**Ms. Leezy**

**6/9/16**

**Period 4**

**Ms Leezy**

**Title????**

**Hook?** **Gist:** Many people think of myths and mythology as a sort of entertaining fiction, and of historical events as irrelevant to today; yet there truly is a connection between mythology and history: shared truths. **Thesis:** In The Lightning Thief, a fictional story, Rick Riordan conveys a theme highlighting the pressures that come with responsibility; this idea of pressure and responsibility connects with how history informs and inspires us.

**Body Paragraph 1 Topic Sentence (the part of the thesis I will prove in this paragraph – for me I chose theme):** Responsibility. It is a fact of life, and boy does it come with pressures! Perseus Jackson, a main character in Riordan’s novel, struggles with the pressures of responsibility when trying to prevent World War III amongst the Gods of Olympus. **Evidence from text to support topic sentence:** The powerful Gods: Poseidon, Zeus, and Hades are fighting a fight that may cause colossal destruction for Western Civilization, “…god-level explosives… enough power to make mortal hydrogen bombs look like firecrackers…carnage…millions dead. Western civilization turned into a battle ground so big it will make the Trojan War look like a water-balloon fight” (Riordan Pages 135-138). **Explanation of evidence connecting it to the topic sentence:** The survival of humanity rests on Perseus’s courage to confront powerful impulsive gods: Poseidon, the father he never knew; Zeus, his uncle, who falsely accuses Perseus of being Poseidon’s accomplice; the meddling God of War – Ares - who loves battle and destruction for the mere entertainment factor; and his other uncle, the evil Underworld ruler – Hades himself! This would be no easy refereeing job for any God, Demigod, or mere mortal, let alone a 12-year-old Demigod ROOKIE – talk about P-R-E-S-S-U-R-E and R-E-S-P-O-N-S-I-B-I-I-T-Y!

**Body Paragraph 2 Topic Sentence (the part of the thesis I will prove in this paragraph – for me I chose history informs us):** Hatshepsut, the first successful Pharaoh, like Perseus, faced huge pressure and responsibility when ruling a kingdom customarily led by men, and did so in a way in which she is a role model even today, thousands of years later. **Evidence from text to support topic sentence:** In “Hatshepsut: His Majesty, Herself,” Hatshepsut, at age 15, was obligated to marry her baby half-brother, Tuthmosis III, allowing him to become a royal heir to Egypt’s throne; Tuthmosis III was the last of the male royal bloodline. Since he was too young to rule Egypt, Hatshepsut became a regent – the one in control until Tuthmosis III was mature enough to be the controlling Pharoah. Hatshepsut, had the responsibility of a Pharaoh, in name only, but “As she settled into her role, she [Hatshepsut] gradually took on more and more … decision making … appeared in public ceremonies … her power and influence grew … [she] boldly crowned herself Pharaoh.” At this point, Hatshepsut could have simply boasted being the first woman Pharaoh, yet she took her responsibility seriously. She needed to be “ … familiar with … palace protocol … conduct [herself] with … proper authority around the royal advisors … [she] should be prepared to wield power … [she] should feel comfortable around visiting dignitaries from other lands … [she] should know [her] place among the priests and various gods.” Knowing that she would not be accepted as a woman Pharaoh, Hatshepsut responsibly worked to preserve tradition; “She made herself look like a man … wore a man’s short kilt … wore a King’s broad collar … fastened a gold beard … referred to herself sometimes as he.” Yet, at the same time, “... she never gave up her feminine pleasures;” in other words, she did not change her gender identity, she just knew not to flaunt the fact that she was a woman to the powerful men around her. Hatshepsut, through the pressure and responsibility forced upon her, at a young age, made the right choices ultimately leading to the expansion of the country through symbolic power versus conquest - Hatshepsut became an effective leader of a country!