

# LANGUAGE IN INDIA

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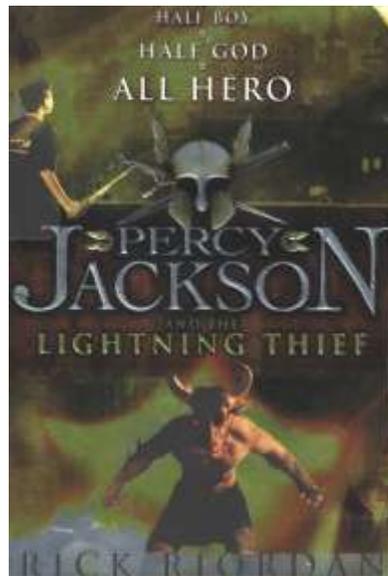
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## The World of *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*

**A. Shrijith**



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## **An Absorbing Fantasy**

Percy Jackson Collection is a fantasy, adventurous and mysterious story based on a boy who is a demigod. It refers to mythical stories of Greek Gods and is written by Rick Riordan, an American teacher. It is about a boy who first sees unexpected things in his life like – his English Teacher turning into a monster! When he is young he is diagnosed with ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder– and dyslexia.

### **Focus on *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* – Percy’s Past**

In this article I analyze the first part *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. This is the first book of the five book series. In this part we come to know of Percy’s past. His father’s whereabouts remain a mystery initially. He is told by his mother that his father went to the Pacific for business and never returned. He now lives with his stepfather, Gabe and mother, Sally Jackson. Every year, he is shifted to a new school because of his ADHD and dyslexia.

### **On a Trip from the Boarding School**

In the beginning of the story, he is in a boarding school **The Yancy Academy**, a school for troubled children. When he is in sixth grade they go to a field trip to Manhattan, i.e., to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** “to look at ancient Greek and Roman stuff”. The teachers who come along in that trip are Mr. Brunner, the Latin teacher and Mrs. Dodds, the English teacher. During the trip he and his friend, Grover are targeted by a trouble maker, Nancy Bobofit who always irritates Percy and gets him into trouble.

They go on to look at “ancient Greek and Roman stuff”. After finishing the trip when they are having lunch Nancy and her friends come to irritate Percy. He gets irritated and pushes Nancy down but other students report that water pushed her. In order to punish him Mrs. Dodds takes him to a room in the museum. “Where is the lightning bolt?” she asked in a hoarse voice in the room and she changes into a monster and tries to kill him. His master Mr. Brunner comes in and gives his pen and tells him to unlock it. It turns into a sword and when he draws and swings it he kills Mrs. Dodds and she vaporizes into thin air. He asks Grover and Nancy about the Language in India [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com)

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disappearance of Mrs. Dodds. Then he questions Mr. Brunner too about the disappearance of Mrs. Dodds.

### **Conversation with the Mother**

After a few weeks, they have the exams and Percy has to go home; Grover tells him that he wants to come along with him but he looks nervous. Percy asks for the reason but Grover does not say anything. Instead, he tells Percy that he wants to accompany him to his home. But, Percy ditches Grover and goes home alone. There he gets bullied by his stepfather Gabe for his inability to behave well in the school. He then meets his mother and tells everything about his school except about the killing of his teacher. She tells him about their visit to a cabin in Montauk and they speak about the happenings in the school. They leave for the cabin and after reaching there they talk about Percy's father. There she tells him about his father's prediction about Percy going to a camp. But she refuses to give permission to Percy.

### **Happenings in the Night – Percy's Self-realization of His Status as Demigod**

In the night they hear a noise, and they come out to see Grover who speaks to Percy's mom and says that they have to get away quickly or else they may die. Soon they are chased by Minotaur and they try to escape and reach the camp that Percy's father told about. But Percy's mom is caught and she turns into dust. Seeing this Percy gets mad and he kills the Minotaur by just using its horn. He faints and gets up five days later and comes to know the truth that he is a demigod; Grover is a satyr; and Percy to be the son of one of the Greek Gods. He meets the Camp Director Mr. D (Dionysus) and Mr. Chiron who was Mr. Brunner in Yancy Academy. He is then placed in the Cabin of Hermes where all the undetermined students stay together. There he meets Annabeth who tended him when he was unconscious and Luke, the head of the Hermes Cabin. And when Percy and Annabeth talk about the gods, he gets bullied by Clarisse and her siblings. She tries putting Percy's head into the toilet but Percy gets angry and all of a sudden Clarisse, her siblings and Annabeth get drenched in water.

