

SET THE STAGE: *THE LIGHTNING THIEF*

Show & Theater Company:

- *The Lightning Thief* by TheaterworksUSA from New York

Art Form:

- Musical theater (a play with songs)

Context:

- The play is adapted from *The Lightning Thief* book that was written by Rick Riordan in 2005. Rick Riordan (pronounced Ryer'-dan) was a middle school teacher and is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of many books, including the *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series. He wrote and created Percy Jackson stories after his son asked him to tell him bedtime stories about the gods and heroes in Greek mythology.
 - ? Have you read a Percy Jackson story? Which one is your favorite and why?
- In this story, Percy Jackson is about to be expelled from boarding school...again. Mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook into his life and he's angered a few of them.
- Zeus' lightning bolt (the thing that allows him to create lightning whenever he wants) is stolen. Percy becomes the prime suspect and has ten days to find and return Zeus' stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus.
- Percy is sent to a supernatural summer camp where the boy meets others like himself. At camp, Percy discovers that he's a demigod just as his mortal mom, Sally, is taken hostage in the Underworld. He also learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, god of the Sea, and brother to Zeus and Hades, god of the Underworld.
- Accompanied by his best friend Annabeth, a fearless demigod, and Protector Grover, a satyr, embark on a journey together, battling monsters and Medusa in a quest to end a war, rescue his mother and prove his courage. To succeed, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.
- ? What is Greek Mythology? (Thousands of years ago, the ancient Greeks told wonderful stories about their many gods, goddesses, and magical beings. These stories are called myths, which is short for mythology—stories about gods and the world around them. Each Greek god had one or more magical powers. The gods used their powers for good, for trickery, and/or for adventure.
- ? Can students name any ancient Greek gods or goddesses and their magical powers?
- ? What powers would students want to be if they were a god or goddess and why?

Main Characters:

- **Percy Jackson** is the son of Poseidon, God of the Sea and a demigod. He also has amazing water powers.
- **Grover Underwood** is a satyr (human face and body but ears, legs, and tail like a goat). He is Percy's protector.
- **Sally** is Percy's mortal mother.
- **Annabeth Chase** is a daughter of Athena, goddess of wisdom and battle strategy.
- **Luke Castellan** is a son of Hermes, god of travelers, thieves, and messenger of the Gods. He may not be as friendly as he seems.

Main Concepts:

- Greek Mythology
- Family
- Courage
- Loyalty
- Friendship

Special things to look for:

- The actors will play more than one part in the show.
 - ? What "tools" will the actors use to tell the story on stage? (Sets, their voices, costumes, music, etc.)

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
- ? How is watching live theatre different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theatre
 - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.