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WHO LET THE GODS OUT?

Maz Evans

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross Curricular Opportunities

1

- What does the author mean when referring to the body odour as ‘weapons grade’?
- What does ‘jubilantly’ mean? Can you do an impression of ‘lumbering jubilantly’?
- Is Elliot often in trouble? How do you know?
- Why do you think Mr Boil has no respect for Call Me Graham?
- Is Elliot a good student? How do you know?
- Where does Elliot go to school?
- How old is Elliot?

Write a conversation between a naughty pupil and a headteacher in the style of Elliot and Mr Boil. Use shifts in formality to make it effective.

ART • Draw what you think Elliot, Call Me Graham and Mr Boil look like.

DRAMA • Use drama to act out the scene in Call Me Graham’s office.

2

- What does the text mean when it says the farm had been the family home for ‘generations’?
- What words show that Elliot doesn’t want to speak to Patricia Porshley-Plum?
- Why might Elliot like the walk home so much?
- Why does Elliot lie about his mum being ill?
- Why does Elliot get so panicked?
- Predict where Mum has gone.
- What impression do you get of Patricia in this chapter?

Write the next part of the story, predicting where Mum has gone.

ART • Create your own horrible neighbour in the style of Patricia Porshley-Plum.



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3

- Explain what a zodiac is. From this, what is the 'Zodiac Council'?
- Find words that show that Elysium is a paradise.
- Why might Cyclops be entitled to half-price eye care?
- Why doesn't the Zodiac Council want to bestow more serious responsibilities upon Virgo?
- How do you know people don't want to do the Prisoner Forty-Two task?
- Why does Virgo almost immediately regret her decision to leave?
- What stone circle might Virgo be looking for?
- What are Virgo's responsibilities?
- What is involved in the Prisoner Forty-Two task?

Write an advertisement for a job opening in the Zodiac Council.

Write a balanced argument about whether you think Zodiac should have left or not.

HISTORY • Research and make a fact file about the signs of the zodiac. Each group could take a different one.

GEOGRAPHY • Research Stonehenge, and create a leaflet about the area and its history.

4

- What does the phrase 'Mum's the word' mean?
- Why is the chapter called this?
- What does 'discern' mean?
- Why does Maz put inverted commas around "borrow" money?
- Why was Elliot so worried?
- Why is Elliot unsure about whether he'll ever know about his father?

Write the Really Scary Letter.

PHILOSOPHY • Create a mood graph for Elliot in this chapter.

MUSIC • Use musical instruments to soundtrack the end of the chapter as one of your group reads it.



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are there lots of IOUs in the money jar? • Why do you think Elliot doesn't study? • What is the Really Scary Letter? • Why can Elliot see the stars so well? • Explain what will happen if Elliot doesn't pay his debts. 		
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What words show the cow isn't pleased about Virgo's presence? • Identify words from Virgo's vocabulary that might seem strange to a 12-year-old boy. Identify the meaning of these words. • What had Virgo landed in? • Why does Virgo get annoyed at the cow? • How does Elliot realize someone is in the shed? • Why does Elliot find it so difficult to communicate with Virgo? • Why did Virgo's clothes nearly make Elliot puke? • Why does Elliot start thinking about how much money he could get for the flask? • Explain how 'What's What?' works. Are there human equivalents? 	<p>Write a diary entry as Elliot, detailing the events of this chapter.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Create your own mini cowshed. Take a rock that will represent Virgo, then drop it on to the shed from a height. Use various materials to reinforce your shed. Reach a conclusion about the best materials for reinforcement. Think about how to make it a fair test.</p>



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6

- Find vocabulary that shows Elliot is tired. How do we know he's always tired from earlier in the story? Why is this?
- How does Elliot feel when Virgo has been under water for a long time? Find vocabulary that backs your answer up.
- What does Virgo think the TV is?
- Why doesn't Elliot want his mum to let anyone in?
- Why is Elliot going to take Virgo to the police station?
- Does Elliot think Prisoner Forty-Two's imprisonment is fair?
- Why can't Virgo transform into her constellation to prove her immortality to Elliot?
- Name the five categories of immortal. What happens if they lose their Kardia?

Imagine you were an onlooker who secretly saw how long Virgo was under water. Write a letter to a newspaper, telling them what you saw.

SCIENCE • Research and create a fact file on how long different mammals can survive under water: humans, dolphins, beavers, sloths and seals.

