

Monday - Chapters 24 & 25



Read chapter 24 and answer the questions and then read chapter 25.





24. By Royal Command

Under the cover of the invisibility helmet, Pegasus flew above the security trucks all the way to Buckingham Palace. Riding on the horse's back, Elliot and Virgo looked out for Hypnos in case he tried to attack again, but there was no sign of the Daemon anywhere. Thirty minutes later, they were

peering through the windows of the Queen's London home. It was quite a view – they could see a maid pocketing some of the silver cutlery she was supposed to be polishing in the kitchen, and a footman trying on the Queen's dresses in the robing room.

They found Queen Elizabeth II in her private parlour around the back of the palace. Dressed in an elegant white gown with a purple sash draped from her right shoulder to her left hip, the Queen was reading the newspaper and slicing a crumpet with the Sword of State. The Imperial Crown sparkled brilliantly on top of her regal head. Elliot looked at the beautiful Earth Stone shimmering in the centre. The answer to all his problems. It was so close. Which meant Hypnos must be too.

‘What do we do now?’ asked Virgo. ‘Shall we smash through the window?’

‘I think we’d better knock,’ said Elliot, unsure of the correct protocol for approaching the Queen of Great Britain on a flying horse. With Pegasus hovering steadily outside the window, Elliot leant over and tapped as politely as he could manage on the glass.

The Queen looked straight at Elliot and Virgo, but returned to her paper.

‘We’ve just been blanked by the Queen,’ said Elliot indignantly. ‘And to think my nan had a mug with her picture on it.’

‘That invisibility helmet suits you,’ said Virgo with a sigh. ‘It matches your

1. Why was the diamond the answer to all of Elliot's problems? **I**

2. What does 'indignantly' mean? Try to think of a synonym that could replace the word to help you **V**

invisible brain.'

Elliot snatched off the helmet, making sure that Virgo received a good nudge in the ribs, took a deep breath and knocked once more.

The Queen looked up again. If she was startled to see two children on a flying horse outside her window, she had the good manners not to show it. Elliot smiled politely and Virgo gave her an enthusiastic wave, which the Queen courteously returned with an elegant swivel of her wrist. Not taking her eyes from the window, she slowly removed her glasses and put her newspaper down on the golden tea table in front of her. She walked over to the window and opened it.

'Good morning,' she said calmly to her visitors. 'May I help you?'

'Er – good morning, Your Majesty,' said Elliot, attempting a clumsy bow on Pegasus's back. 'Can we come in, please? We have something really important to ask you.'

'I see,' said the Queen. 'To whom does one have the pleasure of speaking?'

'One is . . . whom are . . . am a . . . I'm Elliot,' he said, quickly abandoning any attempt at talking posh. 'Elliot Hooper. And this is Virgo. She's an immortal.'

'Hello, the Queen,' chirped Virgo with a big grin.

'How do you do?' said the Queen. 'You'd better come in.'

As Her Majesty helped Elliot and Virgo to dismount from Pegasus and clam-

3. Why does the Queen initially ignore Elliot and Virgo? **I**

4. What language does the Queen use, which shows her royal status? **V**

ber through the window, Elliot became aware of an insistent snorting behind him.

‘And this is Pegasus,’ said Elliot as he landed on the soft carpet of the Queen’s parlour. ‘He’s a flying horse,’ he added, quickly realizing that the Queen had probably worked that out for herself.

‘Your Majesty,’ said Pegasus grandly, dropping into an elegant bow.

‘Welcome, Mr Pegasus,’ said the Queen, acknowledging his bow with a gracious nod of her head. ‘I can honestly say that you are the most magnificent horse I have ever seen.’

‘I can honestly say that you are correct,’ said Pegasus, sweeping into another bow as Elliot leant out of the window and put the invisibility helmet over his white head to conceal him from view.

Elliot and Virgo fidgeted awkwardly in the middle of the parlour as the Queen closed the window and turned to greet her visitors.

‘May I offer you some tea and crumpets?’ she asked.

‘No, thank you, we don’t have much time—’ started Virgo.

‘Oh, yeah,’ belted Elliot, whose stomach had been rumbling since the Tower. ‘With some peanut butter. If . . . you . . . have . . . some . . . please . . . Your Majesty,’ he trailed off, as a sub-zero look from Virgo reminded him that this wasn’t really the time.

