Continue

Have you ever wanted to escape the ordinary world and go on an epic adventure? Or, are you a new reader looking for a book series that will lead you on a journey to devouring books like theres no tomorrow? Look no further than the Percy Jackson series, one of the most beloved book series by New York Times bestselling writer Rick Riordan. Filled with legends, heroes, quests and an abundance of Greek mythology, these books have been a source of inspiration and comfort for many, which is the reason many of us fans are excited about the upcoming TV show, hitting Disney+ on December 20, 2023.So, in honour of the show and to commemorate the release of Rick Riordans new book The Chalice of the Gods, here are my top 5 reasons why the Percy Jackson series (or really, anything Rick Riordan has ever written) is the best book series of all time.The narration is top-tierIf theres one thing any reader of this series will tell you about these books, the first that comes to mind is that the narration is top-tier. The first series, Percy Jackson and the Olympiansis entirely written from Percys point of view, and he remains to this day the funniest narrator Ive ever come across, even years later. With chapter titles such as I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-algebra Teacher and We Take a Zebra to Vegas from the first book alone, you can already imagine that youre in for a wild ride with Percy. And, to add even more to that, the ride continues with the following series, The Heroes of Olympus, and The Trials of Apollo, where the latters chapters begin with hilarious (but horrendous) Haikus.Powerful female charactersThe Percy Jackson series features some of the most inspirational female characters in the history of fantasy books. Contrary to being simply mentally strong, Riordan portrays his female characters as fighters, and equally (if not more) skilled than their male counterparts. From demigod Annabeth Chase, who is both highly strategic and an excellent swordswoman; to mortal Sally Jackson, Percys mother who demonstrates sheer dedication in protecting her son from the harm that comes with being a demigod, each female character is exquisitely crafted to portray strength in a variety of ways.Diverse LGBTQ+ cast!One of my favourite parts of this series is how much Riordan creates awareness in his books. In addition to family conflicts and abandonment issues (related to demigods having an absent parenttheir godly parentfor most of their lives) to showcasing characters with disabilities, Riordan also prides in supporting the LGBTQ+ community in his books by having a wide array of characters identifying as part of the community. With an abundance of lovable characters (which I will not name due to spoilers), these books aim to educate children, adolescents and adults alike on the reality of our society, and promote acceptance and pride in accepting who we are.Learn about Greek MythologyOkay, Ill be honest - everything I know about Greek mythology comes from these books. And, I seriously mean everything. Although I had no intention of learning about Greek myths when I first started reading these books, Riordan accurately depicts and teaches readers about the ancient Greeks by incorporating common tropes found in mythology, such as heroes, legends and prophecies. In addition, the monsters these demigods fight in the books are also the same you may have heard of in other myths. Like, remember Medusa? Yup, she now owns a garden full of gnomes. In the end, Percys just like you and meIf theres one key takeaway from this series, its that not all heroes have to fight an external enemy. Although a main part of this series is demigods fighting mythological monsters threatening their very existence, Riordan also emphasizes that true heroism comes from within as well. Many characters throughout this series go through similar issues we go through, including identity crises, grief, inferiority complexes, loneliness, stress/pressure and ultimately valid human emotions. But, through these feelings, they also grow and flourish into amazing people who become a source of inspiration for all readers alike.Oh, and also, they go to college at some point. Just thought I should add that in there too.And there you have it! Five reasons why you should read the Percy Jackson series and experience the rollercoaster of a lifetime. For anyone looking to purchase the first book, it is available on Amazon and Indigo respectively. Lastly, for all the caught-up readers of the series as well, I hope you enjoyed reading this article. Enjoy the TV show, everyone! Though I first read the Percy Jackson series when I was 12, still, about 10 years later, I think its one of the best book series I have ever read (as an avid reader and all-around book lover, I feel like I am allowed to say this). I typically reread the series every few years. Even as Ive grown older than my favorite characters, I still find new ways to love the series and find myself laughing at the jokes and crying over the sweet shared moments between the characters. Percy Jackson & the Olympians spans five books, written by award-winning author Rick Riordan. The first book of the series was published in 2005 and follows the main character, 12-year-old Percy, as he learns that the Greek gods are in fact real and that he is a demigod, the son of Poseidon. A native New Yorker, Percy learns that Olympus is located in his hometown, atop the Empire State Building, as the Greek capital changes with modern times.The first book, Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief, introduces Percy, his new friends, and how he adjusts to this life-changing news. We get to see Percy become a true hero as he balances normal adolescent adjustments (bullying, home drama, and navigating friendships) as well as demigod dilemmas (fighting actual gods, upsetting ancient deities, and having to battle monsters).If you and your family havent read these chapter books just yet, I cant recommend anything else more than the Percy Jackson series. Here are my top reasons why its ideal for you to read them this summer. 