

## Chapter 9

### *I Am Offered a Quest*

#### As you Read:

1. Why does Percy feel miserable once he gets his own cabin?
2. Based on the newspaper article Percy finds under his door, what is happening in the real world while Percy is in camp?
3. What is the master bolt?
4. Why does Zeus think Percy stole the bolt?
5. Why can't the gods retrieve the bolt themselves?
6. What bothers Percy about the Oracle's prophecy?
7. According to Chiron, what evidence suggests that Hades stole the lightning bolt?
8. Why does Percy have to travel overland?
9. What will happen on the summer solstice if the lightning bolt is not returned?
10. What is unusual about the storm that moves in over camp?

## Chapter 10

### *I Ruin a Perfectly Good Bus*

#### Warm-up Activities:

1. Journal questions for anticipatory discussion:
  - a. *Many of the campers at Camp Half-Blood have their own magic item. Clarisse has an electric spear. Annabeth has a baseball cap that turns her invisible. What magic item would make sense for Percy, as the son of the Sea God? Design your own magic item.*
  - b. *Percy gets to try his hand at driving a bus in this chapter. Defend or attack this proposition: "The national driving age should be lowered to 13." Can you think of any reasons that might actually convince Congress to pass such a law?*

#### As you read:

1. Who is Argus and why can he never be surprised?
2. What gift does Luke give to Percy? Why can't Percy use them?
3. What special properties does Riptide have?
4. What is Mist?
5. What are some of the reasons Annabeth gives for why Poseidon and Athena don't get along?
6. According to Grover, why did Percy's mom marry Gabe?
7. Percy says he's not going on the quest to retrieve the lightning bolt. What's his real reason for going?
8. How does Percy sneak to the front of the bus?
9. Why doesn't Percy leave the bus when he has the chance?
10. How do Percy, Grover and Annabeth lose their luggage?

## Chapter 11

### *We Visit the Garden Gnome Emporium*

#### Warm-up Activities:

1. Journal questions for anticipatory discussion
  - a. *An old piece of advice is: "Never talk to strangers." Do you believe this is always the safest thing to do? Why or why not?*
  - b. *What is the worst (or most embarrassing) photograph of you that's ever been taken? Describe it.*

#### As You Read:

1. Why is Annabeth upset with Percy for risking his life on the bus?
2. What does Aunt Em look like when she opens the door?
3. How does Percy explain why he went into the garden gnome emporium? Does this explanation make sense to you?
4. Why does Grover start to get nervous at the emporium? (There are several reasons)
5. How can you tell that Percy isn't thinking straight after he eats his meal?
6. Did you guess Aunt Em's true identity before Percy did? If so, what clues gave her away?
7. Why does Annabeth say they have to kill Medusa? Why can't they just run away?
8. Medusa's head doesn't disintegrate along with the rest of her. Why not?
9. What important information does Percy find in Medusa's office?
10. Why do you think Percy sends Medusa's head to Mount Olympus?  
Do you think this is a good idea?

## Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

**1. avenge**  
(ə venj')

(v.) to get revenge for, get even for, settle a score; to punish someone or get satisfaction for a wrong or injury

In Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the title character vows to \_\_\_\_\_ his father's death.

SYNONYM: retaliate

**2. cede**  
(sēd)

(v.) to give up, surrender; to hand over to another

Spain \_\_\_\_\_ territory to France.

SYNONYMS: deliver up, transfer

**3. deluge**  
(del' yūj)

(n.) a great flood; a heavy fall of rain; anything that comes in a vast quantity (like a flood); (v.) to flood

Owners are hoping this summer will bring a \_\_\_\_\_ of visitors to their new theme park in Minneapolis.

A torrential downpour \_\_\_\_\_ the entire town.

SYNONYMS: (v.) swamp, inundate

ANTONYMS: (n.) trickle, dribble

**4. discretion**  
(dis kresh' ən)

(n.) good judgment; care in speech and action; freedom to judge or choose

My teacher suggested I use \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with my difficult classmate.

SYNONYMS: prudence, tact, discrimination

**5. giddy**  
(gid' ē)

(adj.) dizzy; light-headed; lacking seriousness

After the long and grueling race, the marathoner felt \_\_\_\_\_ and exhausted.

SYNONYMS: faint, frivolous, flighty

ANTONYMS: levelheaded, serious, earnest, sober

**6. impact**  
(n., im' pakt;  
v., im pakt')

(n.) the striking of one object against another; the shock caused by a collision; (v.) to affect, especially forcefully

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the car crash destroyed both vehicles, but miraculously no one was hurt.

Budget cuts will \_\_\_\_\_ the number of hours the public library can stay open.

SYNONYMS: (n.) collision, blow, effect

**7. intimidate**  
(in tim' ə dāt)

(v.) to  
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**8. liberate**  
(lib' ə rāt)

(v.) to  
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**9. logical**  
(lāj' ə kəl)

(adj.)  
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**10. misrepresent**  
(mis rep ri zent')

(v.) to  
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**11. optional**  
(äp' shə nəl)

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**12. outright**  
(aüt' rīt)

(adj.)  
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**13. rendezvous**  
(rän' dā vü)

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**7. intimidate**  
(in tim' ə dāt)

(v.) to make timid or frighten by threats; to use fear to get someone to do (or not to do) something

Bullies may try to \_\_\_\_\_ us, but if we act brave and stand tall, we can diminish their threats.

