

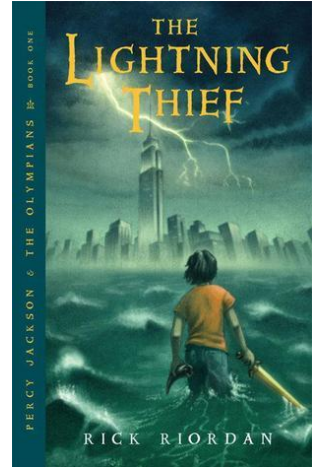
To: Professor Evans, and my dear classmates,

In the process of working on this assignment, I tried to think of many different stories prompts that would capture the goal of this assignment, and one that I would hope to not put you all to sleep. In the midst of writing my story, I realized how I used my language in a way where I wrote the same way I would talk, to really capture the storytelling feeling and be on a level where it isn't extremely formal or too informal. I also tried to use media tools that I believe to be less boring and more fun or interactive, and ones that easily help readers grasp an idea of the story. Such as including a meme or text messages that we nowadays are very involved within this generation.

Through the work of this assignment and in this phase I came to many other realizations about myself and my writing style. For one, I realized that the language or style I used for this assignment was easier to follow along, which in turn made me notice how strict and frigid my writing style is in other works. Although that may be because of formal vs informal, I still want to be able to have a writing style that speaks more me, and less middle school. I would also like to expand my vocabulary and my use of transition words from my head and depend less on the thesaurus. I also noticed my language in regard to repetition. I have a habit of taking the same idea and rewording it a bunch of times which gets really dragged on and makes me lose the focus of the story and the readers' attention. I believe this is due to my need for emphasis, I want to improve this and find a more suitable method. Last but not least, I want to unlock more of a descriptive and creative style where I include writing with the five senses, such as onomatopoeia.

I have also come to see that my writing style and practices change very fluidly mainly depending on the rhetorical situation, the context and the purpose. Its as if I adjust myself and writing to what better fits the situation, and also what would better suit the audience in regards to what it is theyre looking for when reading my work.

One of my earliest memories significant to literacy is when I first gained an interest in reading. I had previously enjoyed reading books from what I can remember, but they didn't last long, such as the Magisterium series by Cassandra Clare and Holly Black, or the famous *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White, or even the *Wings of Fire* series written by Tui T. Sutherland. It was always an on-and-off kind of thing where I would lose interest for a more extended period of time than when I gained it, right after finishing a book. However, it all changed in sixth grade, when my class read *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan, for the very first time.



In elementary school we often did read-aloud as a class, where the kids would sit on the floor surrounding the teacher, a copy of the reading in each person's hands, following along as the teacher or another student reads aloud. Just writing this gives me nostalgia. I don't recall another time when I was as excited for a story as I was for this one. Unless you count Judy Blume's Fudge tales, but honestly even that doesn't compare. Everything



was heightened in these moments, my participation, eagerness, discussion, and imagination. So much so, that I used to read ahead, always opening my mouth to rant about it, putting those colorful sticky tabs all around it, and even staying up late at night.

To this day it probably still is one of my favorite books. Nothing had a hold on me like the Percy Jackson book, and later the series. I thought I reached the max capacity for this beloved series but then at the end, I find out we were doing movie night and watching the Percy Jackson movie. We got all cozied up in our PJs with popcorn and drinks, screaming "it's not done yet!" before the end credit scene. The joy I felt was indescribable, I wish I could feel that again.

This summer, I had the opportunity to work as a summer camp counselor in training, watching over this small class of kids. During my first or second week, I was assigned to go diving in a storage unit to find books for the kids to read. I happened to find a whole stash of Percy Jackson books, and brought two back with me, praying one of the kids would be interested in reading even though they were around 8-10 years old, I tried my hardest to convince them every day. It didn't work, but another teacher did pick it up to read just as I did, it made me so

happy. Every day when the silent reading time came around, I sat on a chair and re-read Percy Jackson by myself after so many years, finishing it by the time my summer job ended. I realized how much of it I forgot and went on again talking to the teachers and friends and family. Then proceeding to rewatch the movie again just so I could pull at the differences.

Reading Percy Jackson really opened a window for me, one that I never thought I would stay in. Onward from this moment, for the rest of the year and even in middle school I stayed on top of my game always making sure to up my reading level and discover new books I loved. Books such as the Divergent series, shadow hunter series, hazelwood trilogy, etc. I grew a love for getting lost in these worlds I created in my head from all the books I read. Inspired by the famous Mason Cooley Quote: “Reading Gives Us Someplace To Go When We Have To Stay Where We Are.” Aside from books I read for fun, this love for reading has encouraged me to go outside of these fictional worlds and expand my knowledge of real world situations such as reading newspapers on current events of the world and growing a voice and passion for change.

I have gained so much. It’s no lie when they say reading sharpens your brain. It increases mental stimulation which in turn helps you with your thinking and language, which further benefits you in your level of understanding and comprehension and even engages you in skill building. Reading has affected my hobbies, my interests, my school life, my outside life, every aspect has had an impact from reading, all that started with this one book. Even aside from me, the influence of this spreads to my family who I’ve always a shared a love of reading and encouragement with. Whether its discussing new trending book releases with my older cousins, or urging the little one’s in my family on a trip to the library, to even borrowing a bunch of kids books to read to my younger sibling even when she doesnt pay attention because I have as much fun reading them to her regardless. This is so beneficial to me because I know, or at least I hope to be able to pass this love down for generations, and I have Percy jackson to thank for all this.

