Percy Jackson knew he was different from other kids. But he never imagined he was the son of a Greek god... and about to go to war.

### Characters:
- **Percy Jackson**, a teenager (also a demigod)
- **Zeus**, a god
- **Poseidon**, a god
- **Grover**, a teenager (also a satyr)
- **Sally Uglioni**, Percy's mom
- **Gabe Uglioni**, Percy's stepfather
- **Mr. Brunner**, a schoolteacher (also a centaur)
- **Teenage girl**
- **Teenage boy**

### SCENE 1
**New York City, the present**

N1: At 3:27 in the morning, a 30-foot-tall giant, dressed in a toga and carrying a trident in his hand, rises out of the ocean and strides onto the beach at Coney Island. With each step he takes, he becomes smaller. By the time he gets to the boardwalk, he is the size of a mortal.

N2: Later that night, after a long walk into Manhattan, he finds his way onto the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

N1: Moonlight shines on the ominous dark clouds rolling above the horizon and on the face of the toga-clad man who is waiting for him. The man's eyes are dark and glowing; his voice is brusque and angry when he speaks.

**Zeus**: What do you see in the sky, Poseidon?

**Poseidon**: Thunder clouds.

**Zeus**: But no lightning. (Furiously) My lightning bolt has been stolen!

**Poseidon** (incredulous): And you think I took it? Your omnipotence has blinded you, Zeus. We're forbidden from stealing each other's power.

**Zeus**: But our children aren't.

**Poseidon**: You're accusing my son? I haven't seen him since he was a baby. He doesn't even know who his father is.

N2: With a wave of his hand, Zeus summons the clouds. They pour out of the sky, cloaking him in an eerie fog.
Zeus (his terrible voice echoing over a menacing rumble of thunder): If he doesn’t return it to me in 14 days—by midnight on the summer solstice—there will be war!

SCENE 2
The Yancy Academy swimming pool

N1: The Yancy Academy isn’t the most modern or luxurious school in New York City, but it does have a nice swimming pool.

N2: Percy spends every free minute he has there. His friend, Grover, is sitting in the bleachers with his crutches propped up beside him.

Grover (over the sound of splashing): Seven minutes! How can you stay underwater so long?

Percy: I don’t know. I just can.

(A bell rings.)

Grover: Well, you’d better hurry up and get dressed, or we’ll be late for class.

Percy (wistfully): I wish I could spend my whole day underwater instead of here at Screw Up Central.

Grover: I know, I know. Yancy’s the only school in New York where even the vedictorian flunked.

N1: It takes Percy only a minute to towel off, pull on his clothes, and walk into the hall. A hubbub of voices is heard.

N2: Grover swings swiftly on his crutches, struggling to keep up with Percy’s long strides.

Grover (breathlessly): Not so fast, my man, not so fast. Remember, I’m differently abled.

(A door opens and closes. The classroom they enter is almost as noisy as the hall.)

Mrs. Dodds (raising her voice over the racket): Good morning. I’m Mrs. Dodds, your substitute English teacher. (The brisk sound of chalk on a blackboard) Percy, would you care to read this quote from Shakespeare out loud?

Percy: Uh... How do you know my name?

N1: Percy squints at the blackboard, but the letters seem to leap out of their places and dance around. He shakes his head hopelessly.

Mrs. Dodds looks away, annoyed.

SCENE 3
Brooklyn, the kitchen in the Uglino apartment

Percy (confused): Tomorrow? When are things going to get better?

Sally: You need to be patient. You’re still young.

(heavy footsteps, followed by a loud belch)

N1: Gabe. Percy’s stepfather, waddles in.

Gabe: Well, what do you know? The loser’s home. Do me a favor, kid, and stay out of my way. I got some serious television to watch.

(Heavy footsteps tramp offstage; a door slams.)

Percy: Why did you marry that pig, anyway?

Sally: He’s not that bad.

Percy: He showers once a week, sleeps till noon, can’t hold a job, and he treats you like dirt.

Sally: He’s been good to us, Percy. In ways that you’ll never know.

SCENE 4
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

N2: The next day, Percy’s history class goes on a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

N1: As their teacher leads them down the corridor, Percy hears a voice inside his head.

Poseidon (soft and resonant, with a decided echo): Be prepared, Percy. Everything is about to change.

Grover: What’s wrong with you, Percy? You look like you’ve seen a ghost.

Percy: It’s nothing.

N2: Percy and Grover follow their classmates into a gallery filled with Greek artifacts. Rusty weapons and armor line its walls; life-size statues of the 12 Olympian gods are arranged in a circle.

N1: Mr. Brunner rolls his wheelchair into the middle of the room and begins to speak.

Mr. Brunner: Behold the 12 Olympian gods. The Big Three are the brothers Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. They attained their power when they chopped their father Kronos into bits.

Teenage girl: Ewewwww.

Mr. Brunner: Zeus became king of the gods and ruled the sky. Poseidon ruled the sea. Hades was banished to the Underworld. The three have been rivals ever since, always arguing, always threatening war.

Teenage boy: You make them sound real.

Mr. Brunner: Not at all, they are myths—stories that the ancients told themselves to explain the seasons and nature. They imagined the gods to be greater versions of themselves, magnificently powerful but still prone to all the human weaknesses, like jealousy, anger, and, well, especially lust. There were several occasions when the gods would come down to Earth and... how shall I put this? Percy? What is the proper name for the offspring of a human being and a god?

Percy (surprised that he knows): Demigod.

Mr. Brunner: Precisely. Many of these demigods became great heroes, like Hercules and Achilles.

N2: Mr. Brunner rolls his wheelchair in front of a frieze that depicts a warrior fighting a sea monster.

Mr. Brunner: Here’s a picture of another. Can you name him?

N1: As Percy stares at the image, something astonishing happens. The Greek letters move, transforming themselves into English words: "Perseus Battles the Sea Monster!"

Percy (shocked that he can read it): Percy... Perseus?

Mr. Brunner: Well done, Mr. Jackson. Now, let’s move on to the hall of the pharaohs, where I will introduce you to some Egyptian artifacts.

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Mrs. Dodds: Not you, Percy. I need to have a word with you. Follow me.
Percy: Mrs. Dodds! What are you doing here?
N2: She leads Percy into a side gallery, ignoring the sign that reads “Under Renovation.”
N1: There is scaffolding against the walls, and the display cases are covered with sheets.
Percy: Are we allowed in here? Did I do something wrong? Mrs. Dodds? Where did you go?
N2: Percy looks around in astonishment. Mrs. Dodds has disappeared.

Mrs. Dodds (shrieking horribly): Where...is...it?
N1: Following the sound of Mrs. Dodds's voice, Percy looks up at the ceiling. She is perched atop the scaffolding...and has changed into a monster. Her arms and legs are leathery wings, tipped with fierce talons. Her eyes blaze with rage.
N2: She swoops down and snatches Percy up in her claws.
Mrs. Dodds: Give me the lightning bolt, or I will rip your heart out!
N1: Suddenly, Grover and Mr. Brunner appear in the room.
Mr. Brunner (his voice loud and resonant): Release him, or I will tear you to pieces!
N2: Hissing angrily, Mrs. Dodds drops Percy onto the floor. Then she flies through a window, shattering it. Within seconds, she is just a dot in the sky.

Mr. Brunner (his voice steady): A Fury...coiled in our school. I should have suspected. Now that they know who Percy is, we'll have to move him to the camp. Immediately.
Percy: The camp? What are you talking about?
N1: Mr. Brunner reaches into his coat and pulls out a ballpoint pen. Then he rolls his chair over to Percy and hands the pen to him.

Mr. Brunner (in a firm voice): Guard this well. It is a powerful weapon. Use it only in times of severe distress.
Percy: A pen?
Mr. Brunner: Take him to his mother, Grover.

Percy: My father? I can't remember anything about him.
Sally: He loved you, Percy. Leaving you was the most difficult thing he ever did. But he didn't have any choice.
N1: She would have said more, but, suddenly, a cow drops out of the sky. Then another.
Grover (over the sound of shrieking brakes): Is it just me, or is it raining cows?
N2: Sally tries to keep the car on the road, but, then, a monster—a great horned thing—appears right in front of them.
N1: The monster rips the door off the car, reaches in, and grabs Sally.
Sally (woolly): Run, Percy!
Percy: What's going on? Put my mom down!
N2: As she struggles in the monster's arms, Sally begins to turn into light. Then, she fades away.
Percy: No!!!!
Grover: The pen, Percy! Remember the pen!
N1: Percy fumbles for the pen his teacher had given him. When he clicks it, it turns into a gigantic sword.
N2: Grief-striken and terrified, Percy fights the monster.
Grover: Go, Percy! That's right, take him down!
N1: They battle for a long time, until Percy plunges the sword into its heart.
(a gargling sound, then silence)
Percy (stunned): I killed it.
Grover: That was one nasty Minotaur. But we've got to get out of here before they send reinforcements. Camp Half-Blood's just over the hill. C'mon!

N2: Grover kicks his shoes off as he speaks.
Percy: Grover, your feet! They look like a donkey's hooves.
Grover: They're goat feet, if you must know.
Percy: I don't understand... Grover: The politically correct term for what I am is real. And you're a demigod. But if we don't get out of here, what we're both going to be is dead!
(over the sound of crunching leaves and underbrush)
Grover: Camp Half-Blood is where they train people like you to become heroes—to harness your powers and accomplish great feats.
Percy: My powers?
Grover: Go ask that Minotaur if you don't believe you've got powers. Or better yet, ask him.
Mr. Brunner: Welcome to Camp Half-Blood, Percy.
Percy: Mr. Brunner! You're...a centaur?
Mr. Brunner: And you, Percy, are the son of Poseidon. Your adventures are just beginning.

What happened to Zeus's lightning bolt—and to Percy's mother? Will the gods go to war? To find out, watch the movie Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, due in theaters February 12, 2010.