7

- Look at the description of the prisoner and discuss these words – 'remnants', 'emaciated', 'huddled', 'pitiful' and 'skeletal'.
- When Elliot touches Prisoner Forty-Two, what vocabulary shows that was the wrong decision?
- Is Virgo panicking? How do you know?
- Does Elliot feel sorry for the prisoner? How do you know?
- How does Prisoner Forty-Two trick Elliot?

Rewrite the scene where Thanatos is initially freed, from the perspective of Thanatos.

ART • Draw Thanatos before and after the change, using the descriptions in the chapter.

HISTORY • Research and make a fact file/poster/presentation about Thanatos.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Thanatos mean when he says he's going to 'really enjoy not killing her'? • What does Virgo do initially when Prisoner Forty-Two starts to transform? • Who is Prisoner Forty-Two? • How does Elliot convince Thanatos to free Virgo? • What impression do you get of Thanatos from this chapter? 		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What vocabulary shows Patricia is spoilt? • What does Patricia mean by 'I hope you kept the receipt'? • Why does Patricia dislike Elliot? • Why does Patricia take a cake? • Why does Josie look so dreadful? • How does Patricia figure out that Josie is unwell? 	Write a character description for Patricia, making her sound as putrid as you possibly can.	MUSIC • Write a poem or a song about Patricia Porshley-Plum and soundtrack it with some instruments.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What words show Aries is angry? • Find vocabulary that shows that the Council doesn't respect Virgo very much. • Does Elliot enjoy flying? How do you know? • What is the council's reaction to hearing that Prisoner Forty-Two is Thanatos? 	Write a report from the Zodiac Council about why they have taken Virgo's powers.	DRAMA • Use drama to act out the Zodiac Council meeting. Make it as dramatic as you can.



Chapter**Comprehension Questions****Writing Opportunities****Cross Curricular Opportunities****10**

- How does Virgo learn more about Thanatos?
- Why is the Council so cross with Virgo?
- What does the Council believe is the only thing left of Thanatos?
- What will happen to Virgo if she uses her powers again?

- Why is the chapter called 'Plain Sailing'?
- Why do they need to take public transport?
- What do you think is Elliot's initial impression of the boat? Why?
- Why does Elliot start to get worried about the time?
- Why does Elliot want the Earth Stone?
- Who do Virgo and Elliot decide they need to recruit the help of? Why?
- Explain the difference between Elysium public transport and Earth public transport.
- Why are all the Chaos Stones the wrong colour?

Write a review of Quick Styx Cabs.

- HISTORY** • Research and make a fact file about Charon.
- ART** • Create your own other-worldly public transport, brand it and come up with a slogan and business card.
- HISTORY** • Make a poster about the River Styx. Do some re-search to supplement it.



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11

- What vocabulary makes Tartarus look daunting and scary?
- Is Thanatos pleased at the housing being built? How do you know?
- How does Tantalus feel when his shopping arrives?
- How does he feel when he opens it?
- Why does Charon think Tantalus wouldn't have minded toilet paper?
- Why does Thanatos make Sisyphus drop the boulder?
- Why does Thanatos doubt that Hypnos will be pleased to see him?

Write a review from Tantalus about his shopping.

Write a diary entry from Sisyphus after the events of this chapter.

DRAMA• Come up with voices for these characters: Sisyphus, Tantalus, Charon and Thanatos. Record bits of speech using your character voices.

HISTORY• Research Hypnos and use this research to predict what is coming in the story.

12

- What is a 'nebulous gloom'?
- What are 'Café Hero' and 'iGod' a pun of? Can you make some more shop name puns based on Gods and heavens etc.?
- Why do you think the two servers got the job?
- Why doesn't Hermes go to his dad's wedding?
- True or false – Hermes is vain. Explain your reasoning.
- What were the Asphodel Fields and what are they now? Are there similarities?
- What is Hermes's other job?

Write a newspaper report in the style of the *Daily Argus* about one of the past events of the book. A good idea might be to use the segment with Sisyphus and his boulder, or the part where Virgo loses the right to use her immortal powers.

ART• Design a menu for Café Hero. Come up with some pun-based products for the menu.