5. Why doesn’t Virgo want the crumpets? **R**

6. Why is Elliot’s request for crumpets and peanut butter punctuated with lots of ellipses? **E**

‘I’ll see what I can do, Mr Hooper,’ smiled the Queen, her eyes sparkling as she rang a small silver bell on the table. She sat back down in her chair, neatly repositioned her flowing white gown and straightened the purple sash across her right shoulder.

‘Now,’ she said, folding her hands in her lap. ‘What can I do for you?’

‘Right,’ Elliot began slowly. ‘There’s no easy way to say this, so I’m going to get straight to the point. That crown you’re wearing contains a diamond that’s really a Chaos Stone and has the power to control the Earth. It’s that one, there.’

Elliot reached out and pointed at the stone, his fingers tantalizingly close to his home’s salvation.

‘We need to take it so that a Death Daemon called Thanatos can’t get his hands on it – or the other three Chaos Stones, which we’re also trying to find – and release his Daemon army and attack mortals and immortals with earthquakes and floods and fires and plagues and other really bad stuff.’ He sighed at the lunacy of his own tale. ‘You think I’m insane and you’re going to lock me up in the Tower of London, aren’t you?’

The Queen calmly took a sip of her tea and stared intently at the young boy before her.

‘Your tale is incredible indeed, Mr Hooper,’ she said evenly. ‘But you’d be surprised what one might believe from two children who have arrived on a fly-

7. What is meant in the text when it says that Elliot sighed at the lunacy of his own tale? E

Answers

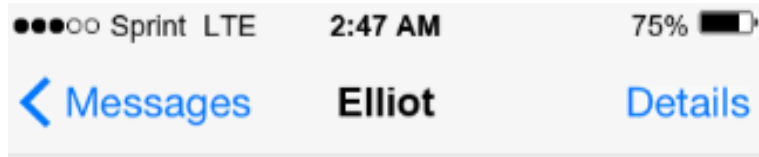
1. He thought it could help him get rich and pay back his mother's debts
2. Feeling of annoyance or anger at something unfair
3. She cannot see them as Elliot is wearing the invisibility helmet
4. To whom does one...
5. She doesn't think they have time
6. The ellipses show that his speech is interrupted. he can see Virgo staring at him, willing him to be quiet so his speech begins to trail off
7. He knows how ridiculous it sounds when he has said it out loud

Tuesday



Yesterday, we found out that Patricia Porshley - Plum has bought Home Farm for only £20 and is forcing Elliot and his mum to leave within the month.

Imagine you are Elliot having just received this news. You text the Gods to ask for their help. What would this conversation look like? How could you make it clear which character says what? For example, Hermes' messages will most likely contain the phrases 'Bosh!', 'shut up', and 'babe'.



Hey - are you gonna help me or not? I'm fed up with all this 'maybe' stuff!

I'm not sure that I should be consorting with mere mortals such as yourself. I'll need to consult the council.

Oh blimey. Going on about those guys again! Come on ...

You don't understand. Should I help you, I will be risking my kardia. It's not a decision I can make in a few seconds.

Well you'd better hurry up. I haven't got all day.
-f

You could write a conversation between just Elliot and one other character like in the example here or you could create a group chat with a few.

