Journal 8

A book that I personally enjoyed a lot was *The Mark of Athena* by Rick Riordan.

The story begins with the crew from the Greek camp attempt to land in the Roman camp. Two characters, Annabeth and Reyna discuss their past and relation to previous adventures and their mothers. However, ghosts possessing the crew attack the roman camp which begins to spark a war between the two factions. When they escape, they embark on various adventures to go and rescue an old friend. Annabeth has to embark on her own adventure after being tasked to do so by her mother(an encounter that scarred her). Once she completes the task and reunites with her boyfriend, they both fall into Tartarus.

As I haven’t read many books at the time, this stood out to me for various reasons. One major reason was the plot was easy to follow, yet left parts bare to allow plot progression to occur and still surprise you. The characters also stood out and we learn a lot more behind each characters motivation and learn a lot of backstory for character’s particularly Annabeth(a daughter of Athena). Not only did it have a satisfying conclusion, it ended on such a powerful not/cliffhanger that made me want to read more and read the next book. This encouraged me to pick up more books and read a lot more

Focusing on the aspect of time, I believe it wasn’t used a lot within this story. While the previous statement is true, the times they were used(idea of flashbacks or provide a bit of background on some minor things) was an important part in keeping readers interest without having to put the book down and look up some myths/context. Using Joan Silber’s categories of time, there were quite a few that stood out. One such time category is classic time. This story occurs in present time (i.e. days) and does not occur over decades (hence it is not long time) unless one counts the brief introductions/expositions of some minor characters. Switchback time is also prominent not just in this book, but in the series as a whole. With the idea of prophecies, flashbacks and recollections, this time is very prominent and very important as it will allow readers who haven’t read the first series to understand what is happening. These two times are the most prominent throughout the novel and help shape the novel to the fantastic novel that it became.