



## OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

### LOCATION

**Building(s):** Shanahan

**Classes/Grade Level(s):** ELA 6-8

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Selection Title/Author:** The Hidden Oracle (Trials of Apollo #1) by Rick Riordan

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Lexile Reading Level:** 680L

**Total number of pages:** 384

**Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)**

The Greek god Apollo is punished by Zeus by being banished to Earth in human form. He must complete a series of dangerous tasks to win back his immortality.

**Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)**

The premise of the book is Greek and Roman mythology, so there are instances of magic, mythological creatures, monsters, gods, and weapons throughout. For example, the main character is identified as the fallen god Apollo in chapter 1 and giant killer ants kidnap a child in chapter 24.

Apollo is mugged in chapter 1 and other acts of violence between humans includes punching, poking in the eyes, and kicking in the crotch.

The human teen characters have crushes and boyfriends/girlfriends as seen in chapter 2.

Apollo reflects on his various past relationships with both men and women on page 94 and two male campers identify themselves as boyfriends on page 91.

Many characters are described as the offspring of affairs between gods and mortals. See page 83 as an example.

Apollo describes himself and other characters as being slaves. See pages 18-20 for instance.



	<p>Violent acts between mythical creatures is also prevalent. For example on page 66, one creature beheads another.</p> <p>Campers play a prank on the camp director that makes him look like the main character from Rocky Horror Picture Show on page 95.</p> <p>In chapter 19, one of the main characters reveals her dad was murdered by the villain.</p> <p>Weapons, both real and mythical, are used throughout such as swords, chainsaws, cannon balls, arrows, knives, etc. Kidnapped campers are threatened to be set on fire as human torches. See chapters 22 and 31 as an example.</p> <p>Pages 253 and 281 mention the persecution and burning of early Christian martyrs done by the Roman emperor Nero.</p>
--	--

**Book Reviews (2-3 links) Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links**

From Common Sense Media: Parents need to know that The Hidden Oracle is the first book in a series that's a spin-off of a Percy Jackson spin-off series. Did you follow that? The Percy Jackson and the Olympians series came first, then the Heroes of Olympus. It helps to read them both before digging into this first book in the Trials of Apollo series. The storyline picks up after the war at the end of the Heroes of Olympus, and many old favorite characters make cameos or are mentioned. And, for extra credit, reading the Apollo chapter in Percy Jackson's Greek Gods helps when our "suddenly mortal and very unhappy about it" narrator Apollo recounts key moments of his godly life. There's a lot to learn about mythology here and, on a deeper level, about how a god like Apollo can get corrupted by power throughout his long, immortal life -- the humbling experience of being mortal makes him so much more likable by the end of the book. Expect much of the same kinds of fantasy violence in this story as in past series. Giant ants and a massive automaton statue do the most damage. Teen campers are kidnapped and almost set on fire. Healers in the Apollo cabin take care of injuries, even reattaching one leg, and some tree spirits sacrifice themselves to stop a fire. Apollo mourns lost loves, male and female, including the discus thrower Hyacinthus, who was killed by a discus thanks to a vengeful wind spirit.

From Publisher's Weekly: In this book, the first in Riordan's Trials of Apollo series (a spin-off of his bestselling Percy Jackson series), the god Apollo is punished by Zeus and sent to Earth in the form of a gawky teenage boy. He is forced to serve a 12-year-old demigod girl who just recently discovered her powers, faces danger from an ongoing series of mythological creatures trying to kill him, and attempts to solve the mystery of why the Oracle of Delphi has gone silent. Narrator Daymond's narration is delightful: lively and comical, he perfectly captures the lovably conceited and pompous Apollo, who is constantly being brought down a peg in his humiliating human state, and creates memorable voices for a myriad of creatures, including gurgly, raspy plague ghouls, an authoritative centaur, and a grain spirit in the form of



a wailing baby. Percy Jackson fans will eagerly take to this new series, and Daymond's entertaining narration only adds to the fun. Ages 10–14.

## ABOUT THE CLASS

**Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards):** (To be completed by the teacher or team)

Students will read a book of their choosing from 5 options and will participate in book clubs with other students reading the same books. They will ask questions, summarize, and analyze elements of literature as they discuss their books together.

**The Ohio Department of Education ELA Standards (list priority standards *only and* abbreviations of the main ideas of the priority standards)** [Link to Ohio's ELA Standards](#)

1. RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development.

## ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

**What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives? (Title/author)**

1. Ground Zero by Alan Gratz
2. The Strangers by Margaret Petersen Haddix

**SIGNATURES** (embedded jpegs of authentic signatures are fine OR download/print form and obtain traditional signatures)

Teacher: Valerie Biggam Date: 3/10/22  
Department Chair: Valerie Biggam Date: 3/10/22  
Building Principal: C. Zeller Date: 3.14.22  
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 3/14/22