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13

- What is a 'grand façade'?
- What does it mean to 'look sharp'?
- Why does the gnome make angry hand gestures?
- Why does the bride get stuck?
- What is Virgo's reaction to Hermes wanting everyone to change clothes? Why?
- Why is Elliot surprised about Zeus's appearance? What's different to what he imagined?
- How does Virgo feel about meeting Zeus?
- Why does Zeus summon Pegasus?
- Why do they wear an invisibility helmet?
- Explain the immortal road system.

Write a newspaper report (up to you whether it's in the style of the *Daily Argus*) about the events of the wedding.

DANCE & DRAMA• Re-read the events of the wedding. Recreate them using dance, thinking about which points are suitable for which types of dancing and drama.

14

- Why does Elliot let Zeus stay?
- Why is Virgo relieved that Zeus wants to hug her?
- How does Hermes feel when he finds out his dad cheated?
- Why is Elliot embarrassed about Home Farm?
- Why can't Zeus give Elliot money to pay for Home Farm?

Write a diary entry as Virgo, about meeting Zeus for the first time.

ART• Imagine you are Elliot. Think about how you would renovate Home Farm. Draw a sketch of the new and improved Home Farm and label it.



Chapter**Comprehension Questions****Writing Opportunities****Cross Curricular Opportunities****15**

- What sort of shop does Pythia live in? Why has Maz chosen this?
- What time could it be? How do you know?
- What does Thanatos intend to do to Elliot? Why will this be difficult?
- What impression do you get of Pythia?

Summarize the prophecy in ten words or fewer.

HISTORY• Research and create a fact file about Pythia.

16

- What did Elliot infer from the cake?
- Why does Elliot prioritize finding the Earth Stone over looking after Josie?
- Why won't there be a parcel?
- Why doesn't Virgo understand what's wrong with Elliot's mum?
- Does Pegasus seem intelligent to you? Explain your answer.
- Why does Elliot ask about healing powers?
- How does Aphrodite appease Millicent Tronglebom?
- Why do you think Aphrodite's services are free?

Write the events of this chapter from the perspective of either Colin or Millicent.

MISC• Write a dating profile for five of the characters in *Who Let The Gods Out?* Think about what makes these characters appealing.

17

- Why doesn't Zeus let Aphrodite shout at Athene?
- Why does Hephaestus get his hammer out?
- Why do they need to get to Hypnos quickly?
- Why is the newspaper article bad news for the gang?

Write a letter to the newspaper from the gang, trying to remain incognito whilst defusing the situation.

DRAMA• In pairs, dramatize the differences between Aphrodite and Athene. Don't use any dialogue, but the differences should be clear to see.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the Gods giggling at Pisces? • Who do Athene and Aphrodite go to get? • Where does Hermes find Hypnos? How does he know it's him? • What new app is Hermes using? What does it do? • Who goes to find Hypnos? 		
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has Hypnos been enjoying life? • Why is Hypnos now filled with worry? • What does Hypnos know that Thanatos doesn't? • Why does Thanatos need Hypnos? • Why is Hypnos free from the Sacred Code? • Why hasn't Hypnos slept for thousands of years? 	Write an email from Hermes to the gang, telling them about what has happened.	MISC • Imagine you need to disguise yourself as a household object. Pick the household object, design and label your disguise.
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Elliot beginning to appreciate living with immortals? • Why is Elliot excited about school? • Why is Patricia suspicious? • What does Elliot intend to do with the wishing pearl? • Explain why Virgo's personality might make it difficult for her to not stand out at regular school. 	<p>Write a school newspaper report about what happened with the wishing pearl.</p> <p>Write the events of the chapter from the perspective of Mr Boil.</p>	<p>MISC • P4C – do you think a wishing pearl would do more bad or good in this world?</p> <p>MISC • What would you use a wishing pearl for? Think of three things and explain your reasons.</p>



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20

- Why is Elliot terrified of Call Me Graham calling his house?
- Why does Zeus call Boil 'Wart'?
- Why is everyone laughing when they get in the car?
- Why is Athene cross?
- Why is the suspension actually a good thing?
- Why did Elliot think his mum was back to normal? How did he feel when he realized she wasn't?
- What's Virgo's plan to avoid the school finding out about Josie?
- Who do Zeus and Aphrodite disguise themselves as? How?
- How often does the leader of the Zodiac Council change?
- What are the rules of the bed?

Imagine that Athene had come instead of Aphrodite. Rewrite the scene to show this.

SCIENCE • Research and make a presentation about dementia and the effects of it.

