

By Cee Cee Pond and Millie MacDonald

The Seasons

The story of Demeter & Persephone

Persephone was the strikingly beautiful daughter of Zeus (King of the Gods) and Demeter (Goddess of harvest and life.)

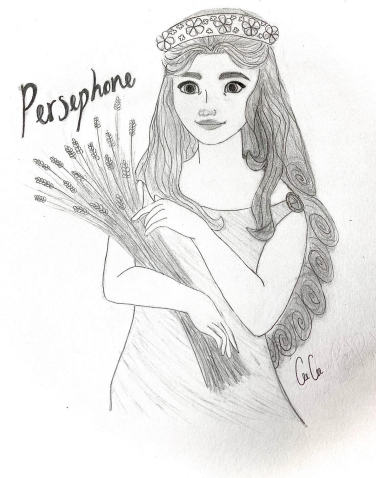
King of the Underworld, Hades, was entranced by her beauty and instantly fell in love with her. He begged his brother Zeus to help him marry her. But they knew that Demeter would never allow the dark, sinister Hades marry her exquisite daughter. Hades had a plan to capture Persephone and take her down to the underworld to be with him because of his love for her.

Zeus had an alluring flower planted in a garden, which Persephone was drawn to, away from the care of her nymphs. But as she picked the captivating bloom, the earth cracked open and Hades emerged in his black chariot, charging towards Persephone.

Hades snatched Persephone and they galloped away to the underworld, riding jet black horses.

After arriving in the shadowy, gloomy land of the dead, Hades brought Persephone all kinds of delicious food, but she refused to eat. She had heard that if you eat anything in the underworld, you can never leave.

Weeks went by. Persephone was starving with hunger. She ate six pomegranate seeds which were given to her by Hades.



Demeter was distraught, and missing her daughter terribly. All the crops perished because of her sadness, and nothing mattered to her except finding her daughter. Zeus soon heard about Persephone, and sent his son Hermes down to the underworld, as all the crops were dead and there was a shortage of food.



Hermes realised that Persephone had eaten the six pomegranate seeds. Zeus was furious with her as now she had to stay in the underworld, possibly forever. But the powerful, almighty Zeus made a compromise, he decided that because Persephone had only eaten six seeds she would only need to stay in the Underworld for half the year, and Persephone would stay on earth with Demeter for the other 6 months. The seasons arose; Autumn and Winter when Demeter missed Persephone, and all the crops died, and Spring and Summer when mother and daughter were happily together again.