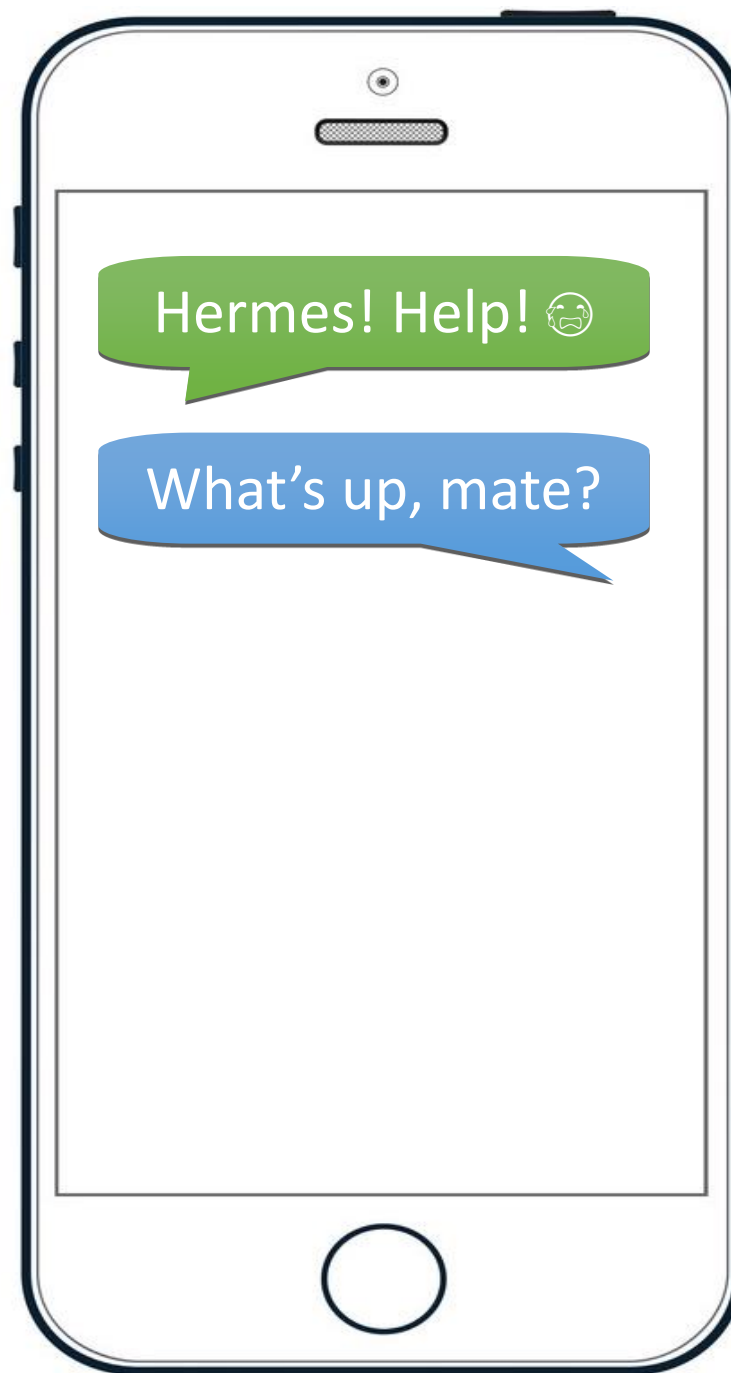
Think about the characters' personalities. How will you portray them through what they say?

Athene is the Goddess of Wisdom so she might think of a clever plan.

Zeus is strong so he may suggest a more physical approach.

Think about how they may use different phrases, abbreviations or even emojis!

You could use a template, like the one on the following slide; use text boxes and a blank phone image or just write the conversation (a bit like a play script).



Wednesday



Over the next two days, you are going to plan and write the next 'chapter' of the book. What are your predictions about what will happen next? (If you have already read the book, think of an alternative outcome). Will Elliot and his mum have to move out or will the Gods save the day?

Create a story map with your ideas. Remember, we are not writing the full ending, just what happens next.

Once you are happy with your plan, start writing.

Think carefully about vocabulary choices. How will you create an image in the reader's mind?

Include dialogue between the characters. Can you use direct and reported speech?

Add more detail using parenthesis - think back to GPS last week.

Thursday



First, proof-read your writing from yesterday.

Pay close attention to spelling patterns we have covered. Have you included any of the 5/6 words?

Read aloud to check your use of punctuation - are there any full stops missing?

Ask somebody else in your household to read it. Can they picture the events you have described?

Once you have edited and improved,
continue writing.

When you have finished your chapter,
proof-read again using the same
strategies as before.

Friday



Read chapter 26 and answer the questions and then read chapter 27.





26. The Cave of Sleep and Death

‘So let me get this straight,’ said Thanatos, arching his long, thin fingers beneath his chin as he stretched out on his throne of bones. ‘You have failed to kill the child. You have failed to fight a woman in her nineties. And you’ve failed to bring me my Earth Stone.’

‘And I’ve lost my beautiful trumpet,’ sulked Hypnos as he reclined on his sumptuous fur-lined bed in the Cave of Sleep and Death. His shrill voice echoed around the dark, barren chambers of the cave. Outside, the River Lethe murmured and the poppies at the cave’s mouth rustled. ‘But looking around this place, you failed to understand the basics of interior decor. Would a little wallpaper be too much to ask . . . ?’