### **Life in the Camp**

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Percy learns many things about the camp in the next few days and he is told by Mr. Chiron that he has to learn the Greek language, practice sword-fighting, and much more. While learning Greek language he comes to know that all monsters get disintegrated and return to Underworld to slowly re-form again. After a week they play Catch the Flag- a game in which a group of camp members join to form a team and fight against another team.

The game is pitted against two groups consisting the Cabin of Athena, Hermes and Apollo versus the Cabin of Ares, Dionysus, Demeter, Aphrodite and Hephaestus. While playing the game, Percy is to stand guard to prevent the opposite team from getting the flag. He is then ambushed by Clarisse and her siblings. He gets beaten first but defeats them by sudden strength after falling into the water. His team wins the game but they are distracted when a hellhound comes to kill Percy. Chiron saves him but he gets injured. Annabeth tells him to get into the water so that his wounds would be healed but everyone stands around him and looks at him at awe. Then he comes to know that he is the son of Poseidon, the sea god and also learns that he should not have been born because of an oath which was taken by the three elder gods – Zeus, Hades and Poseidon.

### **Terrible Days for Percy**

The next few days proves to be terrifying for Percy. No one speaks to him except for Luke with whom he practices Sword-Fighting and Annabeth with whom he learns Greek language. They believe that Percy would bring bad luck to the camp. He is then called by Mr.D and Chiron. They inform him about the forthcoming quest for retrieving the lightning bolt. The quest is for Percy to retrieve Zeus' Master Bolt which was stolen in the winter solstices. With only ten days left for the summer solstices he leaves in search for the bolt with Annabeth and Grover. He gets help from Luke by getting a flying shoes and a map which shows the location of the pearls. Pearls help them to come back from the underworld.

### **Journey to the Underworld**

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On their way to underworld they meet Medusa, a witch with powers to turn people into stone. Her other name is Gorgan. They fight and destroy her to get the first pearl. Soon they meet Ares, who gives them a bag which has the lightning bolt but Percy does not know about it. On their search for the second pearl they meet a Chimera, a mythological animal with a lion head and serpent tail and retrieve the second pearl. Later, they get trapped in Lotus casino where time flows slowly and makes people stay forever. They find the third pearl there and soon they go to the underworld to talk with Hades, who is the lord of death and come to know that his helmet of darkness is also missing. They escape the underworld after getting the bolt by stamping the pearls which they stole but leaves Sally Jackson there.

Having trapped by Ares, Percy fights with him and defeats him but is cursed that his skill in sword fight would fail him when he needs it most. He gets back the helmet of Hades from Ares. Percy returns Hades' helmet to his followers and asks them to say that he wasn't the thief. He also tells Annabeth and Grover to return to camp and he goes to New York on a plane which is forbidden for the sons of Poseidon. He reaches New York and goes to Empire State Building where Mount Olympus is actually lying. There he hands over the lightning bolt to Zeus and requests him for his mother's return.

### **Hero's Welcome to Percy!**

In the end he meets his mother and persuades her to leave Gabe and let him go to the camp. Getting his mother's permission, he goes to the camp with a hero's welcome. He finds everyone happy except for Luke who is drained with fear. During the last day of the camp he comes to know that Luke was the Lightning thief and has tried to help Kronos, an evil lord. It is his hatred for the Olympians that made Luke to help Kronos and leaves the camp only to return in the second book.

### **Conclusion**

I liked the spirit of Percy Jackson and his fighting skill. The story gives a detailed knowledge about the Greek gods and their enemies and also about the demigods. It also made me

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to read the sequels of Percy Jackson series and style of the author is very impressive. Mystery is there in every page and I could hardly resist keeping the books down. The link between the western civilization and the Greek gods is very interesting to read. We also come to know that in every major event there is a hand of the Greek gods and the demigods. Even the World War II is coloured with the Greek gods and demigods and I like the way it is presented in the book. There are about five books and all the five are thrilling and carries us with the course of action.

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Rick Riordan. *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. Puffin (Penguin Books), London, UK. 2006.

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