Percy Jackson Book V: The Last Olympian

Author’s Intro:

Rick Riordan is an American contemporary author, born on June 6 1964 (making him 54 years-old today) in San Antonio, Texas. Originally, he wanted to be a musician. After he transferred colleges, he realized he wanted to be a teacher and received his degree from the University of Texas. He, now, is highly recognized as the creative mind behind the Percy Jackson & the Olympian series, but has also written other popular series such as the Kane Chronicles and the Magnus Chase series and the Trials of Apollo. Before becoming a famous author, Riordan used his degree to be an English and Social Studies teacher. As an English teacher, he began to dabble in creative writing. He began writing mystery novels, not for young adults, but adults. After having a son of his own, Riordan was reintroduced to the world of children’s books. It was there that he got his inspiration to turn away from the adult mystery genre and begin trying YA fiction. His YA novels include the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series, the Heroes of Olympus series, the Kane Chronicles, The Maze of Bones, Cold Springs, the Trials of Apollo, and Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard. He has won many awards over the years. He won his first major awards in 1998, the Shamus Award and the Anthony Award for Big Red Tequila. Some of his other awards include the Mark Twain Award in 2008 and 2009 for The Lightning Thief and The Sea of Monsters, the Rebecca Caudill Award for The Lightning Thief, the Children’s Choice Book Awards in 2011 for both Author of the Year and The Red Pyramid, and many more. (Google Sites). What makes Rick Riordan so unique is his creativity. This single man has created different worlds of his imagine come alive on paper through writing. He makes his work intriguing by using mythological creatures and the ancient Gods. It is very evident he does his research on these topics, because his characters are so detailed. He puts his own spin on things when it comes to these characters personalities, because each character is uniquely and carefully thought out. It makes his work that much more special and entertaining as the audience. There are many fiction writers out there, but none of them twist fiction and ancient history like Rick Riordan’s novels. Without the mythological creatures, Gods, and Demigods it would not be a true Rick Riordan masterpiece. Novels and series like these are important, because they give our students an outlet to escape the real world for a little bit and be transferred to an amazing fantasy world full of action and adventure. It opens their imagination, and I believe we need more of that.

“Awards and Achievements - Rick Riordan.” *Google Sites*, sites.google.com/site/rickriordanauthor/awards-and-achievements.

Text Intro:

The fifth book from the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series, The Last Olympian, is a YA Fantasy Fiction novel. It’s target grade level would be more for seventh or eighth graders, because it is a longer book with smaller print, especially if they are reading the whole series. If it was for younger grades it would not be as long, because it is more likely to lose their attention with the length. This novel is a continuation of the first four books with Percy Jackson, son of Poseidon and a half-blood, at Camp Half-Blood as he comes across a spy. He tries to tell his father, but he insists on Percy hearing the “Great Prophecy”. Percy travels to the Underworld in order to help his father beat Kronos. Throughout the novel Percy and the half-bloods must join together to help defend Olympus. During battle, Camp Half-Blood begins losing their people, losing 16 people. They began with 40. This novel is a thrilling and adventurous race against time. Percy must decide what is best for not only himself, but also his friends and father. As the title suggests there can only be one last Olympian. How do you think this exciting story will end?

Teaching Challenges:

A major challenge a teacher will face with this books is that many will argue that this book is not academic, but this book is very informative about ancient Gods and Demigods. It also allows for the students to escape in their own minds. Another challenge is that some of the students might not be into or even like learning about this kind of thing, but it is an important part of history. The novel makes it fun to learn about because it makes it relatable for the students to add a teenage boy into the Olympian mix. Vocabulary may also trip some of the students up, because there is a lot of strange names of things. It may be hard for them to read aloud, so getting the audio version may help. That way none of the students’ feel ashamed or embarrassed that they cannot pronounce the difficult language. Another challenge a teacher could face when presenting this novel is that it brings in a different belief system that many parents and students are not used to. Some parents may not want their child to read about worshiping these Gods and Demigods, but, as the teacher, you will have to explain to them that that is not the purpose of reading the novel. The purpose is to become more knowledgeable about the culture of that time.

Teaching Resources:

<https://3o83ip44005z3mk17t31679f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Climbing-to-the-Top-of-Mount-Olympus.pdf>

This is a good teaching resource for when you may have been stuck when trying to figure out a lesson plan to educate the students on Mount Olympus and the Gods. This is a fun activity for your students to do, because it will transport their minds back to thinking about and questioning nature like the people did in those times. They believe that these Gods created the entire world, so this is an interactive and fun way to get your student’s’ minds thinking like that. By having the students embody an actual God, they are able to research that figure, so they are able to explain to the rest of the class what they have learned through this activity.

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/an-introduction-to-greek-mythology/>

I really enjoy this lesson plan, because it breaks apart and dissects the background of each of the Greek Gods. It provides a chart for the students to put each God’s Roman name, Realm, symbol, and characteristics. It also allows each student to choose their favorite of the Gods and describe their personality, family, and where they resonant. This is an important teaching resource, because it will give the students background information before just diving into a novel or series that they are clueless about. It also helps you out as the teacher by doing these things in an organized and creative way.