1. It shows the importance of friendship and loyaltyWith his two best friends by his side, Annabeth Chase, daughter of Athena, and Grover Underwood, a satyr, Percy is truly never alone throughout the series, even through his darkest of times. The two support him no matter what hes going throughwhether its fighting with Ares, the god of war, or being turned into guinea pigs by Greek sorceress Circeand Percys relationships and connections with Annabeth and Grover are admirable. Even when he is going through friendship breakups or experiencing betrayal, a constant throughout the entire series is the love and support Percy receives from his two best friends. In my opinion, Percy, Annabeth, and Grover are the ultimate trio of all time.At Camp Half-Blood, the camp where all demigods stay and train, we also see Percy interacting with other minor characters, portraying different types of friendship that vary from his main group but still exemplify the importance of connecting with and maintaining relationships with others who can relate to you. Source: Skylar Zilka | Unsplash 2. It highlights representation and diversityRiordan does an excellent job of highlighting different identities in his novels that provide representation for a range of groups. From mental health struggles to characters with different racial and LGBTQ+ backgrounds, the series shines a light on peopleand heroesof all identities.Percy, as well as other demigod characters, are diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia. The novels show explicitly how these two diagnoses are what make Percy himself and how its never seen as an ailment to him or his friends.Along with the candid conversations about his neurodivergence, the series also digs deeper, showing abusive domestic relationships between Percys stepfather and his mother and how that has an effect on Percy himself.Throughout the entire series, Riordan makes it very clear that a demigod can come from any background, oftentimes having characters in the novel that come from a variety of races and cultures and allowing their cultural identity to be brought to the forefront when it comes to that specific character. 3. It portrays Greek mythology in a modern wayRevolving around Greek mythology, Riordan portrays classic Greek myths in a way that young readers are able to comprehend and understand in a modern way. Most of my Greek mythology knowledgeother than learning about it in schoolcomes from reading these novels at a young age. If youre looking for a Greek or Roman myth fact from me, I can spit these out without even opening up Google. The god of wine? Dionysus. The name of the golden coins Greeks used? Drachmas. Dont get me wrong, Riordan gave me silly ways of remembering some aspects; for example, calling ancient hippocampi beasts Sea-Ponies and portraying Hermes, the messenger god, as a mailman. He did it right, though, because these facts stuck with me years and years later. Who knows? Maybe you and your family are also going to be Greek and Roman myth-buffs come the end of summer. 4. Its age-appropriate for the entire family (literally)Despite the novels being aimed for school-aged children, the series is genuinely entertaining for all ages. Whether your kids want to read it on their own or youre reading it aloud to your little ones, I guarantee the whole family is going to be hooked. Its enough entertainment to last the whole summer long! 5. The series is easy to findBack when I read the series for the first time, I purchased my entire collection from used book stores or secondhand stores. The series has been out since 2005 and is very easily accessible at any bookstorewhether theyre new or pre-loved. The search for the next book in the series is fun, especially since multiple styles of cover art have been rotated as the years have passed. Turn the search for the books into a fun game with your family, and try searching for older editions or mix it up and get a new style for every novel. 6. A Disney+ show is set to come out next yearRight now is arguably the best time to read the series, as Disney+ is currently in the works of casting and producing a TV series based on the books. With Walker Scobell, recent star of The Adam Project, playing Percy and Leah Sava-Jeffries playing Annabeth alongside Aryan Simhadri as Grover, the Percy Jackson series is going to be portrayed with age-appropriate actors. The original Percy Jackson movies were great but not entirely accurate when it came to the novels. With Riordan at the helm of writing, the show is currently set to come out some time in 2023. The series adaptation is a major win for the fans and just goes to show how great the series is, as its being hyped up almost 20 years after its debut. 7. Theres so much more to loveAfter the Percy Jackson & The Olympians series, Riordan wrote another series, The Heroes of Olympus, which feature new characters along with fan-favorites Percy and Annabeth. I highly recommend reading the second series as well; though the audience is slightly more mature, its still very kid-friendly and still introduces important topics to the reader. If you just simply cant get enough of Riordan and his writing, hes written an array of Greek-myth spin-offs from the Trials of Apollo as well as Egyptian (The Kane Chronicles) and Norse (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard) mythology novels. Ready to Start the Series? Since the Percy Jackson and the Olympians Season 1 finale aired on Disney+ in January, weve been feeling its absence and gathering as much information as possible about Season 2. In the meantime, many of us are returning to the shows source material: Rick Riordans Percy Jackson books. Since The Lightning Thief was published in 2005, Riordan has written dozens of books in the Percy Jackson universe, which is vast and full all kinds of monsters and godsand just like any book series, some titles are better, more interesting reads than others. On the eve of The Lightning Thiefs 20th anniversary next year, a new installment in the franchise entitled The Wrath of the Triple Goddess will hit shelves in September. Its the seventh book in the original PJO book series, and it follows Percy, Annabeth, and Grover in their senior year of high school. While we wait for more Percy Jackson to grace our shelves and screens, lets take a dive into the six available books in the original series and rank them from worst to best. Note that we have not included supplemental books like The Demigod Files or Camp Half-Blood Confidential. (Disney Hyperion) The Sea of