



HALF-BLOOD VS. WEREWOLVES



Simply divine! At Camp Half-Blood, children turn into little heroes and fight chimeras, furies, and other monsters.

Millions of children are even today still familiar with Greek myths- because they devour the books about **Percy Jackson**. To train in sword fighting and destroy monsters at Camp Half-Blood is a dream for every fan of the young Demigod. In a summer camp in New York, this dream comes true.

Text: Regine Becker Photos: Katie Orlinksy

Something is wrong in New York's borough of Brooklyn. Since the fearless warriors of Camp Half-Blood defeated the Titan Kronos last summer, creepy phenomena put people in shock, everywhere, magical portals pop up, from which monsters and other creatures crawl into the mortal world. But rescue is near: New York is having summer vacations again, and in Brooklyn's Prospect Park young campers are gathering in an innovative camp.

Together, they forge swords and plan to fight back the intruders.

Normally, Adva is a regular New York schoolgirl. But in the summer camp in Prospect Park she transforms into a sword-swinging demi-goddess. Because here, everything is just like in the famous camp from Adva's favorite book "Percy Jackson". Or at least almost.

In the well known series of US writer Rick Riordan, Percy, a problem student with bad grades and ADHD, learns that the Greek gods really do exist- and that he is the son of the God of the Sea, Poseidon. Together with other young demigods he visits Camp Half-Blood every summer.

The training camp is to prepare the boys and girls for the fight against monstrous enemies. Unfortunately there are also Chimeras, Giants, Medusa and all the other monsters of Greek mythology.

Granted: the gods and monsters that Adva has to deal with in prospect park are part of the fun. And ▶



To be like Percy: Adva and her friend Solomon are big fans of Rick Riordan's bestsellers



Research like the ancient Greeks: Even nature observations belong to the demigod education



Where do monsters lurk in the park? Eagerly, the campers study the map



Glueing instead of splitting: In the forge, the children do not craft with hammers and iron, but rather with foam and adhesive tape



Into the battle! As fighters rush at their opponents, the fighters decorate their faces with wild war paint

A goddess? The Minotaur? Or rather an Athenian owl? The symbols for their shields are designed by the young heroes themselves



the sword that she has trained with is made of foam and tape.

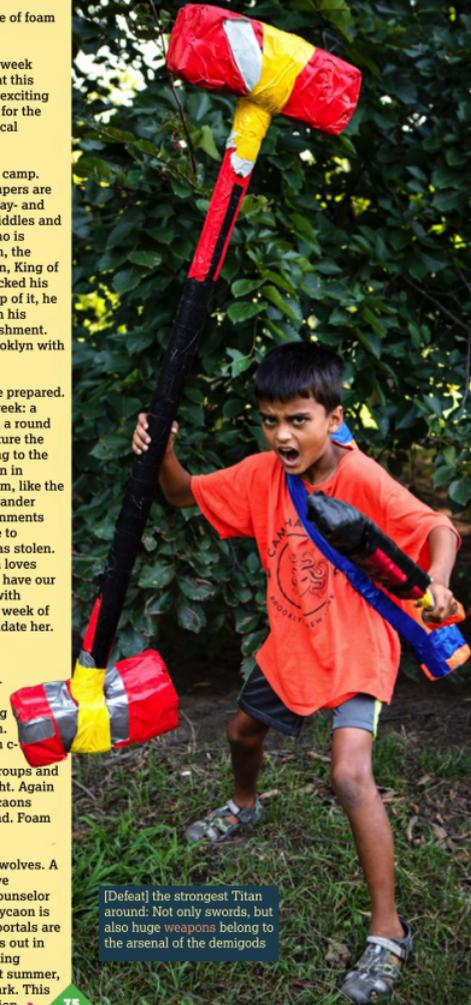
It costs between \$450-\$550 to spend a week feeling like an actual demigod. The fact that this actually works is, for one thing, due to the exciting stories that the team leaders come up with for the summer camp. For instance, with the magical portals.

Today, there is great excitement in the camp. Adva keeps her weapons handy. Other campers are putting on war paint. It is Friday, the last day and the final battle is coming. After a week of riddles and hints the campers have finally found out who is behind the attacks from the portals. Lycaon, the werewolf king. According to legend, Lycaon, King of Arcadia, had once fought with Zeus. He tricked his mighty guest into a disgusting meal. On top of it, he also tried to destroy the King of the Gods in his sleep. Zeus turned him into a wolf for punishment. And now Lycaon plans the conquest of Brooklyn with the help of his minions.

But Adva and the other demigods were prepared. After all, they have worked hard over the week: a regular day in Camp Half-Blood starts with a round of sword fighting and field games like Capture the Flag. After Lunch- of course after an offering to the gods was made- the children get instruction in subjects that aren't in any school curriculum, like the "Art of Deception". In the afternoon they wander through the park to complete special assignments with their Camp Counselors. You may have to recover a treasure that the goddess Hera has stolen. Or a harpie is lurking behind bushes. Adva loves those kind of surprise attacks. "We always have our swords with us. We destroy the monsters with those," she says matter of factly. After this week of camp a werewolf king can no longer intimidate her. Lycaon can come.

“**T**here they are!” calls out a camper and points to the hill. Indeed, twelve creatures are approaching armed up to their werewolf teeth. Roaring, they pull out their foam clubs. The children quickly break up into groups and then join their Camp Counselors in the fight. Again and again a group runs up and attacks Lycaon's gang. Soon the first ones sink to the ground. Foam or not, whoever gets a blow is defeated.

Wave after wave storms towards the were wolves. A wild buzzing mess. Adva and her peers give everything, but in the end it's the Cabin Counselor who defeats the villain. After 20 minutes Lycaon is beaten. He has to withdraw. The magical portals are being sealed. And Camp Half-Blood Breaks out in jubilation. However, before the werewolf king disappears, he utters a sinister threat: next summer, he calls out, he will be back in Prospect Park. This is fine with Adva. She has the same intention. ▶



[Defeat] the strongest Titan around: Not only swords, but also huge weapons belong to the arsenal of the demigods



One for all, all for one!
Before the fight, the demigods gather to get in the mood

This article was written by staff of the Germany-based kid's publication GEOlino Magazine, who spent time at Camp Half-Blood Brooklyn last summer. The article appeared in a special Greek mythology edition of their popular children's magazine. We are thankful to demigod Max Lardschneider for translating it for you curious English-speaking demigods and mortals.

Just like the name suggests (Zeitreise is German for time travel), Geolino Zeitreise takes young readers back in time. Clear and understandable, each issue tells exciting stories—from the ancient Egyptians to the fall of the Berlin Wall (to ours!). We are thankful for the time they spent at Camp Half-Blood



Learn more about Camp Half-Blood at camphalfbloodbklyn.com



The werewolves are coming! But against the assault of the young demigods the monsters are powerless in the end



Well trained: before the battle, the children practiced sword fighting for days



Creepy: Lycan, the werewolf king, and one of his sinister followers