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**Win and Loss**  
**by Abigail Choi**

Up in the sky was Mount Olympus. Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea, was sitting on his throne waiting for his brother Zeus to return. Zeus was the god of the sky and storms. Zeus went to the Underworld to talk to Hades, the god of the dead. While Poseidon was waiting for Zeus, he noticed that Apollo, the god of the sun, art, music, medicine, and archery, was standing right in front of him.

“My dear friend Poseidon, Ares and his army are attacking. We need your son Percy to find the golden apple and cast Ares and his army away.” Apollo said.

“Why do you need Percy to take on this quest?” Poseidon asked.

“Because he is the only one to do the job correctly.” With that said, Poseidon asked Hermes, the messenger god, to send a message to Percy. Hearing this, Apollo left with a huge grin on his face. Unfortunately, Poseidon didn’t know what Apollo was actually up to.

Percy, not expecting Hermes was going to visit him, was studying the history of the gods in his camp. When class was over Percy went outside for some fresh air. When he looked up at the sky he saw a tiny yellow speck coming down towards him. At first he thought the tiny speck was a bird, but when it got closer he noticed it was Hermes.

When Hermes reached the ground, he spoke in a very calm voice, “Percy Jackson, Ares and his army are attacking. We need you to find the golden apple and cast him away.” When he was finished speaking, Percy nodded his head.

“But where do I find this apple?” Percy asked.

“In the Underworld,” Hermes replied. Percy didn’t want to go to the Underworld, but he definitely didn’t want Ares to take over this land. Percy had no choice but to say yes. He nodded his head again and went to gather a team.

Apollo was watching over Percy the whole entire time. He didn’t want anything to ruin his plan, his real plan. Apollo was planning to get rid of Percy. He was mad at Poseidon for sending floods to where he lives. First he tricked Poseidon, and now he would get rid of Percy. This was all part of Apollo’s plan to get revenge.

It was really hard for Percy to pick who should go with him. He decided there was no time to wait, so he quickly picked two people. He chose Sally, daughter of Aphrodite, and Ethan, son of Hermes. Both Ethan and Sally were Percy’s friends. He knew the Underworld was in China, but he didn’t know how to get there. Then an idea popped in his head!

“Since we know the Underworld is in China, let’s take a boat there. My dad, Poseidon, can use his power to push the boat, so we can go faster,” Percy suggested. Ethan nodded his head in agreement. Sally, who was too busy brushing her hair, had no idea what was going on, so she just nodded her head too. So Percy ran to ask the camp director to lend them a boat. The camp

director gave them a sailboat. The sailboat was big, and had white sails which sparkled in the light. Inside were three rooms for each of them.

“Thank you kind sir.” Ethan said, hiding that he was still mad at Percy for getting him in trouble last year. Percy then took the boat with the help of Ethan and Sally. When it reached the water they all gave it one final push and hopped in. They were heading to China, hoping to find the Underworld and the golden apple.

“Yes, yes!” Apollo cried with joy in his temple. “This is all going according to plan.” He peered into his crystal ball again. Apollo cried an evil laugh. His servants joined him, but he glared at them causing them to stop. He laughed again, but this time his servants didn’t join him. His servants were gone.

In the open sea, Percy was praying to Poseidon, to make the waters push the boat faster. When he was done praying, he heard a soft humming sound in the first room. He peeked inside and saw Sally sitting on the couch, humming. Sally of course had no idea Percy was watching her, and continued to hum. When she looked up, she saw Percy and she turned pink with embarrassment.

“I liked the song you hummed.” Percy said.

“My mother used to sing it to me.” Sally said, still looking embarrassed.

Then Ethan came into the room. “Guys a big wave is just behind us, what is it?” Ethan asked.

“Oh, that wave. It’s going to push the boat so it can go faster.” Percy replied.

Back in Mount Olympus, Poseidon was *still* waiting for Zeus to arrive. But he got bored of waiting, so he peered into his tidal ball to see what Ares was up to. The picture in the tidal ball showed Ares drinking wine. “What? This is impossible, Ares is supposed to be attacking! Unless Apollo tricked me!” Poseidon said, clenching his fists into balls. This made Poseidon so angry he sent hundreds of tsunamis and floods to Apollo’s temple. “Let’s see how Apollo likes that!” He said, laughing.

“Where on Earth are my servants?” Apollo shouted in his empty temple. “Maybe they went to warn Percy I was tricking them to their doom!” He shouted again. Apollo went outside to clear his head. But when he looked into the open sea, he saw tsunamis and floods coming to him. “No! Poseidon, you will pay for this!” He shouted again. But the seas swallowed him until he reached the bottom of the sea. Even so, gods can’t die. Apollo swam with all his might until he reached the surface. He saw his island soaked in water. Apollo yelled with frustration. But there was still hope for Apollo: Percy might meet his doom along the way to China.

The huge waves pushed the boat and the boat went fast indeed. So fast you couldn’t see it coming. They reached China in less than an hour. “Wow, that went fast.” Ethan said when the boat came to a stop. But what surprised Percy and Ethan the most was that Sally’s hair was soaked in water.

“Ugh!” She said, squeezing her red hair. Ethan rolled his eyes. They hopped out of the boat and landed on the hot sand.

“Okay, now all we need is to find a map.” Percy said.

“Found it!” Ethan shouted, pointing at a map almost buried in the sand.

Percy took one good look at the map and finally said, “The Underworld is in Beijing.”

“How about we take a bus?” Ethan suggested.

“Good idea,” Percy said. They walked down the streets of the beach and found a place that sells bus tickets. “Who’s paying?” Percy asked. Then Ethan and Percy looked at Sally with a wallet in her hand.

“Fine!” she said. They handed the money to the ticket man. In return he handed them three yellow tickets. They all thanked the man and went to the nearest bus stop. They waited for about seven minutes until the bus came. They boarded the bus and found three seats at the back of the bus. The bus ride was an hour and thirty minutes. After the long bus ride, they finally reached Beijing. They needed to reach any mountain peak. They looked at the map again, looking for a good mountain.

“That one!” Sally said at a really small mountain. Ethan and Percy agreed. The mountain was only a few miles away, so they began walking.

The servants who disappeared in Apollo’s temple were actually on their way to warn Percy.

“How much longer?” asked one servant.

“There, I see the kids!” said the second. The third servant started running towards them. The other two ran too.

“Hey, who are those people?” Ethan said pointing at the first servant.

“We are Apollo’s servants and we are here to warn you. Apollo has tricked Poseidon into letting you go on this quest. This is a plan so Apollo can get rid of you!” they said.

“So we came all the way out here for nothing!” Ethan shouted, wishing they’d have known this sooner.

Sally put her hand on his shoulder and said, “At least we did a good job on the way here.”

“Hahahahaha!” Something shouted above them. All of them looked up and saw Apollo riding a dragon. “Blast Percy!” He ordered. A flaming hot fire blast was coming towards Percy!

“No!” Ethan shouted, blocking Percy from the blast. The blast hit Ethan and sent him flying backwards.

“Take him to the hospital!” Percy told Sally. She carried Ethan and ran to the nearest hospital.

Percy drew out his sword and fought Apollo with all his might. Then an asteroid hit the two of them, leaving Percy dead and Apollo trapped underground. Unfortunately, Percy died as a hero in many stories. This is the end of this story, but I can tell you Ethan recovered from the dragon’s blast. Percy still tried to fight Apollo even though he knew he would lose. He was a true hero!