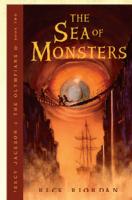




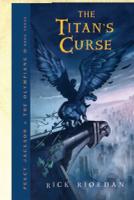
## RICK RIORDAN: LITERARY DEMIGOD



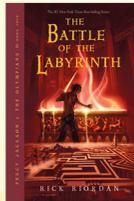
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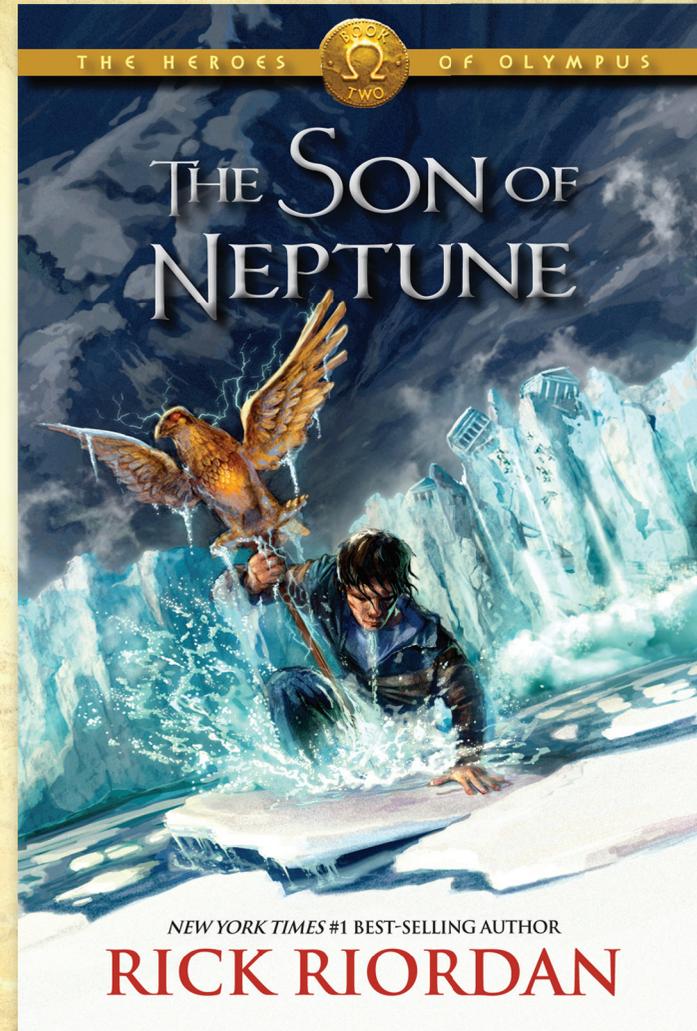
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A Guide to Rick Riordan's  
The Heroes of Olympus Book Two: *The Son of Neptune*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 As *The Lost Hero* closes, Jason tells Annabeth, “Percy Jackson is at the other camp and he probably doesn’t even remember who he is.” What role do you think Percy’s lack of understanding will play in *The Son of Neptune*?
- 2 *The Son of Neptune* features a number of characters who exhibit a variety of strengths. Who most impresses you with their strength? Explain your choice.
- 3 Explain the significance of being “claimed” for demigods. What is it about this tradition that provides half-bloods a sense of belonging? How do those who remain unclaimed deal with this condition?
- 4 Hera’s role is important in *The Lost Hero*. What part do you think she will play in *The Son of Neptune*?
- 5 At the end of *The Lost Hero*, campers at Camp Half-Blood learn that there is a Roman camp in California that functions similarly to theirs. Why is this important? In what ways does their past rocky relationship with the Roman camp complicate the current issues at hand? What do they need to do to overcome it?
- 6 Throughout the novel, the story is told in alternating chapters by Percy, Hazel, and Frank. In what ways does hearing these diverse perspectives affect the story?
- 7 Like Riordan’s other novels, *The Son of Neptune* is a story about family. Explain the significance of family to each of the major characters.
- 8 Describe Percy, Hazel, and Frank. What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them?
- 9 Compare Camp Half-Blood to Camp Jupiter. In what ways are these two camps similar? How are they different? What lessons can these camps glean from each other? Why might the gods have chosen to give Percy and Jason the opportunity to switch camps?
- 10 Throughout the course of the novel, Hazel and Frank learn that the world as they know it may never be the same. In what ways will it be better or worse for them? Have you had an experience that reshaped your life? In what ways have you changed due to this incident?

## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS: READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCHING

### Making Meaning by Exploring the Story’s Setting

In *The Son of Neptune*, the story’s dynamic worlds help set the stage for the characters as the action unfolds. Offer students the opportunity to explore the integral role the novel’s diverse settings play in the book by completing the following activity:

- Consider the variety of settings for *The Son of Neptune*. Using the descriptions provided in the book, illustrate the four places you believe to be most important to the story. In addition to the illustrations, include a short explanation of the significance of each, and why you believe it is important.

### Comparing Mythological Characters—Create a Digital Diagram

Because of the rich tradition of sharing myths from around the world, some of the characters referenced in *The Son of Neptune* may be familiar to students from prior reading or study. Have students create a Character Comparative Analysis by using the library and Internet as resources to research a mythological character featured in *The Son of Neptune* who also appears in other stories. Have students find at least two different stories where the character is found, and have them create a Venn diagram to detail the similarities and differences between the way the character is portrayed in these different versions. Next, have students summarize their findings by creating a Glogster digital poster ([www.glogster.com](http://www.glogster.com)) to share with classmates.

### Exploring *The Son of Neptune* through Writing

In *The Son of Neptune*, the complexities of the characters, their relationships, and the situations in which they find themselves provide students opportunities to dig deep in the text as they examine and answer one of the following prompts:

- Compose an essay that analyzes the dynamics of loyalty and examine the consequences of unquestioned loyalty or betrayal using examples the text.
- *The Son of Neptune* is rife with villainous characters and creatures. Select the one you find most terrifying and craft a short essay explaining what it is about this individual that strikes a chord of fear in you. Be sure to consider and offer specific details from the novel about their past indiscretions/behaviors that make them so vile.
- Throughout *The Son of Neptune*, many characters exhibit acts of great bravery. Consider the individual actions of these characters. Who do you believe to be the most courageous? Write a letter to that character explaining why you believe their actions are so brave.