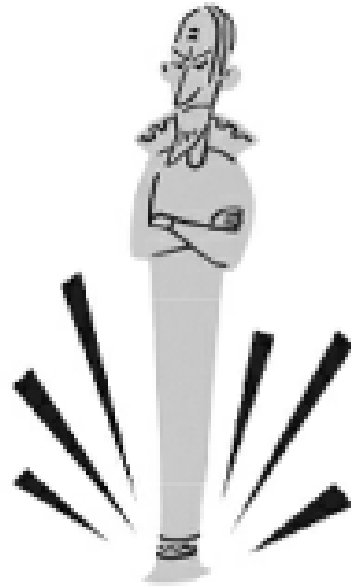


Monday - Chapters 8 & 9



Read Chapter 8 (or listen to it using the youtube links sent in a separate email).

Then answer the following questions about chapter 9 and finish the chapter.





9. Bad Council

Elliot had always dreamt of flying in an aeroplane. As his family couldn't afford a holiday abroad, he had wondered what it would be like to view the world from thousands of metres up in the air.

But after five minutes of flying by constellation, Elliot swore his feet would never leave the ground again.

He knew Virgo had saved his life. But now Elliot worried he was in danger of losing it again as his body spun wildly, climbing ever higher in the blinding glare of Virgo's constellation. He felt like a sock in a tumble dryer. A sock that was about to throw up its breakfast.

Just as Elliot lost all sense of which end was up, his flight came to an abrupt halt.

'What you are trying to—?' he began, before being dumped on a pile of surprisingly firm cloud as Virgo's constellation flowed elegantly down to reform as her physical self. 'Ow! You didn't have to drop me.'

'You're lucky I didn't drop you halfway across the Aegean Sea,' said Virgo, running her fingers through her long silver hair. 'You're heavier than you look. And you're welcome, by the way.'

'You too,' Elliot replied, trying dizzily to stand. 'Where are we?'

'This is Elysium,' Virgo announced grandly. 'Welcome to my home.'

His vision still a little blurred from the flight, Elliot took a moment to adjust to the sunlit scene. But when he did, he saw he was in the most perfectly beautiful place. The bright sunshine beamed down on the cloud meadow in which they stood, which was filled with fruit trees straining under laden branches. In the distance one way, Elliot could make out a flawless glass pyramid that sparkled on the horizon like a huge diamond. In the other direction,

1. Does Elliot enjoy flying? How do you know? **I**

2. Why was Elliot lucky that he was not dropped over the Aegean sea? **R**

a river babbled along the edge of the clouds, dropping into a waterfall that shimmered with refracted rainbow light.

‘Wow,’ whispered Elliot as he took in the paradise before him. So there really were other worlds. He found the thought strangely comforting.

‘I’d better get to the council chamber,’ said Virgo, gesturing towards the pyramid. ‘They need to know what you did.’

‘What I did!’ Elliot exclaimed indignantly. ‘I saved your stupid shiny head!’

‘Which wouldn’t have been in danger if you hadn’t set the prisoner free. I told you not to.’

Elliot knew that there was an excellent answer to that point. He just didn’t have it right then.

‘Stay here,’ Virgo commanded.

‘You can’t tell me what to do,’ said Elliot defiantly.

‘No mortal has ever been to Elysium,’ said Virgo. ‘I need to handle this delicate situation with my expert tact and diplomacy. So stay here or I’ll pick you up in my constellation and drop you on your curiously stubborn head.’

‘What will they do?’ Elliot conceded.

‘Something brilliant,’ Virgo said breezily. ‘The Zodiac Council has been supporting the immortal community for two thousand years. This probably happens all the time. They’ll have a contingency plan. It’ll all be perfectly fine.’

'YOU DID WHAT?' Pisces shrieked over the commotion in the chamber as the Zodiac Council erupted in outrage.

'Well, it was all a bit of an accident,' Virgo began, every eye in the room making her feel only six hundred years old. 'You see, Elliot wasn't supposed to be in the prison.'

