

Name: _____

Note for adults

Help your child to read the text (it is a good one to practise reading aloud) and discuss with them the purpose of myths.

The story of Persephone

- Read this myth and answer the questions.

Persephone was the beautiful daughter of Zeus, the king of the gods, and Demeter, the goddess of the harvest. While gathering flowers in a field one day, Persephone was abducted to the Underworld by Hades, who arose in his chariot from a great chasm in the ground.

Persephone's mother, Demeter, was heartbroken, and she wandered the length and breadth of the Earth in search of her daughter. While she wept and wandered, the harvest did not come. The crops failed to ripen, then withered in the fields, and it became perpetual winter.

Eventually, Demeter descended to the Underworld to beg Hades to give her daughter back. But Persephone had eaten a handful of pomegranate seeds in the Underworld and would not be able to return to the Earth for ever. Hades agreed that Persephone could return to the Earth with her mother for one half of every year. The other half of the year, which Persephone spends in the Underworld as Hades' queen, is when Demeter is sad and the crops do not grow.

- What did this myth explain for the Ancient Greeks? _____

- What do we know about the seasons that the Ancient Greeks did not know?

Self-evaluation

How hard I worked:

