

2016-2017

# DISCOVERY



Resource Guide

## THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Written by Joe Tracz  
Music & lyrics by Robert Rokicki  
Based on the book series by Rick Riordan  
Produced by Theatreworks USA



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

9:30 & 11:30 A.M. • VICTORIA THEATRE

The Frank M. *Cait* FOUNDATION  
**Discovery**

*Series*

VICTORIA  
THEATRE  
ASSOCIATION  
[www.victoriatheatre.com](http://www.victoriatheatre.com)



Welcome to the 2016-2017 Frank M. Tait Foundation Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

It is not every day that we have a Greek demigod grace the stage at Victoria Theatre. Percy Jackson, son of Poseidon, shares one of his adventures in the best-selling book *THE LIGHTNING THIEF* by Rick Riordan that comes to life right before your eyes. The powers of Greek mythological gods are still mysterious to this day, but not the trials and tribulations of being a teenager. We are excited for you to experience this brand new production!

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a “page to stage” experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don’t forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!

**Gary Minyard**  
Vice President of  
Education & Engagement



# Curriculum Connections



You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students’ age and abilities. *THE LIGHTNING THIEF* fulfills the following Ohio Standards and Benchmarks for Grades 2-7:

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

- Grade 2- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1.c
- Grade 3- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1.d
- Grade 4- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1.c, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1.d
- Grade 5- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.3
- Grade 6- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.2
- Grade 7- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.9

## OHIO’S NEW LEARNING STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

- Historical Thinking (Grades 2-7)
- Early Civilizations (Grade 2-7)
- Spatial Thinking and Skills (Grades 2-7)

## NATIONAL CORE ARTS THEATRE STANDARDS

- Grade 2- TH:Cr1.1.2, TH:Pr4.1.2, TH:Pr5.1.2, TH:Re7.1.2, TH:Re8.1.2, TH:Cn10.1.2.
- Grade 3- TH:Re7.1.3, TH:Cn10.1.3, TH:Cn11.1.3, TH:Cn11.2.3
- Grade 4- TH:Re7.1.4, TH:Cn10.1.4, TH:Cn11.1.4, TH:Cn11.2.4
- Grade 5- TH:Re7.1.5, TH:Cn10.1.5, TH:Cn11.1.5, TH:Cn11.2.5
- Grade 6- TH:Re7.1.6, TH:Cn10.1.6, TH:Cn11.1.6, TH:Cn11.2.6
- Grade 7- TH:Re7.1.7, TH:Cn10.1.7, TH:Cn11.1.7, TH:Cn11.2.7

This resource guide was created by Amy Handra. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

# Table of Contents

## COMPREHENSION

- About the Play & Spotlight on Rick Riordan .....Page 2
- Ohio Spotlight .....Page 2
- An Interview with Rick Riordan.....Page 3
- Pre-Show Conversation Starters & Reader’s Theatre .....Page 4
- Greek Mythology- A Who’s Who? & What is a Myth? .....Page 5

## CONNECTION

- Greek Language Lesson.....Page 6
- Meet the Olympians Worksheet .....Page 7
- Mythological Trading Cards .....Page 8
- Create Your Own Greek God or Goddess Worksheet .....Page 9

## CREATIVITY

- Visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art Worksheet .....Page 10
- Songwriting Tells a Story.....Page 11
- Create your Own Camp Half Blood.....Page 12
- Resources for Students and Teachers.....Page 13

# About the Play

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS



## THE LIGHTNING THIEF

The play you are about to see is based on the book *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. Percy Jackson just doesn't fit in. In fact, he is about to be kicked out of another boarding school. And that's the least of his troubles! Lately, the mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of his textbook and into his life, and he might have angered a few. When Zeus's master lightning bolt turns up missing, Percy is the prime suspect.

Now, Percy has ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed in his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him, solve the riddle of the Oracle, and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.



## SPOTLIGHT ON RICK RIORDAN

Rick Riordan spent fifteen years as a classroom teacher in public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. He began *The Lightning Thief* as a bedtime story for his son. The novel draws on Riordan's experience teaching Greek mythology and his interaction with students who have different learning styles. As a kid, Rick was influenced by J.R.R. Tolkien, and he has read *The Lord of the Rings* over ten times!

# Ohio Spotlight

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

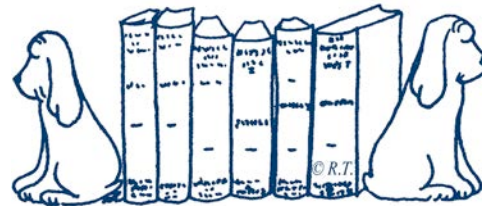
SOCIAL  
STUDIES

## THE THURBER HOUSE

The Thurber House, located near downtown Columbus, is the restored home of James Thurber, a humorist, author, and cartoonist for *The New Yorker*. Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, The Thurber House is living museum and literacy center and museum. The Thurber House hosts a variety of writing workshops for adults and children, including the Young Writers' Studio, Writing Wizards, Fable and Ghost Writing workshops and an 8-week summer camp.

For more information, please visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

## THURBER HOUSE



*Where laughter, learning and literature meet.*



COMPREHENSION

# An Interview with Rick Riordan



## Q. Where did you get the idea for Percy Jackson?

A. My son was studying the Greek myths in second grade when he asked me to tell him some bedtime stories about the gods and heroes. I had taught Greek myths for many years at the middle school level, so I was glad to do it. When I ran out of myths, he was disappointed and asked me if I could make up something new with the same characters.

Off the top of my head, I made up Percy Jackson and his quest to recover Zeus' lightning bolt in modern-day America. It took about three nights to tell the whole story, and when I was done, my son told me I should write it out as a book.

## Q. You were a teacher for a long time. Why did you leave the classroom?

A. That was a hard decision. I love teaching. I love working with kids. After I finished the first Percy Jackson book, I didn't think I'd be able to keep writing a book a year and do a good job in the classroom, so I made the reluctant decision to leave teaching.

The good part is I still get to work with kids as a children's author. Hopefully, I'll be able to get even more kids interested in reading Greek mythology.

## Q. Do you see any of yourself in Percy Jackson?

A. Percy has my sense of humor. Like him, I was not always a good student in school. Percy is also based on many students I have taught in the past, and partly on my own son's struggle with ADHD and dyslexia.

## Q. Any advice for young people who might want to be writers?

A. *Don't be afraid to ask for help!* Find a teacher you respect. Correspond with authors. You will find that a polite email will almost always get a response.

*Secondly, read a lot!* Read everything you can get your hands on. You will learn the craft of writing by immersing yourself in the voices, styles, and structures of writers who have gone before you.

*Thirdly, write every day!* Keep a journal. Jot down interesting stories you heard. Write descriptions of people you see. It doesn't really matter what you write, but you must keep up practice. Writing is like a sport -- you only get better if you practice. If you don't keep at it, the writing muscles atrophy.

*Finally, don't get discouraged!* Rejection is a part of writing, and it hurts. The trick is to keep at it. Wallpaper your room with rejection notes, if you want, but don't give up.



# Pre-Show Conversation Starters

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS



THE LIGHTNING THIEF is about discovering identity. In the beginning of the story, Percy Jackson doesn't yet know who his father is or that he has any special powers. He thinks of himself as a "bad kid," one who always gets into trouble. Over the course of the story, however, he learns things about himself that he never thought possible. Use the following discussion starters to spark a conversation with your students.



- Percy Jackson often feels like he's an outsider or that he's not "normal." Have students discuss a time when they felt different. How did it make them feel? How did they deal with their feelings?
- Have you ever been treated unfairly by a teacher, parent, or other adult? Describe the circumstances and why you considered the treatment unfair.
- What do you know about learning disabilities such as ADHD or dyslexia? Do you know anyone who has a learning disability? Do you think a person with a learning disability should receive more time to complete tests or less home work than a person without a learning disability? Explain your position.
- Sometimes kids imagine that their parents aren't really their parents. What would it be like if you suddenly found out that you had a "real" father or mother you never knew about? What if this person was extremely rich and powerful – would you accept them as a parent?
- Have you ever been to summer camp? If so, describe what you did or did not like about it. If not, imagine and describe what you think a typical summer camp would be like – any impressions from television or movies?
- You have been granted one magical item of your choice. What would this item be, and what power would it have? Explain your choice.

## Reader's Theatre



**Reader's Theatre** is a dramatic presentation of a written work in script form. The parts are divided among the readers, and the readers read from a script. No memorization, costumes, blocking, or special lighting is needed. The focus should be on reading the text with expressive voices. Discuss with your students what it means to read with expression, and then have them practice by using the Reader's Theatre script of *The Lightning Thief* found on Rick Riordan's website <http://rickriordan.com/resource/a-readers-theater-from-lightning-thief/>.

COMPREHENSION

# Greek Mythology - A Who's Who

SOCIAL STUDIES

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS



In THE LIGHTING THIEF, Percy Jackson discovers that he's not completely human; he's a part god or a **demigod**. Throughout the story, the Greek gods and goddesses are referenced and discussed, so use the chart below to help your students become familiar with some of the important gods and goddesses in Greek mythology.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Apollo     | The youthful God of the sun and music  |
| Ares       | The fierce God of war  |
| Athena     | The Goddess of wisdom and the arts   |
| Centaur    | A creature with the head and torso of a human and the body of a horse        |
| Cyclops    | A one-eyed giant   |
| Hades      | The God of the underworld and brother to Zeus and Poseidon                   |
| Harpies    | Female monsters in the form of birds with human faces                        |
| Hercules   | Son of Zeus  |
| Hermes     | The God of trade   |
| Kronos     | The Titan ruler of time and the ages   |
| Medusa     | The Gorgon sister who bragged about her beauty and was turned into a monster |
| Minotaur   | A monster with the body of a man but the head and tail of a bull             |
| Odysseus   | A leader in the Trojan War   |
| Pan        | The God of the wild  |
| Poseidon   | The God of the sea and Percy Jackson's father                                |
| Prometheus | The God of forethought   |
| Titans     | The Elder Gods who ruled the earth before the Olympians overthrew them       |
| Zeus       | The King of the Gods   |

## What is a Myth?

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

**/miTH/**

(Noun) a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.

**Greek mythology** is the body of myths and teachings that belong to the ancient Greeks, concerning their gods and heroes. It was a part of the religion in ancient Greece. Modern scholars refer to and study the myths in an attempt better understand the religious and political institutions of Ancient Greece and its civilization, and to gain understanding of the nature of myth-making itself.

## HERCULES

One of the most famous Greek myths is about Hercules. Among the strongest of men, it would be easy to view Hercules as a muscle-bound buffoon. Indeed, many of the Greek comedy playwrights used his character in this way. Even among serious critics, he was often seen as a primitive, brutal, and violent man. There is much evidence to support this view; his weapon of choice was a massive club; his customary garment was a lion skin, with the head still attached; he impiously wounded some of the gods. However, viewing Hercules as simply a strong buffoon is unfair. He grew up to become the hero who beat the odds time and again, performed amazing, often helpful tasks, and yet was full of human flaws.



(Courtesy of <http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Heroes/Heraclides/heracles.html>.)

COMPREHENSION

# It's all Greek to Me!



The Greek language is over 2500 years old and has influenced many other languages, including English. You might be surprised at how many common English words have a Greek root. A *root*, as its name suggests, is a word or word part from which other words grow, usually through the addition of **prefixes** and **suffixes**.

Understanding the meanings of the common word roots can help us deduce the meanings of new words that we encounter. Take a look at the chart below, and see if you can come up with another English word example that contains the Greek root.

| Root    | Meaning | Examples          |
|---------|---------|-------------------|
| -ast    | Star    | Asteroid, _____   |
| -auto   | Self    | Automatic, _____  |
| -bio    | Life    | Biography, _____  |
| -chrono | Time    | Chronic, _____    |
| -geo    | Earth   | Geography, _____  |
| -graph  | Write   | Autograph, _____  |
| -path   | Feel    | Empathy, _____    |
| -phon   | Sound   | Phonics, _____    |
| -photo  | Light   | Photograph, _____ |

## Classroom Activity



Pick a mythological creature and write your own **haiku**! A **haiku** is a short Japanese poem that uses sensory language to capture a feeling or image. Traditional **haikus** contain 17 syllables, divided into three lines: 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables.

**My name is Percy  
My dad is also a god  
He is Poseidon**

**Medusa was vain  
Athena made her ugly  
Now she has snake hair**

CONNECTION

# Meet the Olympians Worksheet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Greek mythology, there are 12 gods considered the most important. They are called THE OLYMPIANS. In the boxes below write the characteristics of each god. For help and more interesting information, check out [www.theoi.com/!](http://www.theoi.com/)

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Zeus</b> | <b>Hera</b> |
|-------------|-------------|

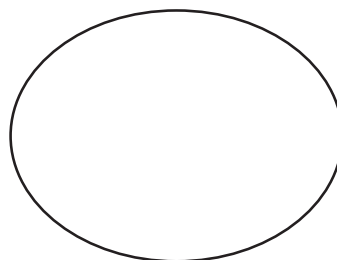
**Poseidon**

**Demeter**

**Ares**

**Athena**

**Apollo**



**Artemis**

**(Hestia)**

**Hephaestus**

**Aphrodite**

**Hermes**

**Dionysus**



# Mythological Trading Cards



Now that students have identified the main gods of Greek mythology and learned more about other characters mentioned in THE LIGHTNING THIEF, they can select their favorite and create a unique trading card.

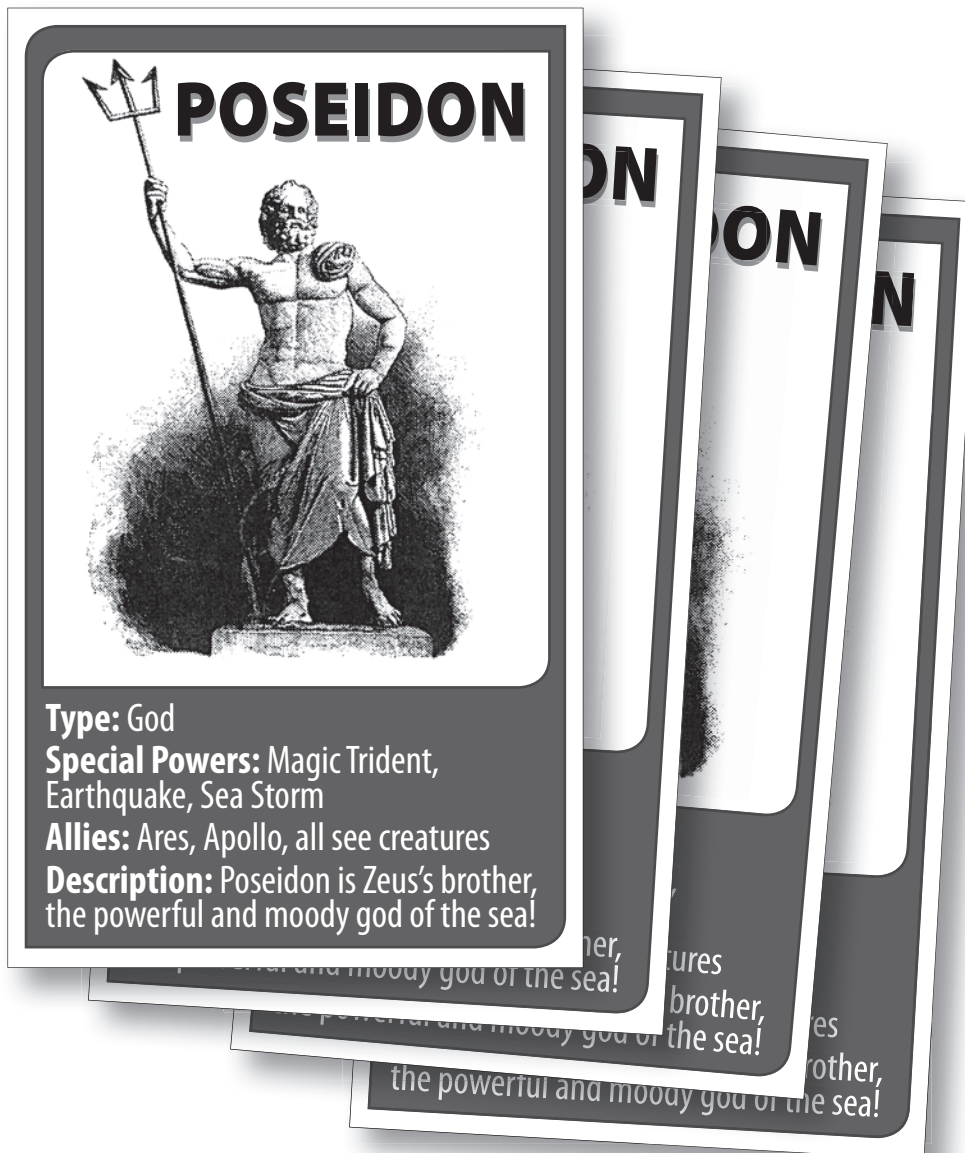
## What You Will Need:

- Cardboard or cardstock cut into 3 x 5 inch rectangles
- Colored pencils or markers

Decide what information you will put on your card. Besides the character's name, you should have a brief description and any special power that the character has. You might even want to assign an attack value and defense value to your card to you can play games with friends!

Each student should make at least 12, so when they trade everyone will have a variety of cards.

Possible characters for cards: Percy Jackson, Poseidon, Hades, Zeus, Medusa, Minotaur, Furies, Chimera, Echidna, Hellhound, Athena, Hermes.



CONNECTION

# Create Your Own God or Goddess Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Percy Jackson is pretty shocked when he finds out that he is a Demigod and the son of Poseidon, the God of the Sea. The Greeks believed that the gods had the power to change the fate of mortals (humans), which is what makes Greek mythology so interesting. If you were a Greek god, which power would you choose? Would you be smart like Apollo, or beautiful like Aphrodite?

**Step One:** Read a few Greek myths found on <http://greekmyths4kids.com/>.

**Step Two:** Think about what kind of powers you would like to have.

**Step Three:** Name yourself!

**Step Four:** Draw a picture of yourself in action. So many pictures of Zeus include him with a lightning bolt, and Poseidon is often seen rising out of the sea.

**Step Five:** Write a short story in which the God or Goddess you create for yourself goes on a journey or faces a challenge.

My God or Goddess Name is \_\_\_\_\_

My Special Power is \_\_\_\_\_

My Action Shot



My Story

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---

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# Metropolitan Museum of Art Worksheet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Percy Jackson and his classmates take a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The Met, as it is informally called, is the largest art museum in the United States with over 2 million pieces of art located among 17 departments. Can't make it to New York City? Don't worry because you can hop in the Met's Time Machine and explore the museum anyway!

Click here to access the Met Kids Time Machine <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/>.

Students can explore the collection and fill out the information below about their favorite piece. (Be sure to take a trip to the Mythology section of the Met Time Machine!) Then, have student share what they learned with the class!