Monsters isnt a bad book. It simply doesnt top any of the other books in the Percy Jackson series, which unfortunately lands it in the worst spot on this list. After the tree that protects Camp Half-Blood is mysteriously poisoned, putting all the campers at risk, Percy, Annabeth, and Grover go on a quest to retrieve the magical Golden Fleece to reverse the damage and save the day. The problem is, they have to sail into the Bermuda Trianglea.k.a. the Sea of Monstersto get it. Along the way, they meet Percys half-brother, a cyclops named Tyson, and encounter multiple mythical figures ranging from the witch Circe to the pirate Blackbeard. (Disney Hyperion) High school senior Percy Jackson has saved the world a few times over and all he wants is to have a normal school year before he heads off to college. Unfortunately for him, he needs three letters of recommendation from Mount Olympus, and the gods will only provide them if he completes some tasks for them first. The Chalice of the Gods is a nostalgic romp with interesting new dynamics. It jumps back into the fray without missing a beat, proving Riordan is just as invested in Percy, Annabeth, Grover, and their friends now as he was two decades ago. (Disney Hyperion) The Lightning Thief is the book that started it all and this mythical road trip is an absolute delight to this day. Percy Jackson is an average kid with ADHD and dyslexiaor so he thinks until yet another school field trip goes sideways and he discovers a series of disturbing truths. His best friend, Grover, is a satyr. Hes the demigod son of Poseidon. And hes part of an ancient prophecy that will change the world. Meanwhile, Percy, Grover, and the know-it-all daughter of Athena, Annabeth, are chosen to cross the country to retrieve Zeuss Master Bolt, a quest thats even more dangerous than they imagine. (Disney Hyperion) As the titan lord Kronoss army prepares to invade Camp Half-Bloods once-impenetrable borders and Percys freshman year kicks off with a literally demonic pep rally, things are getting increasingly complicated in the war for Olympus. To stop Kronos, Percy, Annabeth, and Grover must traverse the Labyrinth without the help of Ariadnes string. Danger lurks around every corner in The Battle of the Labyrinth, the penultimate book in Riordans original five-book series. This book is heart-pounding and dramatic, a deft exploration of how the characters have grown and what they want versus what theyre obligated to do. Its a fast, intense read with increasingly higher stakes. (Disney Hyperion) The Great Prophecy foretelling the rise or fall of Olympus at the hands of a demigod child born of either Zeus, Poseidon, or Hades is about to come true and Kronoss army has descended upon New York Cityabove which the seat of the gods is all but free for the taking. In the original finale to Percy Jackson and the Olympians, The Last Olympian, Percy, his friends, and even his rivals must work together to save Western civilization from ultimate destructionor die in the attempt. This final battle is so cleverly written and incredibly executed, pulling together strings that Riordan has been weaving through the entire series so far. (Disney Hyperion) When Grover discovers two powerful demigods who are literally lost in time, he, Percy, and Annabeth unwittingly fall into a trap laid by the titan lord Kronos. Meanwhile, an ancient monster has returned, but Artemisthe only goddess who can track ithas been kidnapped. The heroes have just a week to find her and stop the monster, and this is one quest where a tight deadline is especially daunting. The Titans Curse is the best book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series because it introduces its best characters: Nico di Angelo, son of Hades, and Thalia, daughter of Zeus. It also introduces the Hunters of Artemis, establishes just how much more powerful the Big Three gods are than the rest, and establishes the emotional stakes for the remainder of the series. It boasts arguably the most heartwrenching scene in the entire series and ratchets the intensity in every part of the story. (featured image: Disney Hyperion)Have a tip we should know? Throughout my writing career, I would have never been able to reach the level that I am on now without the help of the amazing authors who colored my world with their words. One such book or rather, series that greatly affected my writing style was the "Percy Jackson" series by Rick Riordan.Centered on a 12-year-old dyslexic boy with ADHD named Percy Jackson, this series is a definite must-read for teens everywhere. Riordan whips up a whimsical story of how Percy learns a deep secret about his familys rootshis dad, whom he had never met before, was Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. Riordan creatively weaves in his indomitable sense of humor and stories from Greek myths, not only entertaining his readers, but also teaching them the many morals of these stories.With that, Id like to introduce my readers to this life-changing series by presenting you with some reasons why Percy Jackson is a must-read.One thing I absolutely loved while reading these books was how likable all the characters were. Percy, the main character, always had me laughing and played a big part in honing my own sense of humor. Another thing about the characters was how they had so many different layers to them. One of my favorite quotes is I think sometimes people are like onions. On the outside smooth and whole and simple but inside ring upon ring, complex and deep. Riordan really gave light to this quote by showing how characters like Annabeth seemed to be stuffing their noses into books, trying to attain knowledge, but inside, there was a person who was sad. This was one of the most important things that Riordan taught me with his writing. That leads to my next point.Rick Riordan was a great influence on my writing. His style has impacted my own and taught me many techniques to make my readers cry, uh I mean to make my writing even deeper and more meaningful. Riordans work was a very different manner of writing from the way I was used to and that was something I absolutely loved about it. My writing used to be a one-way journey, showing only one characters story. However, after reading these powerful books I learned to branch out every aspect of my book and to