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The Last Olympian

Donna Cardon

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Reviewer: Donna Cardon  
Reading Level: Young adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Fantasy fiction; Adventure stories;  
Subject: Mythology, Greek--Juvenile fiction; Fate and fatalism--Juvenile fiction; Monsters--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Riordan is currently one of the best fantasy action writers for children, and there is plenty of action in this final installment of his *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series. Percy, the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman, is about to turn 16 and must come to grips with the great prophecy, lead the half-bloods against the Titans, and—hardest of all—decide which of the two girls in his life is the one for him. As in the earlier Percy Jackson books, there is one desperate battle after another against monsters taken from Greek mythology. The action sequences are so dense that the plot moves slowly in the beginning, but picks up to a rousing climax in the end.

Though this book is a little darker, in general, than the other books in the series, Riordan lightens the mood periodically with comic sequences like Percy's battle with a giant pink flying pig. Miraculously, between comic and intense battle scenes, Riordan manages to deal with important themes like the pain an absent parent causes in a child's life, and the good and evil found in everyone. This is a satisfying ending to the series, which is a great pick for reluctant readers, *Harry Potter* fans, and kids doing a Greek mythology unit.

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