SCHOOL MATINEE SERIES

THEATREWORKS USA

The Lightning Thief

mon
OCT 6
10 am
Welcome to the Hop
A performance needs an audience, so be prepared to play your part!

Theater Etiquette
When entering the Hopkins Center, show consideration for all those sharing the building by remaining quiet and respectful in common areas.

Be aware and use quiet voices. Remember that live theater differs greatly from watching television or movies or attending a sporting event. Live performers can hear and see you and are easily distracted by any talking or moving around in the audience. Even the smallest sounds can be heard throughout the theater, so it’s best to be quiet so that everyone can enjoy the performance.

Applause is the best way to show your enthusiasm and appreciation!

Important things to remember: Backpacks, food, drink, and gum are not allowed in the theater. Please turn off all cell phones and note that recording the performance or taking any photos is strictly prohibited. Hats off! It is respectful to remove hats during your time in the theater.

Information for Teachers
Be prepared and arrive early. You should arrive at the theater 30 to 45 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking, and trips to the restroom. You should be in your seat at least 15 minutes before the performance begins.

Have a head count. On the day of the performance be sure to have an accurate head count of students, chaperones, and teachers.

Staying for lunch? Please call 603.646.2010 no later than one week in advance of the show to make a reservation for lunch. The day of the show, bring lunches in marked boxes and give them to a Hop staff member. Lunches will be ready for you after the show in Alumni Hall.

Photo Policy. The Hopkins Center may take photographs during the performance for use on our website or on promotional materials. If you or your students do not wish to be photographed, please see a Hop staff member.

The Show Must Go On! We do not cancel events due to inclement weather. Performances will only be canceled if the artist is unable to reach the theater. Schools will be notified by phone if the performance has been cancelled. We do not issue refunds for weather-related cancellations; please feel free to fill empty seats with other school or community members.

Enjoy the Show!
The Hopkins Center Outreach Department:
Stephanie Pacheco, Outreach Manager
Mary Gaetz, Outreach Coordinator
Erin Smith, Outreach Coordinator

The Hopkins Center Outreach & Arts Education department embodies the Hop’s mission to “ignite and sustain a passion for the arts.” It provides Dartmouth, the community and beyond rare personal contact with artists and a broad context for the performing arts. Unveiling the creative process of extraordinarily diverse artists, Outreach programs touch more than 14,000 lives each year.

Did You Know?
• The Hopkins Center opened in 1962.
• The Hopkins Center was designed by Wallace Harrison, architect of Lincoln Center and the United Nations Building in New York City.
• Spaulding Auditorium houses one of the largest pipe organs in New Hampshire. Can you find it?
ABOUT THE COMPANY

The mission of Theatreworks USA is to create, produce and provide access to professional theater for young and family audiences nationwide, including disadvantaged youth and under-served communities. Since its founding in 1961, it has presented more than 90 million children and their families with opportunities to enjoy theatrical productions in 49 states and Canada. Theatreworks USA tours approximately 16 shows each season from its repertoire of 133 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA has an extensive multi-cultural roster of guest artists, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets and magicians.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: RICK RIORDAN

Rick Riordan was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He began his career as an English and History teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area, writing mystery novels for adults on the side. Riordan was telling a bedtime story to his son when he came up with the idea for The Lightning Thief. He eventually turned the story into a novel and shared it with his class before it was published. The popularity of the first book featuring Percy Jackson led him to write four more in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. He also wrote another series of books for young people about Greek mythology and a series based on Egyptian deities. Now Riordan is working a book series inspired by Norse mythology.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER/LYRICIST: ROBERT ROKICKI

Robert Rokicki grew up in Colorado, studied at the University of Michigan and moved to New York where he performed as an actor in Off-Broadway productions and Broadway tours. He has written the music and lyrics for a number of musicals that have been performed in New York and across the country. In addition to writing the music and lyrics for this adaptation, Rokicki served as music director for the production.