'*You* weren't supposed to be in the prison!' snapped Cancer. 'You were supposed to be ordering paper clips!'

'I know, but—' Virgo couldn't quite find the words. She was finding it unusually difficult to make herself sound completely right. This wasn't going as perfectly as she'd hoped.

'You are a young, inexperienced councillor!' yelled Aries, his curled horns unfurling in fury. 'In one day, you've disobeyed express orders not to visit Earth, released Prisoner Forty-two and missed the final stationery order deadline this month! Explain yourself!'

As Virgo tried to justify what had happened since she'd left Elysium, she spotted Elliot sneaking into the chamber and hiding behind a marble pillar. She had told him to wait outside. Was the mortal child incapable of following any rules?

3. Why is the speech written in capital letters? **E**

4. How can we tell that Aries is angry? **R**

‘Whatever happened,’ she started uncertainly, ‘I felt that the most sensible course of action was to return here immediately and file a full report. I used my initiative.’

‘Shame you didn’t use your brain,’ shouted Scorpio, accidentally squashing a banana into Leo’s eye with his pincers.

‘Well, there’s only one thing for it,’ said Pisces. ‘We have to follow protocol.’

There was a long pause as the Council silently approved the decision.

‘Deny all knowledge,’ shouted Aquarius, raising his jug in salute.

‘Precisely,’ agreed Pisces. ‘Our official line is that we know nothing of Prisoner Forty-two’s escape.’

‘Excellent,’ said Libra, weighing two muffins on her scales. ‘And I table a motion that we deny all knowledge of denying all knowledge.’

‘Seconded,’ said Sagittarius, firing a pencil at a dartboard. ‘This Council knows nothing.’

‘Agreed,’ roared Leo. ‘After all, we have a reputation to uphold as the Council that knows nothing about anything.’

‘Sounds like an excellent course of action,’ said Virgo, relieved that the situation was back under control. ‘I’m sure it’s of no consequence. After all, how dangerous can this Thanatos be? Oooh – chocolate muffins . . .’

The air was nearly sucked out of the chamber as the councillors gasped as

5. How do the council decide to react to the escape of Prisoner Forty-Two? **R**

6. How does the author show that the council are shocked to hear the name Thanatos? **E**

one.

‘What did you say?’ boomed Taurus.

‘I said “chocolate muffins”, although I really must cut down . . .’ said Virgo.

‘Now, about our paper clip supplier . . .’

‘Thanatos?’ said Capricorn, her horns pricked in anticipation. ‘Where did you hear that?’

‘Oh, it was nothing – just the prisoner’s name,’ sighed Virgo, thumbing a stationery catalogue. ‘He is obviously sub-optimal. Claims to be the King of the Daemons! More like King of the Dodos . . .’

‘You must be mistaken,’ said Pisces dismissively. ‘Clearly your incompetence extends to your hearing.’

Virgo knew she should leave well enough alone. She had escaped serious reprimand and the whole matter could now be put behind her.

But being right was far more important.

‘So, Pisces – pardon me, but my hearing is perfect,’ she ventured. ‘The prisoner clearly stated his name was Thanatos.’

‘That is impossible,’ said the Gemini twins condescendingly.

‘Why?’ said Virgo.

‘Because, child,’ said Pisces, ‘Thanatos has been dead for over two thousand years.’

