

Voice of Atlantis

Audition Passage — adapted from Rise of Atlantis: Young Gods, Chapter Two

The Scene

Zach — fifteen, a math prodigy from Miami, and the first new recruit the team has taken on in a mortal generation — is about to meet the full team for the first time. What follows is a room full of people testing the new kid: teasing, needling, showing off, and, underneath all of it, quietly deciding whether he belongs.

This is a contemporary YA voice, not a myth-book narrator voice. Think fast, funny ensemble banter with real stakes underneath it. Bring the humor. Don't lose the stakes.

How to Read This Passage

Perform any single character, or read the whole scene solo to show your range — either is a valid entry. A quick guide to how each voice should sound is below.

Pops	Dry, matter-of-fact, quietly protective — never shows it outright.
Justin — Zeus	Warm, easy authority. The closest thing to a friend in the room.
Mark — Poseidon	Dry deadpan humor, understated, never rattled.
Bobby — Ares	Blunt, physical, funny in a tough-guy way.
Eric — Apollo	Arrogant, needling — wants Zach to fail and doesn't hide it.
Sam — Demeter	Precise, confident, all business.
Zach	A nervous fifteen-year-old trying to hold his own, and slowly finding his footing.

Zach Meets the Team

From Chapter Two

Zach looked over his shoulder, surprised the team wasn't much older than him.

"Sachin," Pops began, "meet the team."

SAM

"Shan — but everyone calls me Sam."

POPS

"Demeter," he reminded her.

SAM

"Also known as Demeter. But regardless, I am very impressed with your granular fusion formula."

ERIC

"Nah." He shook his head at the changes, then turned to Zach. "I'm Eric."

POPS

"Apollo," Pops reminded him. He was ignored.

ERIC

"You should feel honored to be chosen to be part of Pops' elite team. I'm not sure you deserve that honor." He changed another section of numbers on the chalkboard and walked away, laughing. "I thought the Greeks were taking over the world, not the geeks."

Zach quietly fixed the formula. Twice.

ERIC

"Whatever."

BOBBY

"I'm Bobby, also known as Ares." He raised his hands and pointed at his midsection. "Hit me!"

Zach looked around for some sort of support. There was none forthcoming.

BOBBY

"Give it your best shot."

Zach punched the god of war as hard as he could, which was not very hard at all.

BOBBY

"Come on, you can do better than that! Harder! Harder!"

The punches went from pathetic, to puny, to something with actual weight.

BOBBY

"Better. Slightly." Through clenched teeth. "You're going to have to spend some time in the electric chair, ha-ha!"

MARK

"Mark, otherwise known as Poseidon." They shook hands. "Do you like water?"

ERIC

"He's one hundred percent water, no backbone," Eric offered, helpfully.

ZACH

"To drink?"

MARK

"No, the ocean."

ZACH

"I can't swim."

ERIC

"He barely takes a bath," Eric continued. He wasn't wrong.

MARK

"This planet is seventy-point-eight percent water. So here's some simple math for you: learn to swim, or learn how to hold your breath for a very long time."

JUSTIN

"Hey, I'm Zeus — but you can call me Justin if it makes you feel better." He caught Zach staring past him at the new math on the board. "Do you believe in aliens?"

ZACH

"Mathematically, it is an absolute."

JUSTIN

"The equation or aliens?"

ZACH

"Both."

Zach finished the equation. He turned around, stunned.

ZACH

"Clean fusion... the energy output is... oh my god..."

The others, except Pops, all replied at once.

THE TEAM

"You mean, oh my gods."

They laughed. Even Pops cracked a smile.

ERIC

"It sucks to be the dumbest person in the room, doesn't it? Bet it's the first time you ever felt like that."

SAM

"Don't mind Eric. He has a diminished capacity for social skills."

ZACH

"Who are you? All of you?"

JUSTIN

"If you join us, we will open your eyes to a universe you could only dream of."

MARK

"Well, Zach, are you ready to become one of us?"

ZACH

"You want me to help you? How can I help you guys — you guys are so much smarter than me."

BOBBY

"You can help us stop the polar ice caps from melting."

A few seconds of awkward silence.

ZACH

"I'm in."

POPS

"Are you sure?"

ERIC

"You asked him here for exactly this reason, and now you're trying to talk him out of it?"

ZACH

"They don't make my decisions." He had never been surer about anything in his life.

POPS

"Okay, that's it for the introductions. We've no time to lose. Our electromagnetic shield is losing power, people are dying, and the polar ice caps are melting. We've got a deadline to meet."

ERIC

"What about him?" He gestured toward Zach.

POPS

"Well, Zach, to become one of us you just have to convince your parents to leave you here, with us."

ZACH

"I'm in!" Louder. More convincingly.

POPS

"That's settled then."

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