THE STORY

Percy Jackson is a 12-year-old boy studying at boarding school when he takes a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and strange things start happening to him. One teacher, Mrs. Dodds, turns into a monster and attacks him. Another teacher throws him a magic sword to help him defeat her. Afterwards his best friend Grover acts like nothing happened. Odd things keep happening to Percy as he leaves school and heads out on vacation with his mother, Sally. A monster with the head of a bull attacks their car, Sally disappears in a flash of light and Percy nearly dies fighting the creature. He wakes up several days later at Camp Half-Blood, a safe haven for demi-gods. There he learns his father is a very important god, makes friends with Annabeth, daughter of Athena; and is told by the Oracle to find Zeus’s lost lightning bolt. Percy, Annabeth and Grover set out on a quest to recover the bolt and prevent war among the gods. Along the way they encounter mythological beasts and gods who try to obstruct their journey. Will Percy learn to use his powers, save his mother and prevent a war? Who is the real thief of the lightning bolt who is trying to start fights among the gods and goddesses?

CAST

Eric Meyers: Percy Jackson
Jordan Stanley: Grover
Graham Stevens: Mr. Brunner/Chiron/Poseidon/Hades
Kristin Stokes: Annabeth
Zakiya Young: Sally/Clarisse

DID YOU KNOW?
The Lightning Thief is a brand-new musical that premiered in New York City at the Lucille Lortel Theatre on July 21, 2014.
CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

WHAT IS A GREEK MYTH?

Greek mythology is a collection of stories about gods and goddesses, immortal creatures, monsters, demi-gods and heroes, as well as the mortals of Greece who interacted with them. The people of ancient Greece invented the gods and stories about them to help comprehend the world around them, teach moral values and answer life’s difficult questions—who created mankind and the world we live in? What happens after we die? What controls nature and the elements? The myths were part of religion in ancient Greece, used in prayers, lessons and worship at the gods’ temples. People also created myths as a way to recount historical events, like great wars.

WHY DO WE STUDY GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

Greek mythology has had an enormous influence on the literature and culture of Western civilization. The stories of the gods have inspired many artists and writers, who retell the famous stories of the myths and sometimes write modern interpretations of the characters and tales, like *The Lightning Thief*. We can still see the impact of the Greeks in many aspects of modern culture: in language, the word chaos comes from the disorder that existed before the gods were born, and calling a dog ‘man’s best friend’ began with Odysseus and his faithful dog; in architecture, the prevalent columns on our official state buildings came from the ancient Greeks’ temples to their gods; and in popular culture, the creators of everything from Disney’s *The Lion King* to *The Hunger Games* to *Xena: Warrior Princess* have taken their inspiration from the Greek pantheon.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT ANCIENT GREEKS BELIEVED? (OR, WHAT DOES A VASE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?)

Archaeologists study the stories of the ancient Greeks through the materials that they left behind. Greeks took their pottery very seriously. Whether the vase was just for daily use or for an important ceremony, artists decorated pottery with scenes from mythology and other important images. Because the pottery was durable, it lasted much longer than other forms of art like paintings. Researchers today can look at pictures painted on the pottery to learn the stories. Later in their history, the Greeks began writing down their myths in epic poems and plays. The most famous ones are Homer’s *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. 

An ancient Greek vase depicting Athena, Heracles, and Poseidon, located in the Louvre museum in Paris, France.

A modern example of popular art inspired by Greek mythology: an archway in Newport Harbor, CA, depicting Poseidon. Photo courtesy Orange County Archives.
GREEK GLOSSARY

A Who’s Who of the gods of Mount Olympus, their children and other mythical beings you will see in The Lightning Thief.

GODS AND GODDESSES:

ZEUS is the king of the gods and god of heaven and earth. He controls the weather and moves the sun and stars in the sky. He is famous for his lightning bolt, which he uses to punish people who have committed a crime or broken a vow. He is married to Hera but has many children from other relationships.

POSEIDON is Zeus’s brother and the god of the sea and earthquakes. He is the savior of ships and his trident is so powerful it can shake the earth. Poseidon controls the oceans—flooding lands or calming the stormy seas—and supernatural events. He splits his time between Mount Olympus, the home of the gods, and a golden palace in the depths of the seas. He is known to be moody and vindictive.