give each of my characters their own story.And honestly, after I taught myself to make my books more complex, I enjoyed writing even more than I already did. Another quote I often hear is: If the writer doesnt cry while writing their book, their readers wont. After writing more complicated backgrounds for each one of my characters, I found it even harder to kill my characters I mean to end my books because of how attached Id grown to my characters. Just to be able to show the different views of different characters is a beautiful thing to be able to do. Riordans masterpiece is a perfect example of this. Every character had their own backstory that made you grow so attached to them, that you never wanted to stop learning more about them.Theres so much more I could say about these incredible books, but if I continue to ramble, this article will just be an endless rant. Overall, Id like to say that the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series will always be in my top ten favorite books. I hope more people will read these books. Thanks for tuning into my seemingly endless chatter, uh I meant article. (Im slipping so much in this!)Report this ContentThis article has not been reviewed by Odyssey HQ and solely reflects the ideas and opinions of the creator.Entertainment"This song holds so much weight," she had told me. It means something. All the way across the world, living in Germany and training as an elite athlete, she had changed drastically over the past year. The same could be said of myself after leaving for college this July, and the majority of my thoughts lately have been constantly plagued with doubts about whether or not I made the right decision to move so far from everyone I loved. I pulled up the song on Apple Music that night and Sara Bareilles' voice encompassed me. Music has always had great power over me, something that could flip my emotions like a switch and speak a whole new meaning into my life. That was exactly what I experienced as these lyrics unfolded. Every word fit somewhere, spoke to who I was and who I am. Sara Bareilles' song "She Used to be Mine" is about a young waitress with an abusive husband wondering how she got so disconnected from who she used to be. But here's what its lyrics mean to me, and what I feel they can speak to any girl who is struggling, anywhere.This song hugely touches on change and what it's like to lose your former self. I'm sure at some point or another we have all, or someday will, experience a feeling similar to that: the feeling that you have lost who you used to be. For college students, this is so common because our entire lives are changed within the course of a year. New friends, new home, new schedule, new school. It's easy to sometimes look back on the person you were in high school and feel as though you no longer recognize her. Sara Bareilles tells us that if you miss the person you used to be, you must fight for them. We can see this gutsy resolve in her lyrics, "To fight just a little, to bring back that fire in her eyes, that's been gone but that used to be mine." These lines teach us to not give up so easily just because our lives have changed or our circumstances are difficult, Bareilles shows us that the girl you used to be is still inside of you, and you will find her again.Once the song builds to the chorus, Bareilles attempts to show us how hard we all are on ourselves, and that for every flaw, there is a beautiful and perfect quality within us that makes up for that flaw."She's imperfect, but she tries.She is good. but she lies.... She is messy, but she's kind."These powerful lyrics remind us how much good is inside each of us and that sometimes we are too blinded by our imperfections to see the other side of the coin, to see all of that good.There is also a subtle message that speaks to traumas induced by broken relationships, a line empowering and uplifting any girl trudging through heartbreak. "For the girl that I knew...who'll get hurt, but who learns how to toughen up when she's bruised and gets used by a man who can't love." Those lyrics cut me to the heart when I first heard them because they reminded me so much of the girl that sent the song to me in the first place, who had just escaped an emotionally exhausting and degrading relationship. I thought about how strong she had to be to recover and be secure enough in herself to push through the heartache, despite being across the world from her family and utterly alone. These words were so powerful to her at that moment and can be powerful to so many other women who have felt "used" at any point in time. Bareilles tells us that we are so much stronger than we think and that we all have a fire inside of us that will carry us through this season of hurting. It's a good reminder to hear and feel especially with Bareilles' powerful vocals carrying it across an empowering and raw chorus.The power of music is boundless, and Bareilles proves that here. In the midst of the most trying stages of life, the most confusing seasons, and the moments when we don't even recognize the face in the mirror, I believe that a simple song could truly be something to soothe our souls and to maybe even remind us who we are.EntertainmentWhen talking to most of my friends about this topic, most of them would agree that they act like their sign. However, there are some who are more skeptical than others. Sometimes, I'll hear people say things like, Im not emotional, or I'm not introverted, and "Why is it saying I am?" This is because we are not just made up of one single sign, but actually multiple signs (13 to be exact). Depending on where and when you were born, each of us have a different astrological chart, and each part of the chart represents a different aspect of life. The sign that part of the chart is under represents how we approach that aspect. To understand an astrological chart, though, it's best to understand what each sign means and stands for first.Each sign, its principal symbol and what it stands for:Aries: The Ram (March 21April 19) passion and competitionTaurus: The Bull (April 20May 20) stability and toughnessGemini: The Twins (May 21June 20) communication and witCancer: The Crab (June 21July 22) emotions and nurturingLeo: The Lion (July 23Aug. 22) courage and friendlinessVirgo: The Maiden (Aug. 23Sept. 22) analysis