7. Find vocabulary that shows that the Council don't respect Virgo very much. **V**

8. Explain why the Zodiac council do not believe that Prisoner Forty-two could be Thanatos. **E**

Answers

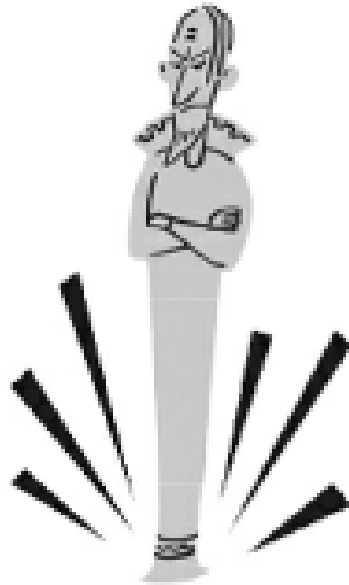
1. Elliot does not enjoy flying. He fears for his life, feels sick and swears his feet will never leave the ground again
2. He is much heavier than Virgo first thought
3. To show how furious the person speaking is and to show that they are shouting
4. He is yelling and his horns unfurled in fury
5. Deny all knowledge
6. The council gasped when Virgo mentioned his name. They questioned that Virgo's hearing was poor and implied that she had misheard. The council claimed it was impossible.
7. dismissively, condescendingly, mistaken, incompetence
8. They believe that he has been dead for over two thousand years.

Tuesday - Chapters 10 & 11



Read Chapter 10 (or listen to it using the youtube links sent in a separate email).

Then answer the following questions about chapter 11 and finish the chapter.





11. A Trip Down Memory Flame

‘So what have I missed?’ yawned Thanatos as the Ship of Death rowed through the melancholy depths of the Underworld along the River Lethe, the river of oblivion, passing forests of dead trees and vast expanses of barren fields.

‘Oh, you know how it is – nothing really changes,’ said Charon. ‘I’m getting

older, everything creaks a bit louder, bits keep falling off . . .’

‘Nonsense,’ said Thanatos. ‘You don’t look a day over four thousand.’

‘Too kind, guv’nor,’ smiled Charon.

They rowed past a building site on the river bank, where a team of penates were scuttling around a half-finished construction covered in scaffolding.

‘What’s this?’ asked Thanatos disapprovingly.

‘It’s happening everywhere,’ said Charon. ‘You get a nice bit of riverside wasteland and someone snaps it up and builds flats. That’s going to be a luxury Underworld complex called “Dun Livin”. These jokers are totally ruining the character of the area if you ask me . . .’

‘Is that so?’ said Thanatos, his eyes darkening. ‘Are we far from Tartarus?’

‘I’ll get you there faster than a satyr chasing a siren, guv’nor,’ said Charon cheerily. ‘In fact – I need to pop in anyhow. I’ve been diversifying my business model – branching out a bit. I’ve started a grocery delivery service – it’s doing all right. I’ve got a drop to make in Tartarus as it happens. Be there in no time.’

Ten minutes later, the boat pulled up alongside an infinite brass wall.

Thanatos and Charon disembarked from the Ship of Death and made their way to a set of imposing ebony gates. The flaming letters across the top announced that this was the entrance to Tartarus.

ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE! proclaimed a large sign. CCTV IS IN OPERATION IN THIS

1. Is Thanatos pleased at the housing being built? How do you know? **I**

2. What is meant by the term infinite? **V**

3. The entrance to Tartarus has flaming letters. What atmosphere does this create around the place? **E**

REALM!

Thanatos stood back as Charon slouched towards the security booth in front of the gates, where Cerberus, the three-headed hound, had one set of eyes on the gates, the second on a large sausage roll, and the third on a small TV screen showing two harpies screaming over who stole the other's boyfriend.

'All right, mate,' said Charon to the security guard. 'How's the family?'

'Not bad,' said Cerberus's middle head. 'Wife's just had a new litter.'

'Oh – congratulations! How many kids you got now, then?'

'Forty-seven boys and thirty-two girls,' said Cerberus proudly. 'Actually I think it's forty-six boys. One of them said his sister had put on weight. So she ate him.'

'Kids do the funniest things,' chortled Charon. 'Got a delivery for one of your inmates – all right if I go through?'

'Help yourself,' said Cerberus, buzzing the gates open before picking up the sausage roll. 'Oh no – one harpy's just pulled the other one's wing! I know it's trash, but I love a good harpy fight . . .'

As the ebony gates creaked open, Charon and Thanatos proceeded into the fiery wasteland of Tartarus. They were in a vast, blazing valley where, on all sides, prisoners were performing everlasting punishments, moaning as they pursued their endlessly futile tasks.