21

- Why does Elliot tell Josie he has no plans?
- Why is Elliot so desperate for them to get the Earth Stone quickly?
- Why do Elliot and Virgo realize they need to follow the Gods?
- Who is the winged figure disguised as a rat?
- What mistake does Elliot make on the way out? Why is this a mistake?

Write a weekly diary as Patricia, detailing your attempts to try and get over the fence.

DT • Design your own super-fence. What could it do to keep people out? How funny can you make it?



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22

- Why doesn't Elliot want Virgo to move?
- What is the pink milk erupting from a child's mouth?
- Who's in the train driver's cabin?
- Why do you think Hypnos disassembles into a wasp?
- How does Elliot decide to save the train?
- How does Pegasus help?
- How do the immortals stop the mortals remembering the events

Write the events of this chapter from the perspective of another passenger.

MUSIC• Use music to soundtrack the events on the train.

DRAMA• Use drama to re-enact the events on the train.

DRAMA• Re-enact the events on the train, but using dance. What's an appropriate dance to use?

23

- Are immortal punishments barbaric?
- Why do you think Aphrodite is chosen to create a distraction?
- How does Hypnos 'even the teams'?
- Why is Hermes able to snatch the trumpet from Hypnos?
- What does 'chided' mean? Try and figure it out in context.
- What hides the Olympians from view?
- What is Hypnos disguised as initially?
- Why does Hermes stop being able to fight?

Write a newspaper report about the fight.

Write the scene again from the perspective of Hermes.

DRAMA• Recreate the fight scene using drama.



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24

- Why does the queen initially ignore Elliot and Virgo?
- What takes Jeffers so long?
- Why isn't Virgo very good at fighting Hypnos?
- Does Hypnos get his trumpet back?
- Why does the queen leave the room?
- Why is the queen smiling at the end of the chapter?

Rewrite these events from the perspective of the queen.

Write instructions for defeating Hypnos in a fight.

Write a diary entry as Jeffers, following these events.

ART• Design and create your own super crown for the queen. Make it as quintessentially British as you can.

25

- Who does Pegasus go to get?
- Why would Mr Macgregor's eyes burst out of his head?
- Why is Elliot shocked when he gets into the house?
- How does Elliot know that Patricia is lying?
- How does Elliot initially feel when he finds out Patricia has cleared his debt? What feeling does this turn into?
- How does Maz turn this chapter on its head?

Write the events of this chapter from the perspective of Patricia.

Write what happens to Pegasus next.

MATHS• Research the value of gold. Consider how much Elliot might have been able to get, based on how much mass you yourself can carry.



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26

- Do Thanatos and Hypnos like each other?
- Why does Hypnos think Thanatos isn't fun any more?
- Did Thanatos lie about poisoning Elliot?
- What makes Elliot muster some last bits of strength?
- How does Elliot defeat Thanatos?
- How does Elliot feel at the end of this chapter? Why?

Write a balanced argument about whether you think it was the right choice for Elliot to go and see Hypnos and Thanatos.

HISTORY• Research and create a fact file about Hypnos.

27

- Why is Josie so upset when they find her?
- Is Zeus mad at Elliot for going to Thanatos?
- Why is Virgo so mad at Charon?
- Why does Virgo use her constellation? Do you think it was the right decision?
- Virgo tells the Council that their rules suck. What does this tell you about how her character has changed?
- Explain why the wishing pearl wouldn't be a good way to get Elliot home.

Write a letter of defence for Virgo, explaining why you don't believe she should lose her immortality.

MISC• P4C question – the Council has very strict rules. Should you always stick to a strict rule? When should you make an exception?

28

- Why was the wishing pearl confiscated?
- Why did Elliot barely sleep on Wednesday?
- Were the exams Elliot's biggest worry?
- Why is Virgo struggling with life?
- Why does Elliot wish Boil a Merry Christmas?

Write a ranty diary entry from the perspective of Boil, about Elliot.

Write a diary entry as Elliot, the night before his exam.

SCIENCE• Research and present to your peers about why stress and worry can cause a lack of sleep.



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29

- Why is Aphrodite reading the contract over and over again?
- What does Hephaestus mean by 'negotiating' with Patricia?
- Why is Josie so upset?
- Explain how Elliot and the Olympians saved Home Farm.

Write the next part of the story, predicting who is at the door.

DRAMA • Script and record the TV broadcast where Hermes pretends to be Patricia.

