the villains or monsters in the story. Be sure to include details about their appearance and their last known location!

SCIENCE

Study the elements of flight. What does it take to build a contraption that can actually stay aloft? Build the perfect paper airplane based on what you learn, and have a contest to see who can apply that knowledge best.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RICK RIORDAN is also the author of the previous books in the *New York Times* #1 best-selling series Percy Jackson and the Olympians—Book One: *The Lightning Thief*; Book Two: *The Sea of Monsters*; and Book Three: *The Titan's Curse*. 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 San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two sons. To learn more about Rick visit his Web site at www.rickriordan.com



Becky Riordan

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

- 1 How long does it take you to draft a Percy Jackson novel? How long to revise?

The whole process takes about a year. Unfortunately, kids can read the books a lot faster than I can write them! Making a rough draft takes about three months, and the rest of the year is all about revising.

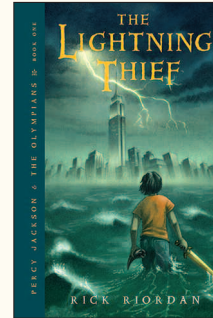
- 2 What do you wish all young readers knew about Greek mythology?

Greek mythology is everywhere! You see the myths in literature, art, architecture, movies, music, even cartoons. Once you know Greek mythology, you realize what a big part of our culture it is.

- 3 How do you know when you have an idea worth pursuing in your writing?

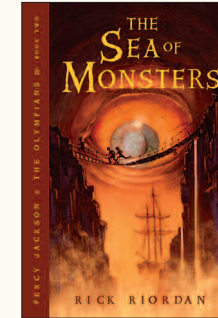
A good idea usually tugs at me. There's an insistence to it, almost as if it's grabbing me and saying, "Write me!" It has to be something that fires my imagination and starts me thinking, "What if?"

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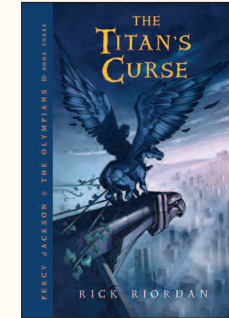
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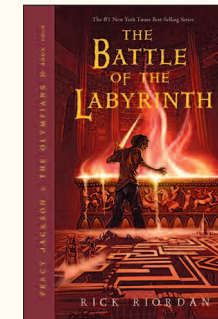
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