



# Embodied Reimagining: A Queer Mapping of Identity Performances in *Percy Jackson* Fan Fiction

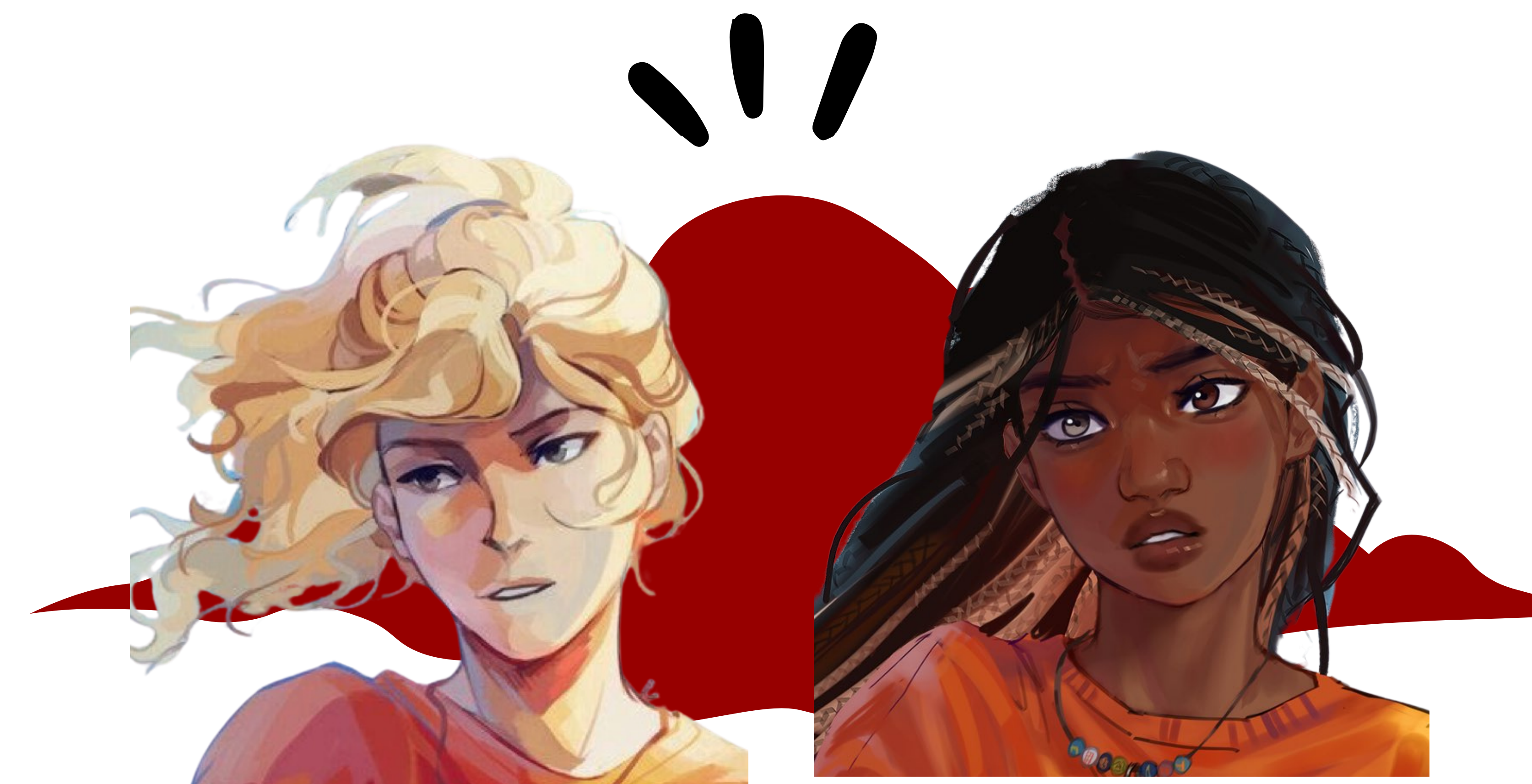
## Methodology

- *The Queer Art of Failure*: published in 2011 by José Muñoz.
  - To fail, to be queer, there is no real question. Both are categories linked to modes of deviant being.
- *No Future*: Lee Edelman, published in 2004
  - What is children's fiction, child as a political category, & fan fiction as children's space?
- Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang's article, "*Decolonization Is Not a Metaphor*," published in 2012
  - Imagining the futurity of fan fiction = imagining a colonial, landless future?
- María Lugones' influential article in 2010, "Toward a Decolonial Feminism"
  - Going beyond oppression and humility through using fan fiction to enable shared understanding (Lugones 747).
- Roland Barthes' literary theory published in 1967, "The Death of the Author"
  - Authors' ownership of their characters/ work? Literature as inherently collaborative?

## Literature Review

- *Framing Fan Fiction* by Kristina Busse in 2017
  - The introduction, along with chapters 2, 3, and 7, was foundational to my conception of fic as an academic inquiry- questions arose about queering fiction in such an intimate space
- "Stranger than fiction: Fan identity in cosplay," by Nicolle Lamerichs, published in 2011.
  - Embodied experience of fan fiction,
- Dean Leetal's "Revisiting gender theory in Fan fiction" in 2022, and "Those Crazy Fangirls on the Internet: Activism of Care, Disability and Fan Fiction" in 2019.
  - Fic creates spaces, where many lived experiences, points of view, or identities, are present, leading to care for others and critical engagement with gender
- Judith Butler's "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution" published in 1988.
- Stylized acts create the gender roles people encompass; Relationships reifies how close relationships and gendered scripts operate for the audience
- Audre Lorde's *A Burst of Light* was published in 1988.
  - These are not new ideas in fic, but rather new formations on the publication of imagining one's desires.
- Marquis Bey's *Black Trans Feminism*. Duke University Press, published in 2022.
  - Gender radicality as an undoing of roots finds parallels in fan fiction's radical and subversive nature.

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Credit: Viktoria Ridzel

Credit, on Twitter: Madi

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Credit, on Twitter: Sniffany



## Aims of the Project

- This research seeks to uncover the transformative potential of fan fiction as a medium for personal expression, education, and critical reflection.
- However, fan fiction spaces are not some perfect queer utopias, and the road to increasing one's agency is not as simple as consuming a ton of fic.
- Rather, through a conversation with the fics as primary texts and including feminist and queer theoretical frameworks, this project maps how to conceptualize one's life materially, through fic and theory
- My IS explores the following questions: How and where is fanfiction a site for queer exploration? Why fanfiction? How is gender performance both embodied and thought? How does the community aspect of fanfiction change the dynamics of reader-relationship to text? Why read fanfiction instead of the original stories that fanfiction writes from?
  - Don't seek to answer each one, rather map the questions that develop further with such broad research

## Conclusions

- Read Fan Fiction!
- Niche yet a large group of fan scholars would love to explore further, and submit this work to journals
- Through a close read, I've found that the importance of fan fiction is not as simple as reading and writing fic, which automatically leads to one's complete freedom and a newfound sense of agency. Rather, one begins to be able to articulate a part of one's identity, which opens a path for one to educate oneself on feminist theory, the power of lived experiences, and unlearning.
- If I had more time to conduct this project, I would have ended the paper with a piece of my *Percy Jackson* fan fiction and finalized my thoughts.