ARES is the god of war. He does not get along well with the other gods or with mortals. He is so unpopular that not a single city in Greece wanted him for their patron. He rides around on a chariot, with his helmet, sword, spear and shield.

ATHENA is the goddess of war, wisdom and useful crafts who protects soldiers during battle. She taught mankind practical things like weaving and agriculture. After competing against Poseidon for the title, the citizens of Athens chose Athena for their patron. She wears armor and a golden helmet, and her sacred animal is the owl, the symbol of wisdom. Athena is not married—with all her teaching and protecting she doesn’t have time!

APOLLO is the god of archery, music and divination. He invented the lute and won all the musical contests among the deities. Thanks to his father Zeus, he is also gifted at making predictions. He is the patron saint of the city Delphi where the first oracle predicted the future for Greece. Apollo is handsome and youthful, and the lyre and laurel tree are his symbols.

APHRODITE is the goddess of love and beauty. She was born in the foam of the ocean waters and is considered the most beautiful god of Mount Olympus. She is married to the god Hephaestus but also loves Ares. Her symbol is her magic girdle which makes mortals fall in love with her.
MONSTERS AND STRANGE CREATURES:

THE THREE FURIES are the symbols of vengeance. They are cruel earth goddesses who work for Hades. The Furies punish crimes like murder, perjury and disrespect, but they take their job a little too far. Even after someone dies they continue their torment. They are scary and horrid to look at, with terrible breath, poisonous blood, heads covered with snakes, bat wings and fiery whips.

HARPIES are messengers of Hades, and they are infamous for stealing people’s souls. They have the body of a bird and the head of a woman with very sharp claws and long hair. When the gods were angry with the mythical king Phineus, they used the Harpies as punishment. The beasts would swoop down from the sky with their unending appetites and steal his food before he could eat it.

CENTAURS are half-horse, half-man creatures who are aggressive, rude and frequently drunk. The main exception is Chiron, a gentle and wise centaur who serves as a teacher.

HADÈS is the god of the Underworld. Because he rules from the kingdom of the dead, Hades is not an Olympian. His brothers are Zeus and Poseidon and he oversees the souls of the dead. He relies on his helper Charon, the angel of the dead who ferries souls across the River Styx. His symbols are his helmet which makes him invisible, and his three-headed watchdog Cerberus.

KRONOS is the lord of the Titans, the powerful deities who ruled before the Olympians. The Titans lived in Mount Olympus before Zeus and his fellow gods defeated them. Kronos is the father of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. He is a jealous god who killed his own father and swallowed his children when told they would eventually take over his rule. In order to protect baby Zeus, his wife, Rhea, tricked him by giving him a stone to swallow.

PROMETHEUS, also a Titan, molded humans out of clay then gave them wisdom and fire, which he stole from Athena and Hephaestus. For his thievery and disrespect, Zeus tied him to a rock in the Caucasus Mountains. He was tortured by an eagle until rescued by another god.
**GREEK GLOSSARY (CONT.)**

SATYRS are half-man, half-goat creatures who live in the forests and mountains. They are merry and joyful, frequently drinking with their friend Dionysus, the wine god. The most famous satyr is Pan, the god of flocks and shepherds.

MEDUSA is a monster with snakes for hair and terrible eyes. One look at her will turn anyone into stone! She is more powerful than her two Gorgon sisters, but she is also mortal. Medusa was once a lovely maiden, but she had a romantic rendezvous with Poseidon in the temple of Athena. Athena was so angry she turned Medusa into a monster. Perseus eventually killed Medusa with Athena's shield and the help of Hermes, son of Zeus, and his winged shoes.

THE MINOTAUR is a terrible monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man. Pasiphae, wife of King Minos and queen of Crete, mated with a bull because of a curse from Poseidon. The result was the minotaur, who was so horrible that they built the famous Labyrinth as his prison.

**PRE PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
- What is Western civilization? How has it changed since the time of the ancient Greeks?
- How is Greek culture and mythology still relevant in our daily lives?
- Why do you think the Greeks created these mythological characters? Are there characters in today's culture that play a similar role?
- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have super powers? What power would you choose? How would you use it? What would be the drawbacks of having a super power?