and reliabilityLibra: The Scales (Sept. 23Oct. 22) harmony and balanceScorpio: The Scorpion (Oct. 23Nov. 21) intuitive and secretiveSagittarius: The Centaur (Nov. 22Dec. 21) experience and honestyCapricorn: The Goat (Dec. 22Jan. 19) ambitious and responsibleAquarius: The Water Bearer (Jan. 20Feb. 18) politics and humanityPisces: The Fish (Feb. 19March 20) imagination and the mysteriousTo better understand each astrological sign, as well as compatibility between all of them, there's something called sign elements and sign energy. Each sign is categorized in one of the four elements: fire, earth, air or water. Signs that are under the same element are typically ones that get along the best because they all have similar characteristics to one another. The 12 astrological signs can also be subdivided into two different categories masculine and feminine signs. Fire and air signs are said to have more masculine energy, while water and earth signs are said to have more feminine energy. Signs with the same energy are supposed to get along the best, as well. To find out which signs get along the least with each other, spot the signs whose energies are directly opposite from one another in the chart below:Elements + masculine and feminine signsFeminine EnergyEarth: Capricorn, Taurus, VirgoWater: Scorpio, Pisces, CancerMasculine EnergyAir: Gemini, Libra, AquariusFire: Aries, Leo, SagittariusThe parts of an astrological chart.As I mentioned earlier, we are not made up of just one sign. Our personalities are dictated by 13 unique signs. The first of the 13 is known as your sun sign, and it's the main sign we know ourselves as. The 12 other houses in the chart, all represent a different aspect of life. The rest of the items in your chart matter almost as much, if not more, than your sun sign. For example, a person can have Virgo as their sun sign, but if nothing else in their chart is Virgo or even a sign similar to Virgo, the person may not act too much like a Virgo. What makes up your chart and where it's placed can make your sun sign not make sense. Most Capricorns are known to be quiet people, but if a person has a talkative, outgoing sign like Gemini ruling their third house, the House of Communication, they might not be as quiet or as introverted. Below are the 13 parts of an astrological makeup and what each part represents:Your sun sign your general approach towards lifeFirst House actions/temperamentSecond House personal values/moneyThird House communication/thinkingFourth House emotions/settling downFifth House expression/confidenceSixth House health/preservationSeventh House partnerships/loveEighth House change/intimacyNinth House philosophy/spirituality10th House career/reputation11th House visions/Insight on society12th House imaginations/toleranceAlthough astrology is cool and can be fun, it is also best to take everything you read with a grain of salt.Entertainment"This is life in color, Today feels like no other. And the darkest grays, The sun bursts, cloud breaks, This is life in color.""Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter. Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here. Here comes the sun, Here comes the sun, and I say, It's all right."Theres nothing not to love about me Im lovely.""Running out of pages in your passport""Heartbreak is the national anthem""Loves like a hurricane, I am a tree bending beneath, the weight of His wind and mercy""All my flowers grew back as thorns. Windows boarded up after the storm. He built a fire just to keep me warm.""On an island in the sun, We'll be playing and having fun, And it makes me feel so fine, I can't control my brain. We'll run away together. We'll spend some time forever.""I'm falling so I'm taking my time on the ride.""And if you like midnight driving with the windows down, then baby I'm perfect for you""I hope you find a way to be yourself someday""I only love my bed and my momma, I'm sorry""If the whole world was watching, I'd still dance with you"" God blessed the broken road, that led me straight to you""When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move. When You don't give the answers, As I cry out to You. I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You""Take my hand and we'll make it I swear""Trippin' on skies, sippin' waterfalls. My youth, my youth is yours. Runaway now and forevermore.""And now I'm changed, And now I'm stronger. There must be something in the water. Oh, there must be something in the water.""You are, the only exception""I keep a close watch on this heart of mine"Enjoy this GIF of a doggo living his best lifeRelationshipsHowever, there are times where the obstacles of life seem to get the best of us and we often let it go to heart. And by obstacles, I mean people who often take advantage of mistreating others. But, instead of taking each and every negative thing or action that happens to you as a personal attack on your character, remember one thing: you're a good person.I know it sounds corny, but it's true. It's so important to remember that you're a good person and you don't deserve to be treated or feel like otherwise. The biggest problem that people often face is that struggle of others taking advantage of you and your good heart. But, don't let this get the best of you. Instead, let it be a lesson for you to realize that not everyone will truly appreciate your kindness and those are the people whom you should eliminate from your life.No matter how many people try to tell you otherwise, never change who you are for anyone. Keep doing things for other people out of the goodness of your heart, not for the sole purpose to please others. It's so important to stay true to who you are in order to serve as a role model for those who look up to you. Even though you may not realize it, you serve a huge significance in someone else's life where they feel as if they have been influenced by the person you are to the point where he or she only aspires to be as good of a person as you.I also know there are times where being a good person seems like the worst possible thing; almost as if it's a trait that works completely against you. There are times where people walk all over you, or not include you in their plans, or maybe act like you don't even exist because you're just convenient to them when they need you. Those are the worst