4. How do you know that Charon has met the security guard before? **I**

5. What vocabulary makes Tartatus look daunting and scary? **V**

‘So what’s the plan now you’re out?’ asked Charon. ‘Put your feet up? Take it easy? Find a new hobby?’

‘I’m going to reclaim my Chaos Stones, take my revenge on Zeus, enslave the mortals and rule the world,’ said Thanatos. ‘Although golf also sounds charming . . .’

‘Important to keep busy,’ said Charon. ‘Well, blow me – look who it is!’

Across the valley, a lone scrawny figure was struggling to push a huge boulder up a sheer hill.

‘Sisyphus!’ Thanatos cried. ‘How good to see you again!’

‘Thanatoth?’ said Sisyphus, raising a hand to wave, but quickly slapping it back as the boulder started rolling down the hill. ‘Well, thith ith a thurprithe. Lithen – no hard feelingth, I trutht?’

‘Of course not,’ said Thanatos languidly. ‘The whole thing was hilarious. That time you tried to cheat your own death by tying me up and hiding me down here! Really, you are too funny. Oh, how I laughed.’

‘Thank Heaventh!’ said Sisyphus. ‘Thath very magnanimouth of you. You know how it ith – you work yourthelf up into a thilly frenthy and then you jutht have to thay to yourthelf: “Thithyphuth? Theriouthly? You are a thuch a thilly thauthage. Thanatoth won’t give thith a thecond thought.”’

‘Of course not,’ said Thanatos, gesturing to the boulder. ‘I’m not one to hold a

6. Why are a lot of words spoken by Sisyphus written incorrectly? **I**

7. Research and explain why Sisyphus has to push the boulder up the hill for all eternity. **E**

Answers

1. No - he asks disapprovingly and his eyes darken
2. Never-ending
3. It creates a feeling of fear. It is not likely going to be a happy place.
4. He calls him 'mate' implying he already knows him. He also asks the security guard about his family
5. fiery wasteland, vast, blazing valley
6. It shows how the words are said by Sisyphus i.e. he may have a lisp when he speaks.
7. Sisyphus is a figure from Greek mythology who, as king of Corinth, became infamous for his general trickery and twice cheating death. He ultimately got his comeuppance when Zeus dealt him the eternal punishment of forever rolling a boulder up a hill in the depths of Hades

Wednesday



Read/listen to Chapter 12. Then focus on the newspaper articles Hermes shares with Virgo and Elliot. What do you notice about them?

DADDY DAYCARE?

BY CATULLUS, BIRTHS AND RE-BIRTHS CORRESPONDENT

The Minotaur is proud to announce
Twin baby girls, five pounds and one ounce
His wife isn't happy, it's only been days
He's already lost both the kids in the maze

JUST MARRIED . . . AGAIN

BY HOMER, SOCIETY EDITOR

You've gotta admit it, old Zeus has some faith
He's married more women than Henry the Eighth
His heart has been won by the mortal Petunia
Who's roughly twelve thousand and four years his junior
They're planning a wedding, it's true love of course
Zeus promises this time he's got a divorce
Given his record, the bride must be plucky
You know what they say, three-hundredth time lucky
The honeymoon's planned for the island of Malta
Provided they make it as far as the altar . . .

Over the next two lessons you are going to create your own rhyming announcement using a Greek myth to influence you.

Spend today researching a myth and making notes about what happens before writing the announcement tomorrow.

You can listen to short audio versions of several myths here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/ks2-ancient-greece/zk73nrd>

Thursday



Look back at your notes on your chosen myth from the previous lesson.

What happens in the tale? How could you link it to a newspaper announcement? E.g.

Winter approaches as Persephone descends to Hades

OR

Theseus kills Minotaur before leading the lost out of the labyrinth

Continue to look at your notes. Think about the story and make as many rhyming pairs as you can e.g.

Hades - ladies
flowers - powers
curse - worse

Then, use these to create rhyming couplets to form your announcement. You can be as humorous as you like.

A Rhyming Couplet is two lines of the same length that rhyme and complete one thought.