‘MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN!’ roared Thanatos, leaping from his throne and flinging aside the black, wispy drapes surrounding his brother’s bed. ‘If I thought for one minute you were double-crossing me . . .’

‘Where’s the fun in that?’ smiled Hypnos, his brother’s fury immediately cheering him up. ‘It’s all under control – trust me. You’re far too suspicious . . .’

‘I wonder why?’ said Thanatos, pinning his twin against the wall and grabbing his kardia. ‘I’m warning you, brother. Betray me again and I—’

‘Can’t kill me!’ grinned Hypnos. ‘You swore an oath . . .’

‘Which I will uphold as I tear you apart, piece by piece, leaving only your loud mouth to tell me where my Chaos Stones are. Perhaps I should start now to remind you where your loyalties lie . . . ?’

‘Thanatos?’ said a new voice outside the cave, cutting through the air like a moonbeam.

Thanatos spun around.

1. How does Hypnos feel about losing his trumpet? What word tells us this? **V**

2. What does ‘my patience wears thin’ mean? **V**

3. Why can’t Thanatos kill Hypnos? **R**

‘Who’s there?’ he shouted.

‘Too slow!’ taunted Hypnos, taking advantage of his brother’s distraction to free himself from his grip.

‘Get back here,’ snarled Thanatos. ‘I’m not done with you.’

‘Well, maybe I’m done with you,’ trilled Hypnos. ‘You’re not the boss of me. And you’re no fun any more. See ya.’

And the Daemon of Sleep unfurled his wings and whizzed out of the cave with a whoop, shaking the sea of poppies that wafted at the cave’s entrance.

‘Who is it?’ Thanatos demanded again. ‘Reveal yourself.’

The intruder stepped into the cave.

‘Well, well, well. How did you find me?’ smiled Thanatos admiringly.

‘Charon,’ said Elliot, walking into the darkness. ‘It’s amazing what he’ll do for three bottle tops and a pen lid.’

‘You’ll have to excuse me – I rarely entertain mortals,’ said Thanatos, pulling up a chair for Elliot. ‘Not live ones, anyway. The Underworld doesn’t seem to . . . agree with them. To what do I owe the pleasure?’

Elliot wiped his puffy eyes. This was his only hope, the only way to keep Mum safe. He’d told himself that all the way here. He placed the Earth Stone on the table between them. Thanatos’s eyes flickered with desire.

‘I thought you’d be interested in this,’ said Elliot, trying to keep the fear from

4. Explain why Elliot has gone to Thanatos. Do you think it is the right choice? **E**

5. What does Thanatos mean when he says the Underworld does not agree with mortals? **I**

6. How does the reader know that Thanatos is pleased to see Elliot? What words and phrases are used to show this? **V**

his voice. He couldn't quite believe what he was about to do. It was so risky. But he had no choice. He had to do it for Mum. She couldn't carry on like this. And neither could he.

'You have gone to great lengths to get the Earth Stone before me and now you are simply going to hand it over?' said Thanatos with a raised eyebrow.

'I need something in return,' said Elliot. 'Something only you can do.'

'Your mother,' Thanatos smiled knowingly. 'You want me to cure your mother.'

'You said at Stonehenge that you can do things the Gods cannot,' said Elliot. 'Was that true?'

'Like you wouldn't believe,' said Thanatos. 'Why do you think Zeus is so afraid of me? Because he knows I'm more powerful than him. And you could be too ...'

'What do you mean?' asked Elliot.

'He hasn't told you?' said Thanatos.

'Told me what?' said Elliot.

'How interesting.' Thanatos leant back in his bone throne. 'But tell me – since you have stolen the Earth Stone, why not keep it for yourself? You could be a very rich young man, never work a day. You could afford the best doctors mortal money can buy.'

7. What does the raised eyebrow indicate that Thanatos is feeling? **I**

8. Why is Thanatos suspicious of Elliot arriving with the stone? **I**

Answers

1. He is upset/annoyed. 'sulked'
2. His patience is running out. He is about to lose his temper.
3. He swore on the Styx that he wouldn't.
4. To give him the Earth Stone in exchange for Thanatos curing his mum.
Pupils' own responses.
5. It is usually the dead that go to the underworld, not the living
6. He smiles at Elliot, calls it a pleasure to see him his eyes flicker with desire.
7. Surprise
8. Elliot and the Gods had spent so much time and energy trying to get the stone from Thanatos, and now Elliot is offering him the stone.