

\*Note: this document is modified and the addresses are fake

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English Teacher

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Dear Mr. English Teacher,

I am here to inform you of pages 1-121 of the book, "The Trials of Apollo" by Rick Riordan. So far, the story's writing and plot has been moderately ok, with the Greek Olympian god, Apollo, being forced down unto the earth as a mortal by his father, Zeus, the King of the Greek gods. Apollo was forcibly bound to a young mortal named Meg McCaffrey, daughter of Demeter, who helps him in exchange for him to obey her. Apollo faces many trials, including the enemies that he will face, and the thought of working with mortals, including his own mortality.

The writing is not as well-written as some books I have read before, but the plot is very suspenseful and fantastic. I have noticed that Riordan seems to be trying to keep his plot from getting too serious, often tucking in a bit of humor once in a paragraph or two. For example, in the book, Apollo thinks about his past, stating, "...those dryads couldn't possibly hold me responsible for what had happened thousands of years ago on a different continent...*why not?* I asked myself. *You still hold yourself responsible.* I told myself to stuff a sock in it" (pg 75, p 4-6). In these paragraphs, Riordan seems to add in a hint of humor, along with a kind of serious tone in his sentences, which may sometimes create a kind of serious-humor switch that goes on and off in his book. He also seems to create suspense right at the beginning of the story as well, and some information that gets the reader to know the gist of the plot so far. As Apollo flashbacks in the second paragraph on the fourth page, "but one memory floated to the surface-the voice of my father, Zeus: YOUR FAULT. YOUR PUNISHMENT" (lines 3-5). By adding in flashbacks at the beginning of the book, Riordan informs the reader what exactly happened that caused Apollo to land in a dumpster, and it creates suspense, because the readers don't know why, or what will happen next.

In the book, the main character, Apollo, has quite the ego, with some seriousness over his past relationships sprinkled in. It also looks like Apollo, who has lost most of his memories, has a newer kind of personality than Riordan's last books with Apollo in it, with him being more serious, but still holding himself as better than the mortals. An example from the book is when Apollo says, "I am Apollo...you mortals have three choices: offer me tribute, flee, or be destroyed" (pg 8, p 6) even when he is mortal, and he can't fight without his powers. This

example shows that Apollo still thinks he has his powers, even though he is mortal, and is overconfident about it when two guys come to steal his money. Apollo also believes that mortals will welcome him, even though he is a mortal, not a god, and mortals don't really care if another mortal that isn't a god anymore comes to their home. For example, on paragraph 11, page 27, when Apollo states, "after all I had done for Percy Jackson, I expected delight upon my arrival. A tearful welcome, a few burnt offerings, and a small festival in my honor would not have been inappropriate" (lines 27-29). This example shows how big of an ego Apollo had, as a god, which seems to be improving so far in the book, and how much he thought he was being appreciated. Compared to me, he is like an opposite. He has a sunnier and more humorous personality than I do, and is more arrogant. Although he still has a big ego, since he was a god, he has changed a bit since the beginning of the story, which shows how he is getting used to being a mortal, and working along with them.

As I was only going through only 121 pages, I have inferred a lot using textual evidence from the book. I have also analyzed the writer's style of writing, and a character in the book, who is Apollo.

Sincerely,



L. C.  
Student of PHS