SYNONYMS: browbeat, hector

**8. liberate**  
(lib' ə rāt)

(v.) to free from bondage or domination; to release

The police \_\_\_\_\_ the anxious hostages after sixteen hours of confinement.

SYNONYMS: untie, unshackle

ANTONYMS: imprison, fetter, shackle, bind

**9. logical**  
(lāj' ə rāl)

(adj.) reasonable; making use of reason and good sense

Our parents are constantly encouraging us to look for \_\_\_\_\_ solutions to our problems.

SYNONYMS: rational, sensible

ANTONYMS: absurd, ridiculous, unsound, preposterous

**10. misrepresent**  
(mis rep ri zent')

(v.) to give a false or untrue idea

If witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ the facts, the defense attorney has proof to support our story.

SYNONYMS: falsify, twist, exaggerate

**11. optional**  
(āp' shə nəl)

(adj.) left to one's own choice; not required

The hotel will charge us for breakfast and dinner, but lunch is \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: voluntary, discretionary

ANTONYMS: required, mandatory, compulsory

**12. outright**  
(aūt'rīt)

(adj.) complete; instantaneous; without reservation, thoroughgoing; (adv.) completely, instantaneously

When the teacher asked her why she didn't do her homework, she told an \_\_\_\_\_ lie.

Even though they had already heard it several times, the hilarious joke made them laugh \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) total, out-and-out; (adv.) utterly, instantly

ANTONYMS: (adj.) partial, incomplete; (adv.) by degrees

**13. rendezvous**  
(rān' dā vū)

(v.) to meet in accordance with a plan; (n.) a meeting by agreement; a meeting place

Let's all agree to \_\_\_\_\_ by the fountain on Saturday afternoon.

They kept their \_\_\_\_\_ a secret.

SYNONYMS: (n.) date, assignation

14. **rotund**  
(rō tænd')

(*adj.*) rounded and plump; full or rich in sound  
My friends like to display the largest and most \_\_\_\_\_ pumpkin outside their front door.  
SYNONYMS: portly, sonorous; ANTONYMS: angular, lanky, gaunt

15. **saunter**  
(sôn' tər)

(*v.*) to stroll; walk in an easy, leisurely way; (*n.*) a stroll  
The star \_\_\_\_\_ past his adoring fans.  
It's such a beautiful day to take a \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) ramble, amble; (*n.*) promenade  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) speed, race, hurry, dash, scurry, rush

16. **sluggish**  
(slæg' ish)

(*adj.*) lazy; slow-moving; not active, dull  
After a big lunch, I feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: unhurried, lethargic; ANTONYMS: energetic, brisk

17. **subordinate**  
(*adj., n.,*  
sə bôr' də nət;  
*v.,* sə bôr' də nāt)

(*adj.*) lower in rank or position, secondary; (*n.*) one who is in a lower position or under the orders of someone else; (*v.*) to put in a lower or secondary position  
A corporal is \_\_\_\_\_ to a sergeant.  
Let's ask a \_\_\_\_\_ to help us file.  
Parents often \_\_\_\_\_ their own wishes for the sake of their children's needs.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) assistant, helper  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) superior, higher; (*n.*) chief, supervisor

18. **tint**  
(tint)

(*n.*) a delicate color or hue; a slight trace of something; (*v.*) to give color to something; to dye  
He's painting his room a \_\_\_\_\_ of blue.  
I want to \_\_\_\_\_ my sunglass lenses pink.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) tone; (*v.*) color, stain; ANTONYM: (*v.*) bleach

19. **variable**  
(vâr' ē ə bəl)

(*adj.*) likely to undergo change; changeable; (*n.*) a value or quantity that varies; a symbol for such  
Spring weather can be extremely \_\_\_\_\_.  
In math, the letter *x* can stand for a \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) fluctuating, shifting, inconstant  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) constant, unchanging, steady

20. **verge**  
(vərj)

(*n.*) the point at which something begins or happens; a border; (*v.*) to incline, tend toward, approach; to be in the process of becoming something else  
I was on the \_\_\_\_\_ of tears today.  
That chatter \_\_\_\_\_ on baby talk.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) threshold, edge

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the word you might most often use.

- In times of crisis, we may be called to be **subordinate** to our personal interests for the good of the nation as a whole.
- I look forward to the time when I can agree that I have reached the "a **misrepresentation**."
- Modern household appliances have **liberated, deluged** homemakers from time-consuming chores.
- Many Western films include a character who is **intimidated, avenged** by a wrong friend or relative.
- Wasn't it annoying to see Michael Jackson come into the party as though he were never to walk the face of the earth?
- He soon learned that the moods of the next day can be as **variable, stable**.
- If you know that you are late for school, you should act as though you had all the time in the world.
- A fastball pitcher will often try to "shave" him with an inside pitch.
- At the State Fair, we separated to go to the **saunter, rendezvous** at the refreshment stand.
- This biased editorial has deliberately misrepresented the candidate on the important issues.
- Though once her peer, I became content to be promoted to company president.
- We held a meeting to discuss why the company was so **sluggish, rotund** and what we could do about it.
- Only the **optional, outright** repetition of the same phrase is acceptable.
- I knew my dog was not feeling well and refused to get up.
- The aged millionaire, wishing to stop his business from **ceding, impacting**, sold it to a younger man.