**POST PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
- How was the performance similar to the book and how was it different? What did you see on stage that you did not expect?
- How did music contribute to the storytelling? What did you learn from hearing the characters sing?
- Percy has to rely on Annabeth and Grover to complete his task, but he’s not confident he can trust them. How did Percy’s friends help him on his quest? Have you ever had to rely on someone who you didn’t know if you could trust? How did it feel?
- There are times that Percy doubts he can find the lightning bolt and return it in time. Have you ever been given a task that you doubted you could complete? What did it take to overcome the doubt?
- Percy encountered gods and demi-gods who represented war, strength, wisdom and the underworld. Which do you feel was the strongest force in the play?
- If you were a camper at Half-Blood, which god would you hope was your parent? Why?
LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME! (GRADES 3-6)
The influence of Greek mythology is still pervasive in our daily lives, even if we don’t notice it. From brands (Nike athletic gear and the Honda Odyssey) to common phrases (something very difficult is a herculean task) to local towns (Corinth, VT and Troy, NH), we reference Greek mythology on a regular basis. As a class, brainstorm as many of these modern references as possible. Use websites and books as research tools to come up with even more examples. As a class or in groups, create a guide for your peers to Greek mythology in modern life. This guide could be in the form of a poster, pamphlet, website or presentation.

CHIRON’S CHARADES (GRADES 3-8)
Once you have explored the myths, gods and monsters behind the story of The Lightning Thief, play a game of charades as a fun way to test your memory. Write the name of each god, monster and myth on a small piece of paper and drop the papers in a hat. Divide the group into two teams and allow the teams to take turns selecting a student to play. After drawing a piece of paper from the hat, each player has one minute to give their team silent clues to help them guess the answer. Try to use personality traits, physical characteristics and associated objects (tridents, shields, etc.) of the gods and details from myths as much as possible.

MYTH-ICIZE YOURSELF (GRADES 5-8)
Part 1: Imagine that you are a demi-god like Percy—one parent is human and another is a Greek god. Write a character profile to develop your character traits and personal history. Be sure to include which god is your parent, what traits you inherited from him/her, what traits you inherited from your human parent, how your demi-god status helps you in life, how being a demi-god holds you back and what you hope to achieve at this point in your mythical life.

Extension to Part 1: Create a self-portrait of your character, including symbols that represent your characteristics.

Part 2: Work with another student and imagine that your myth-icized selves are at Camp Half-Blood. Imagine how the two characters would get along, whether they would be friends or enemies, how they would interact. Would they live in the same house? Would they aspire to a quest together? Would they choose each other to be on a Capture the Flag team? As a pair, imagine a scene at Camp Half-Blood with these two characters. Write a sketch of the scene, rehearse it together and then perform for the rest of the class.

Extension to Part 2: Make a papier-mâché vase (directions can be found at http://artlessonsforkids.me/2011/04/24/papier-mache-greek-vases-in-grade-seven/). Paint a scene on your vase that illustrates your story.

Part 3: Greek myths served to help the ancient Greeks understand the parts of the world they could not explain, offered morals about how they should live their lives and taught the consequences that could come from mistakes. Think of a real-world problem that your mythical self would be uniquely suited to help solve based on your parental god’s traits. Maybe as a child of Poseidon, you could help famished countries by watering their crops. Or maybe you could channel Athena’s looms to weave a net that would clean up the polluted oceans. Write a short story about how your character makes an impact on today’s world, being sure to include a moral for your readers.
LEARNING ACTIVITIES: (CONT.)

