

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Percy Jackson & the Olympians book 1 "The Lightning Thief" is an interesting novel which becomes the foundation of this study. The demigod Percy who is created from author's imagination becomes the main subject in this study. Percy is described as someone who starts from zero to hero. His struggle, adventure and the way he learns to be a hero in connection with his maturity will be the very concern of the study. Therefore, this study concerns the individuation process of Percy.

The Greek mythology is the part of western civilization. In the novel, the use of mythological elements can be seen in, for example, Percy Jackson as he discovers that he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. Percy sinks in confusing situation when the world puts him on the position of a hero. Percy and his friends go on a quest to prevent a war between the Greek gods Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. Meanwhile, he just begins to learn how to be a hero and that the responsibility to save the world is on his shoulder.

There are many psychological problems faced by Percy. Percy leaves his messy life as a naughty student in his school where he is popular as a freak

student who has dyslexia and hyperactive problem. Percy is not good at all lessons but Latin. He is supported by Mr. Brunner the only teacher that cares about him to learn Latin. Days in school are always disturbed by Nancy Bobofit. The only one who has the same problem is Grover. Grover is Percy's best friend who always hides behind Percy. His trouble is complicated by Mrs. Dodds who has personal vengeance on him. Because of these things, Percy becomes the saddest student in Yancy Academy, North New York.

Percy's terrible days in school continues when he stays at home. His step father Gabe Ugliano is his immortal enemy. Gabe never wants to work. He always plays poker and drinks beer with his friends at home. It makes the house full of trashes and smell. One thing he cares about is to ask some money from Percy as he never wins the poker game. He never respects Percy. Instead, he always insults and undermines any things Percy has done. Therefore, Percy never feels the love from his step father, Gabe Ugliano.

The only one who cares about and loves him is his mother, Sally Jackson. She is the one who makes Percy survive in such a terrible condition. She is the one who supports Percy to go on his terrible days. When Percy remembers his mother, he always feels happy and peaceful.

With regard to the fact above, we can see terrible psychological conditions in Percy's life. Moreover, he has to survive and to face all of those terrible situations. Therefore, the maturity process that Percy undergoes is therefore worth studying. Percy's maturity process will be analyzed in this study by using the

theory of individuation process from Carl Gustav Jung. Then, the writer proposes a study entitled *Percy Jackson & The Olympians "The Lightning Thief": The Individuation Process of the Demigod Percy*

1.2. FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of this study is literature, especially novel.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The paper will only be focused on the demigod Percy Jackson, his experiences and adventures, which have connection with his maturity process preparing him to be a hero. In this study, his maturity process will be analyzed using the theory of individuation process of Carl Gustav Jung.

1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION

1. To what extent is Percy's maturity described in the novel based on Jungian analysis?
2. How does a twelve year old boy become a hero in this story?

1.5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain to what extent Percy's maturity is described in the novel based on Jungian analysis.
2. To explain how the twelve year old boy becomes a hero in this study.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In this study, the writer hopes that readers can understand the individuation process that happens in the story. This paper can also give an opportunity for scholars such as students of Faculty of Letters to analyze this novel using Jungian theory or alike.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

There are some terms throughout the study which must be known to better understand the issue in this paper, such as:

1. Twelve Olympians

The Greeks didn't have a "Top Ten" list of deities - but they did have the "Top Twelve" - those lucky Greek gods and goddesses living on top of Mount Olympus. (Regula, par. 2).

2. Demigod

Demigod is an official terms of half God and half mortal human (Riordan 72).

3. Individuation Process

The individuation process is a term created by the famous psychologist Carl Gustav Jung to describe the process of becoming aware of oneself, of one's make-up, and the way to discover one's true, inner self (Blake, par.1).

4. Maturity

The quality of becoming more developed mentally and emotionally, and behaving in a responsible way (Good 885).

