

# SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

*Reading is a life skill, something you will use every day of your life. This assignment is intent on continuing to develop that habit.*

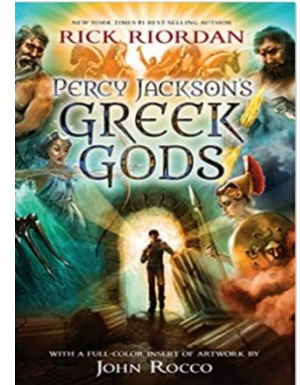
*This summer will be the summer of Greek gods. The book will provide background knowledge that will be used in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, and university, so read each and every page thoroughly. The book cannot be raced through. Plan on reading throughout the whole summer – every day. The book is 416 pages long.*

*Please have a pencil or black pen at hand along with your 8<sup>th</sup> grade spiral notebook for the Cornell notes you will take for each chapter. The Cornell notes will be graded, then used as a reference for the first graded piece of writing completed in class when you return in August.*

## THE READING

Please read *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods*, by Rick Riordan. This book is written in the protagonist's voice which adds an amusing, often sarcastic tone to the Greek myth stories.

- Enjoy reading the stories first.
- When you are done reading for the day, make your Cornell notes. Notes improve your comprehension and will be expected from now on in every English class for the rest of your education.



PLEASE...

**BUY THE BOOK  
NOW!**

## THE CORNELL NOTES

You will need to record your notes in the **spiral notebook** that needs to be purchased for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (**8 ½" x 11" college ruled – Staples** is the best place for this purchase).

- Please use the title of the book as the title of your notes.
- You can either fold the page or draw a line using a ruler to set up your Cornell notes. (See the example provided.)
- Aim to record a maximum of five main points (bullet points) for each story. Details can be added below a bullet point by using a dash (-). Remember, these are notes. Please do not copy sentences or paragraphs from the book. The notes should be written in your own words. (Spelling matters, so look up the spelling of unknown words.) Your notes should also be legible, so write your notes neatly.
- Notes for any given chapter should not exceed half a page which means you should be able to record two chapters on a single page. Please do not write on the back of the page. Your notes will should be 8-9 pages long in total.
- Since the stories are about the Greek Gods, the Gods should be the focus of the main points you make. Notes should be taken under the headings below:

# SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Introduction                | <input type="radio"/> Zeus                       |
| <input type="radio"/> The Beginning               | <input type="radio"/> Athena                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Golden Age of Cannibalism   | <input type="radio"/> Aphrodite                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Olympians                   | <input type="radio"/> Ares                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Hestia                      | <input type="radio"/> Hephaestus (huh·fay·stuhs) |
| <input type="radio"/> Demeter (duh·mee·tr)        | <input type="radio"/> Apollo                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Persephone (pr·seh·fuh·nee) | <input type="radio"/> Artemis                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Hera                        | <input type="radio"/> Hermes                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Hades                       | <input type="radio"/> Dionysus (dai·uh·nai·suh)  |
| <input type="radio"/> Poseidon                    |  |

2

EXAMPLE OF  
HOW TO TAKE  
NOTES

## Percy Jackson's Greek Gods

Introduction

- Protagonist = Percy Jackson, a demigod
  - A demigod is half-god, half-mortal
  - Father is Poseidon

The Beginning  
(The Creation  
Story)

- Chaos - 1st Greek god
  - A gloomy, soupy mist made up of all the matter in the cosmos
  - Chaos means 'gap'
- Gaea - 2<sup>nd</sup> Greek god (matronly woman)
  - Gaea was formed from the matter in Chaos
  - She is the goddess of earth, but be humanlike and walk across the earth (herself)
- Ouranos (Uranus) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Greek god
  - Ouranos is the god of the sky