kinds of people. But you need to remember something, you matter. You treat people the way you would want to be treated and that is one of the biggest indicators that you are human in the sense that you see the goodness in others as well.Being a good person is a lot more than what others seem to give you credit for. People don't understand that those like us whom have good hearts and are just always there for other people, have to deal with a lot of negativity because people tend to associate kindness with weakness. But actually, it's the complete opposite. When you're a good person, you are the strongest type of person there is. You are the one who people confide in whenever they need comfort or advice. You are the one who your friends come to whenever they have good or bad news.At the end of the day, you are the one who are the one people will always be thankful for because their lives wouldn't be the same without you.Health and WellnessI think we all know this but just to remind everyone, deodorant goes such a long way! If you are an athlete who does not like the white residue some deodorants leave then try using a spray deodorant. Either way do not walk into any type of practice, game, whatever without putting on deodorant.Assorted tea bags arranged on a white surface.Photo by K8 on UnsplashHere's an easy tip for stinky shoes. Try putting tea bags into your shoes to keep them smelling fresh and to remove odors. This also works with putting tea bags into your gym bags to keep bad smells away.I get it, we are in college, some are away from home, not a lot of responsibility. One thing that should ALWAYS be a responsibility is clean clothes. If you know you are all out of practice clothes, your practice jersey smells terrible, etc.. GO WASH IT!Nobody wants to work with someone who smells musty and nasty the whole time. And you definitely don't want to be the person is who looked at as the nasty one on the team. It's simple, just plan ahead and wash your clothes.man running in forestPhoto by Shashank Shekhar on UnsplashTime to be real, we all sweat. Some sweat more than others. We all sweat by our private areas, the only thing I can say that can help eliminate odors in private areas when sweating is grooming. So if you have lots of hair around your private hair more then likely odors will be present. All I can say is try to stay clean down there if you sweat a lot by your private area take extra measures like soaking in apple cider vinegar with lukewarm water. Empty shower stalls in a tiled bathroom.Photo by - Kenny on UnsplashTry to shower right after a practice or a game if you can. This helps get rid of smells fast. Even if you are playing an away game, if somehow you are able to at least wash up your main areas before getting on a bus ride, you are helping the problem. Ladies, sometimes playing sports and being on your period can be hard. Try to stay fresh and clean down there. If you aren't a tampon person, make sure that you always have extra pads with you. After practices or games wash extra good in those areas just to ensure any bad odors are gone. If you have lockers, make sure that you are taking home your practice clothes with you. If you don't smells will soon start to build up. If you have to keep your clothes in your locker try to add a small air freshener"Kindness Matters" on a pink board with a tiled backdrop.Photo by Copper and Wild on UnsplashIf you notice that someone on your team may need a reminder when it comes to hygiene, simply talk to them in private, You don't have to be mean about it. Offer them advice when it comes to hygiene and how to take care of themselves. if you play a sport that requires lots of contact with other people or objects try to disinfect have much as you can. it is better to disinfect. With everyone sweating, bacteria can start to build up.Also, in all honesty, you never know what someone may have(a skin infection, a cut, etc..), so better to be safe than sorry when it comes to disinfecting equipment.You Fine GIFfrom You GIFsI always say, just keep up with yourself. I understand you may be very busy but your hygiene is so important, taking care of yourself is important! Stay clean, create your own hygiene routine, and you'll be ok.There it is! Hygiene is something we can all agree on is important. So keep up it, care about your hygiene! Recently I ran a poll asking what your favourite series was. The Percy Jackson And The Olympians series was on there as well as The Heroes Of Olympus series. Out of the thirty nine people that voted 2 voted for the HOO series and only one voted for the PJATO series.I have read the PJATO series, the HOO series, The Trials Of Apollo and The Lightning Thief grafic novel. However, I am currently reading The Kane Chronicles.Maybe you love Percy Jackson but like some other series more. Or maybe you're one of the three people that voted for it. But, perhaps you just haven't read the series...Here are ten reasons why you should!1. it's really funny!Rick Riordan (in my opinion) has a unique writing style and there are jokes in his books for everyone.2. The characters are amazing.We get a lot of detail about the characters physical appearance, thoughts and feelings and their past especially in the HOO series because of the multiple points of view.3. The stories are brilliant.Yes the characters are amazing. The books are funny but the actual stories are phenomenal! The books are fast paced but not rushed and are obviously great for children but teenagers and adults too!4. The series shows people it's okay to be different.Percy Jackson was based on Rick Riordan's son, Haley. Rick knew that despite having ADHD and Dyslexia his son was capable of great things so he made sure it wasn't an excuse to hold you back.5. Don't worry about what to read next!I know I often find it hard to chose a book to read next (I'm very much a mood reader). But you get instantly hooked and I know I wanted to read the rest of the series straight away. When I finished the PJATO series I moved straight on to the HOO series. I read both series in a month or two (reading a few new releases in between because I didn't know if I'd ever be able to read a book that wasn't by Rick Riordan ever again)... Moving on.6. Anyone can read it!Obviously anyone of any age can read it but you don't have to know anything about