## ART ANALYSIS:

What kind of object is it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is it made out of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does it have a use other than art? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When was it created? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where is it from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe what it looks like: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Songwriting Tells a Story



*THE LIGHTNING THIEF* is a **musical**. A **musical** tells a story through songs that sum up the plot using lyrics. Here is a sample of lyrics from the opening number of *THE LIGHTNING THIEF*, "The Day I Got Expelled."

## Percy

I didn't know what happened  
Was that all a creepy, crazy dream  
My teacher was a creature  
Then, she vanished in the ether  
With a scary scream  
The next thing that I knew  
I was where detention was held  
The day it all got real  
The day I got expelled



**While the songs fly by effortlessly, writing lyrics isn't as easy as it seems. Have your students try their hand at writing a verse by using this basic rhyme scheme.**

- A - Sentence stands on its own and introduces subject matter
- B - Sentence has a different ending song then the first line
- A - End of this sentence rhymes with the first line
- B - End of this sentence rhymes with the second line

**Here is an example:**

Percy Jackson is a demigod  
Who got expelled from school  
His story is a bit flawed  
But the results are really cool!



**Once students have mastered this style of writing, have them try adding a "hook" which is a repetitive line at the beginning or end of each verse. In the example from the show, the hook would be the line "The day I got Expelled."**

CREATIVITY

# Create Your Own Camp Half Blood



Percy goes to Camp Half Blood and learns more about the Greek Gods and Goddesses than he ever thought possible. Imagine what would happen if you and your friends were attending Camp Half Blood!

- Design a poster for your Own Camp Half Blood
- Make a schedule of events for one day at camp
- Draw a map like the one below so other campers can find their way around.
- If you could have one of the gods or goddesses from Greek mythology visit your camp, who would it be and why?



CREATIVITY

# Resources for Students & Teachers

## Publications for Students—Additional Titles in the *Percy Jackson Series*:

*The Lightning Thief*, 2006.  
*The Sea of Monsters*, 2007.  
*The Titan's Curse*, 2008.  
*The Battle of the Labyrinth*, 2009.  
*The Last Olympian*, 2011.

## Publications for Teachers and Parents:

*Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, and Monsters*, Written by Donna Jo Napoli and Illustrated by Christina Balit. National Geographic Children's Books: 2011.  
*Oh My Gods! A Look-it-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology*, Written by Megan E. Bryant. Franklin Watts: 2009.  
*The House of Make-Believe: Children's Play and Developing Imagination*, Written by Dorothy and Jerome Singer. Harvard University Press: 1992.

## Websites for Teachers and Students:

<http://www.rickriordan.com/home.aspx> – Find out the latest news straight from Percy Jackson author, Rick Riordan. There are also links to learn about Greek Mythology, and more!

<http://www.pantheon.org/> – This award-winning online encyclopedia of mythology is a comprehensive list of traditional tales concerning the gods, heroes, and rituals of the ancient Greeks, and other areas. From Apollo to Zeus, they are all right here!

<http://www.writingclassesforkids.com> – Dee White began writing at age seven and hasn't stopped since! She formed the blog "Writing Classes for Kids" to encourage and inspire future writers. This comprehensive site provides everything from writing prompts, resources, classes, information about writing retreats, and lesson plans for teachers and parents.

## Victoria Fuse's Local Resource Discovery



*The Dayton Metro Library will inform, inspire and enrich our community by linking individuals to information needed for personal success, providing access to a world of imagination and culture and offering convenient and comfortable spaces that enhance exploration and facilitate civic participation. We are the marketplace of the mind.*

The Dayton Metro Library is a county-wide system of the Main Library in downtown Dayton, 20 branch libraries, and Outreach Services. We are one of the oldest and largest public library systems in Ohio, and are proud to say we rank among the best in the nation!

**937.463.BOOK (2665)**

For more information, please visit [www.daytonmetrolibrary.org](http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org)

VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION 2016-2017 Season



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Brought to you by  
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**DON'T FORGET**

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

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