

Skellig Chapter 38 Persephone

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Fill in the boxes below with your research.



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According to Greek mythology, Persephone was the daughter of the thunder God, Zeus, and the harvest goddess, Demeter.

Demeter kept Persephone hidden away, but one day, while she was collecting flowers, the god of the underworld, Hades, burst through the earth to abduct her. He took her to the underworld and married her.

When Persephone is above ground, plants grow and the sun shines (the spring and summer). When she is below ground, the skies become dark and plants do not grow (autumn and winter).

Frantic to find her daughter, Demeter searched all over the earth. She was so distraught that she stopped plants growing, causing everyone to go hungry.

Realising he had to return Persephone, Hades tricked her first by giving her pomegranate seeds to eat. Because she had eaten in the underworld, she was forced to spend half the year there, with him.



A painting of Persephone by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. What is she holding and why?

Eventually, Helios the sun god told Demeter that Persephone had been taken to the underworld. Zeus ordered Hades to return her, so that plants could start to grow on the earth again.