1. Where did Percy have his near death experience?
2. Where was Grover and Percy watching the Naiads from?
3. What did Percy say that Chiron told him Grover needed credit for?
4. Has Grover failed on his quest to protect Percy? Give reasons for you choice.
5. Does Grover believe Percy has a chance of getting a quest? Explain the reasons for your answer.
6. What do you think Percy meant by: ***‘a near death experience at the climbing wall?’***
7. What were the naiads doing underwater?
8. Find another word in paragraph one that has a similar meaning to ***scorched***.
9. When Percy asked Grover how it went with Mr. D, why did Grover’s face ‘***turn a sickly shade of yellow***?’ Explain how Grover felt about this question.
10. What do you think Mr. D meant by ***suspended judgement?***
11. When Grover says to Percy in the last paragraph, ***‘ and even if you did, why would you want me along?’*** tell us about how Grover feels about himself at this moment.
12. If you had just read ***this extract***, who would you rather be: Percy or Grover? Give reasons for your choices.

Friday afternoon, I was sitting with Grover at the lake, resting from a near-death experience on the climbing wall. Grover had scampered to the top like a mountain goat, but the lava had almost got me. My shirt had smoking holes in it. The hairs had been singed off my forearms. We sat on the pier, watching the naiads do underwater basket weaving, until I got up the nerve to ask Grover how his conversation had gone with Mr D. His face turned a sickly shade of yellow.

‘Fine,’ he said. ‘Just great.’

‘So your career’s still on track?’

He glanced at me nervously. ‘Chiron t-told you I want a searcher’s licence?’

‘Well… no.’ I had no idea what a searcher’s licence was, but it didn’t seem like the right time to ask. ‘He just said you had big plans, you know… and that you needed credit for completing a

keeper’s assignment. So did you get it?’

Grover looked down at the naiads. ‘Mr D suspended judgement. He said I hadn’t failed or succeeded with you yet, so our fates were still tied together. If you got a quest and I went along to protect you, and we both came back alive, then maybe he’d consider the job complete.’

My spirits lifted. ‘Well, that’s not so bad, right?’

‘Blaa-ha-ha! He might as well have transferred me to stable-cleaning duty. The chances of you getting a quest… and even if you did, why would you want me along?’