ANCIENT ADAPTATION (GRADES 7-8)

To create the performance of *The Lighting Thief*, Theatreworks USA hired composers and playwrights to adapt the novel by Rick Riordan, who himself adapted several stories from popular myths and added his own modern twists. Writers, poets and playwrights have been adapting Greek myths for centuries, and you can join in the tradition! Pick a story from Greek mythology that interests your class. Think of how you might adapt the story to fit into a modern setting. Be sure to choose a specific location you are familiar with (it might be Portsmouth, NH, the Northeast Kingdom or maybe Boston) and find ways to incorporate it into your adaptation. Consider each god, demi-god and monster, and imagine what modern character type they may best represent. Will Medusa be a substitute teacher? Is Poseidon the lifeguard at the town pool? You can write your adaptation as a short story or as a play that your class will perform.

VOCABULARY

adaptation: in theater, a play that has been taken from a written work or another source
Caucasus Mountains: a mountain range in the region that borders Europe and Asia
chariot: a two-wheeled vehicle for one person, usually drawn by two horses and driven from a standing position
Crete: an island in Greece
deities: a being with more powers than ordinary humans; another word for gods
demi-god: the child of a mortal and a god
divination: prophecy, prediction or trying to learn about the future through supernatural means
epic: a long poem, usually from oral tradition, narrating the adventures of legendary figures
girdle: a belt
gods and goddesses: in Greek mythology, male and female supernatural beings
Gorgons: three sisters in Greek mythology with hair made of living snakes and the ability to turn people into stone
haven: a place of shelter and safety
Homer: the greatest of the Greek epic poets who was the first to write down the epic stories of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
immortal: someone or something that can never die
labyrinth: a place that has many confusing paths or passages
lute: a stringed instrument with a neck and a round back that can be plucked
lyre: an instrument in the harp family, with strings running between a U-shaped body and a crossbar, popular in ancient Greece
mortal: a living human who is subject to death, in contrast to an immortal god
music director: the person who teaches music to performers, leads rehearsals and conducts musicians in a show
mythology: a collection of myths, or traditional stories, especially one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition
Oracle: a priest or priestess who delivered prophecies from the gods
pantheon: all the gods of a particular people or religion; a building or temple dedicated to all the gods
patron: a deity seen as the special protector of a certain place or group of people
premiere: the first performance of a musical, dance or theatrical work
rendezvous: a meeting at an agreed time and place between two people
repertoire: several plays, dances or musicals which are prepared and ready to perform
supernatural: beyond the laws of nature or science
trident: a three-pronged spear
underworld: in Greek mythology, the place under the earth where people go after they die
vengeance: punishment inflicted for an injury or wrong
vindictive: having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Other books in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series:

- The Sea of Monsters
- The Titan’s Curse
- The Battle of the Labyrinth
- The Last Olympian

Another Rick Riordan series based on Greek mythology, The Heroes of Olympus:

- The Lost Hero
- The Son of Neptune
- The Mark of Athena
- The House of Hades
- The Blood of Olympus

Books for Young People about Greek Mythology

- D’Auaires’ Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d’Aulaire and Edgar Parin d’Aulaire
- Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lancelyn Green (with an introduction by Rick Riordan)
- Tales from the Odyssey by Mary Pope Osborne, author of the Magic Tree House series
- The McElderry Book of Greek Myths by Eric A. Kimmel

Online Resources

- http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/exhibitions/coa/re_links.html
- http://www.greek-gods.info/
- http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/greek/
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/

The Metropolitan Museum interviewed Rick Riordan about his book and the connections to the Met’s Greek collection:


A Canadian cartoon TV series, Mythic Warriors, animated popular Greek myths. It is available on iTunes and some episodes are also on YouTube.

Poseidon and the Sea: Myth, Cult, and Daily Life

An exhibition on view at the Hood Museum of Art
January 17–March 15, 2014

Poseidon and the Sea: Myth, Cult, and Daily Life explores the realm of Poseidon and its connection to almost every aspect of the ancient Mediterranean world, from mythology and cult to activities of daily life. The exhibition features more than one hundred works of ancient Greek, Etruscan, and Roman art, including ceramic objects like black and red-figure vases, terra cotta and marble sculptures, colorful mosaics, coins, and reliefs. Poseidon and the Sea offers an intimate look into the ancient world, and people’s relationship to and interaction with the sea.

For more information on free tours for K-12 audiences and online resources related to the exhibition, please visit http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/education/k12/currentschooltours.html.