Greek (or Roman) mythology. I know when I first started reading the series my knowledge of Greek mythology was very limited. I mean very limited. (I think I might of known there was some dude called Zeus or something...)7. you learn things!Slightly related to number six but I learned so much about Greek mythology from the Percy Jackson series. Of course, I knew pretty much nothing but I guarantee even if you know a lot you will learn at least something.8. It shows you can still be happy even if your family isn't the best.Even if you have very little family or a dad that maybe doesn't pay you a lot of attention or you simply don't really get along with your family you can still be happy!9. Despite having a male protagonist the books are definitely not sexist!Now, don't get me wrong I don't mean that normally books with male protagonists are specifically sexist but you can find it occasionally even in books with female protagonists. Sometimes authors try extra hard not to be sexist as to not offend feminists and that results in them actually doing it! Anyway... The books aren't sexist. Even if there might be characters who are.10. Being a hero is not always about being strong and good looking.It's also about kindness and loyalty. Overall these books convey educational and great themes for children.I hope you enjoyed and will pick up Rick Riordan's books after this!-Katie xox Home All Posts Why You Should Read Percy Jackson and the Olympians Emmas reasons why you should read Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan If youre a fan of action-packed adventure, humor, and ancient mythology, you need to read the Percy Jackson and The Olympians series by Rick Riordan. This five-book series is a must-read for young adult and middle-grade readers, but its also enjoyable for anyone of any age! The series follows Percy Jackson, a dyslexic and ADHD teenager who discovers that hes a demigod half-human, half-god and is whisked away to Camp Half-Blood, a training ground for demigods. The world of Percy Jackson is one in which Greek mythology is intertwined with the modern world. Youll see familiar gods, goddesses, and mythical creatures in a new light, as Percy and his friends come into contact with them throughout the series. One of the series strongest points is its cast of characters. Percy is an endearing protagonist whos easy to root for, with his quick wit and loyalty to his friends. His friends, Annabeth and Grover, are equally enjoyable to follow, with their own strengths and flaws. The trios banter and friendship are some of the best parts of the series. The villains are also memorable, from the snarky Luke to the terrifying Kronos. If youre interested in reading the Percy Jackson and The Olympians series, the reading order is as follows: The Lightning Thief The Sea of Monsters The Titans Curse The Battle of the Labyrinth The Last Olympian The Heroes of Olympus series and The Trials of Apollo series are follow-on series, taking place in the same universe as Percy Jackson and The Olympians. If you want to read those as well, the reading order is: The Lost Hero The Son of Neptune The Mark of Athena The House of Hades The Blood of OlympusThe Hidden Oracle The Dark Prophecy The Burning Maze The Tyrants Tomb The Tower of Nero The Percy Jackson and The Olympians series is a great choice for anyone looking for a fun, engaging adventure story. The characters are memorable, the mythology is well-integrated, and the writing is top-notch. If youre looking for a new series to read, give Percy Jackson a chance you wont be disappointed! The Percy Jackson and the Olympians serieshas sold over 180 million copies worldwide, topping the New York Times best-seller list more times than you can count on your fingers. You may have also heard everyone raving about the series on almost every social media platform. If youre wondering what the hype over these books is all about, youve come to the right place.The Percy Jackson books are so good primarily because they are fun to read and are a series. Moreover, they are suitable for all ages, the characters and storylines are compelling, and it contains important messages without being preachy. They also provide a decent entry into Greek mythology.To learn more about how Rick Riordan managed to create one of the best-selling book series of all time, keep reading below. In the following sections, Ill take you through eight of the reasons why the Percy Jackson books are so good, including some insight into its messages, characters, and storylines that set this creation apart from other works in the same genre. The first and arguably main reason the Percy Jackson books are so popular is theyre generally enjoyable to read. They immerse you in a fun, fantastic world you simply cant get enough of, so you find yourself returning to the series time and time again.Rick Riordan has an impeccable writing style that keeps the reader invested. Not only does he boast an impressive vocabulary and excellent way with words, but he also knows when and how to incorporate a joke that people of all ages can enjoy.I said impressive vocabulary earlier, which would probably lead you to think that Riordan likes to drop five-dollar words every few sentences or so, but thats not the case at all. Like in other excellent works of literature, you wont find any wasted words on the pages of Percy Jackson books. Everything matters whether its to advance the plot forward or reveal more about a character. Though the Percy Jackson book series is mainly marketed towards middle-grade and young-adult audiences, its actually suitable for just about anyone. Thats because Riordan does an excellent job of utilizing storylines and themes simple enough to be understood by children but layered enough to be appreciated by adults.Id argue that the reason other books in the same genre cant reach the same level of success as the Percy Jackson series is that they dont cater to a wide enough audience.Whether youre looking for a light read or trying to get your little one into literature, the Percy Jackson series is an excellent choice. If youre planning on getting these books for your child, I guarantee youll start enjoying your nightly storytelling sessions much more.Also, the books may be heavily inspired by Greek mythology, but you dont have to be a dedicated literature