

## 9: Demeter and Persephone

Persephone was the daughter of Demeter, the Goddess of the harvest, and lived with her mother on the Island of Sicily.



A volcano on the island erupted and Hades emerged from his underworld kingdom. He saw Persephone and instantly fell in love with her. Hades pulled Persephone into his chariot and took her back to the Underworld.



When Demeter found out that Hades had seized her daughter she became very sad and stopped caring about the harvest.

All the plants began to wither and die.



Zeus, chief of the gods, promised Demeter he would bring Persephone back. But she could only return if she had not eaten any food while in the Underworld.

Persephone had eaten some seeds from a pomegranate. So Hades demanded that she stay with him forever.





Zeus decided that because Persephone had only eaten a tiny amount she could return to Earth for six months of the year.



And this is how the seasons began. Demeter's sadness as Persephone leaves for the Underworld makes the plants wither in the Autumn.



But they regrow with her joy, when Persephone returns in the spring.