If you are stuck you could use the example on the next slide to start you off.

Winter approaches as Persephone descends to Hades

by Hermes, Gossip Columnist

Zeus has finally managed to strike a deal with Hades
(who's always had a bit of a thing for the ladies!)

The fields will once again be parched and bare

As Persephone heads all the way down there

To the underworld where she'll spend her time

Hanging out with all those who have died

Friday - Chapter 13



Read the following extract and answer the questions then finish the chapter.



13. For Better or Worse

Elliott had thought that travelling by constellation was the most terrifying experience he was ever likely to have.

But that was before he had driven with Hermes.

At first, riding in the sidecar of the Messenger God's gleaming motorbike –

all chrome and turquoise sequins – had seemed awesome. Mum had promised she'd teach Elliot to ride a motorbike when he was old enough and he couldn't wait to roar along the country lanes.

But Hermes's driving was making Elliot consider a small tricycle instead.

For one thing, Hermes viewed speed limits as a minimum requirement for how fast he should drive. As he whizzed along, warning signs flashed up: SCORPIO SAYS DON'T BE TOO NIPPY! THE ZODIAC COUNCIL HONOURS CAREFUL DRIVERS! But if Hermes noticed them, they had no effect as he revved the bike harder to weave in and out of the immortal traffic, earning him colourful curses from an elderly leprechaun on a mobility scooter and threatening hand gestures from a gnome in a white van.

And for another thing, the road was upside-down.

'I don't understand,' Elliot yelled over the roar of the air blasting his ears and the blood rushing to his head. 'Why don't we fall down?'

'We're on the low-way – the immortal road system that runs exactly under the mortal one,' Hermes shouted back. 'You've got, like, a perfectly good network, so we just copied it. Every time you drive down the road, an immortal is probably driving underneath you. You don't fall off the Earth's curve, do you? And you don't fall under it neither. Hold tight!'

In the sidecar, Elliot and Virgo exchanged nervous glances as the bike accelerated again. A voice boomed over a nearby loudspeaker:

1. How does Elliot feel about Hermes' driving? Explain how you know.

2. Why does the gnome make angry hand gestures? **I**

'Vehicle registration: B O 5 H; Owner: Hermes; Category: Olympian. The Zodiac Council warns you this is your second speeding infringement. One more offence and your vehicle will be disabled and you may face a substantial fine or the forfeit of a body part. Have a nice day.'

'Whatevs,' yelled Hermes. 'Nearly there.'

The bike charged along the immortal motorway, finally turning down a country road signposted to the Royal Withering St Stan's Golf Club. Hermes drove up a ramp, which twisted around until the motorbike was the right way up, emerging back on to Earth through a set of roadworks.

'Nice of you mortals to keep digging up your roads,' said Hermes. 'Makes it much easier for us to get in and out. Here we are. Boom!'

He swung into the golf-club car park alongside cars that seemed the size of Elliot's cowshed. At last, the motorbike came to a welcome stop. Elliot clambered out, his legs still vibrating from the bike's relentless engine.

'Slumming it again, Dad,' grinned Hermes as he took in the grand facade of the clubhouse, a stately home set in acres of lush green golf course. 'Shut up! We've got five minutes.'

Elliot looked towards an elaborate gold carriage drawn by a beautiful white horse, in which he could see only an enormous white dress. Three salmon-pink bridesmaids were trying to free the bride, but the circumference of the gown

3. How do immortals drive in and out of Earth?

had wedged her firmly in the door. As the carriage rocked and jolted, the horse, clothed in an intricately embroidered coat, released an irritated whinny. Elliot could have sworn it actually rolled its eyes.

They joined the gaggles of posh wedding guests bearing elaborately wrapped gifts. The ladies wore furs, the gentlemen wore tuxedos. Hermes looked woe-fully at his T-shirt and jeans.

‘Nah, mate,’ he said, producing his iGod and scrolling around the screen. As he rolled the dial in the centre, his outfits changed from sportswear to beach-wear to a pair of lederhosen.

‘Hermes, we don’t have time,’ snapped Virgo. ‘We need to get to Zeus.’

‘There’s always time to look sharp, babe,’ said Hermes, finally settling on a designer tuxedo. He offered the iGod hopefully to Elliot and Virgo, taking in Elliot’s torn T-shirt and Virgo’s backwards trousers. ‘Your turn?’

‘Hermes!’ Virgo hissed.

‘Cool, babe,’ he sighed. ‘You can lead a unicorn to water . . .’

They tucked in behind two women wearing dead animals around their shoulders.

‘So she’s finally found Mr Right,’ said the one sporting a dead fox.

‘About time,’ said the one draped in dead mink. ‘She’s tried Mr Wrong, Mr Stupid, Mr Boring and Mr Married . . .’

4. Why does the bride get stuck? R

5. What does it mean to ‘look sharp’? V

They laughed unpleasantly. The dead animals looked mournfully at Elliot. He could see why they were fed up. Not only had they been snatched from the prime of life, but now they were stuck around the necks of these ridiculous women.

‘Bride or groom?’ asked the usher.

‘Neither, you fool,’ Mrs Fox announced. ‘I’m a guest.’

‘I can’t believe it,’ said Virgo, smoothing her hair. ‘I’m actually going to meet Zeus! What should I say to impress him?’

‘Nothing?’ Elliot suggested as they entered the grand room, which was filled with rows of chairs with a narrow aisle between them. It looked as though a wedding had thrown up everywhere. Flowers adorned every surface, pink balloons filled every corner and there was a huge chocolate fountain with a marshmallow bride and groom dangling their feet in it.

‘Now where’s the old boy?’ Hermes said, hovering slightly off the ground to see over the crowd. ‘Ah – bosh!’

Hermes pointed out someone who, to Elliot, was quite obviously the King of the Gods. Even with his back to them, this tall, broad man had a regal bearing – noble, strong and brave. As Hermes, Virgo and Elliot fought their way through the chattering guests towards this towering presence, Elliot wondered what he would say to such a great immortal being.

6. What does the author mean by ‘It looked as though a wedding had thrown up everywhere’? **E**

Although as the man turned around, he didn't have to wonder long.

'Champagne, sir?' said the waiter, offering a glass to Hermes.

'Nice one,' said Hermes, taking two.

'You'd better top me up too, old boy,' boomed a voice behind him. 'Condemned man and all that.'

'Zeus!' Virgo gasped as the waiter moved aside to reveal the real King of the Gods.

Mythology was one of the few subjects that Elliot enjoyed at school and so he was familiar with the classical images of Zeus, all white hair flowing down his broad back and his strapping chest bursting out of a toga as he hurled thunderbolts at his enemies.

So he was rather surprised to find Zeus in a badly fitting light-blue tuxedo with a frilly shirt, holding a cheese-and-ham vol-au-vent. The long white hair was there, albeit badly slicked back with hair gel. And it wasn't a strapping chest bursting out so much as a gigantic belly.

'Hermes, my boy!' said Zeus warmly, taking his son into a big bear hug. 'So glad you could make it. Such a special day. This one's a keeper. Whatever her name is. And who do we have here?'

He extended a crummy hand towards Virgo.

'I . . . er . . . w-well . . . I'm . . . ' stammered the Constellation.

7. Why is Elliot surprised about Zeus's appearance? What's different to what he imagined?

I

Why did Virgo lose her words when she was introduced to Zeus? I

Answers

1. He does not enjoy the experience. He said it was terrifying and that he was reconsidering learning to ride motorbikes.
2. He was driving dangerously by weaving in and out of the traffic
3. Through holes that are dug when roadworks are taking place
4. Her wedding dress is too large to fit through the door
5. Look good/stylish
6. It means that it is very over the top and too much in terms of decorations; it was sickly.
7. He does not look like the classic images of Zeus he has seen before: his hair is slicked back, he is overweight and wearing a frilly shirt.
8. She was star struck and did not know what to say to him. She could not believe she was talking to him.