major or academic to follow whats happening in the books. Riordan does a great job of taking you through everything you need to know.Although I said this book is a light read, it doesnt talk down to readers at all. Riordan may use words easily understandable by the books intended audience, but he weaves a plot that has enough layers in it for adults to unravel and characters that feel real enough for readers to root for (or against, as the case may be). Though its important for books (especially those aimed at children) to be as entertaining and captivating as possible, its also essential for them to relay good messages without being too in-your-face about them.Luckily, the Percy Jackson series is filled to the brim with messages about positivity, inclusivity, and friendship but is never heavy-handed about these. Thats because the story unfolds such that this type of messaging comes naturally, adding to the books value rather than taking away from it.For example, the support the main character, Percy, receives throughout the whole series from his two best friends, Grover Underwood and Annabeth Chase, sends an important message on the value and meaning of friendship and why you should always surround yourself with people who love and support you. Sometimes, these relationships come with their ups and downs, but thats to be expected.Moreover, the characters are very diverse and multi-layered. Youll find excellently-written female characters, people of color, and people with disabilities that take on exciting adventures, which makes the book that much more interesting. In the oversaturated market of childrens books, writing a work thats just fun wont cut it. Since there are so many writers churning out book after book, its easy for readers to get tired of overdone tropes that end up repeating themselves in every single story.To be clear, tropes arent bad in themselves. Even the most creative literary work follows at least one trope because tropes (by their nature) arent completely avoidable. Whats important is how the author uses that trope relative to how all the other authors that came before did.For example, when you first read the premise of Percy Jackson, you might be inclined to think its just another book that follows the chosen one trope (as seen in Harry Potter, for example).However, though there is a chosen one element, the Percy Jackson series always takes the reader in new, unexpected directions. While most books of the same genre tend to focus on the main character or the chosen one, Percy Jackson doesnt fall into this trap.In fact, youll encounter several well-rounded characters who all experience some form of development throughout the series. Theyre not just lazily written one-dimensional characters with a single personality trait. Instead, Riordan gives them layers and depth, exploring their backgrounds and the events that made these characters who they are today.The approach the author has taken in subverting tropes is pretty clever, as he uses Greek mythology to play with the idea of prophecies namely, how theyre usually viewed and what alternative routes they can take. Im not going to give too much away, but its safe to say that the book will often leave you in awe at the way its able to build expectations and then smash them to bits (in a good way).So, if you or your little one are tired of overdone, boring cliches, I highly recommend the Percy Jackson series. I guarantee it will keep you turning page after page. No matter how carefully crafted a story is, it will be hard to enjoy if the characters arent well-written. Luckily, Riordan writes his characters with so much love and respect. You wont find any one-dimensional caricatures or actions thatll make you go, Huh? Why? Every character has a fleshed-out background and motive, so youll feel like you see a bit of yourself in each of them.Every character is interesting, and you understand why they do what they do even if youd personally act differently in their shoes. Its not likely youll meet an annoying character whose name you dread to read on the page.Since all these personalities are so beautifully developed, it feels natural to root for them and follow them along on their adventures. You get an immaculate amount of detail about their inner world and outer appearance, so youll better understand their point of view and also create a more accurate image of them in your head.No worries, though: The descriptions never become overdrawn or boring, and I guarantee youll read through them with the utmost interest. Its not every day you find such well-written yet still entertaining characters you can follow along, admire and find a piece of yourself in. The personalities and backgrounds described in the series are so diverse that everyone will find a piece of themselves in at least one of the characters. Representation in childrens literature and media is essential, as it helps their emotional and mental development.Through adequate representation, children will become more confident, empathetic, and aware of the different cultural backgrounds that surround them.For example, if you have a little girl, shell feel empowered by the multi-dimensional female characters that show a great deal of intelligence, courage, and strength. If your child has ADHD or dyslexia, theyll also feel comforted by the fact that the demigods and the main character himself deal with the same conditions.I also want to take the opportunity to note that the way the writer treats disabilities in his books is truly excellent. He treats these characters with the same care and effort as he does the others and doesnt use them as a cheap ploy to fit in a poorly-written inspirational message.Instead, these are multi-dimensional characters with plenty of positive attributes that allow us to see that their disability isnt a personality trait. Instead, its simply another physical or mental attribute they have.Riordan also writes beautifully about characters struggling with their mental health, racial identity, or sexual orientation, which will surely speak to children. Theyll find comfort in knowing that struggling is okay and that theres absolutely nothing wrong with seeking help and comfort from the people who care about you.The last element that Ill note before I move on to the next section is how the book treats the del