

Name _____

The Tale of Persephone and the Changing Seasons

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Persephone is characterized by her kindness and love for the natural world, as she spends her time tending to plants and nurturing the Earth. Her actions reflect her caring and nurturing nature.
2. The myth illustrates this idea by showing how the actions of gods and goddesses like Persephone, Demeter, Hades, and Zeus directly affect the Earth and its seasons.
3. Persephone's consumption of pomegranate seeds symbolizes her connection to the Underworld and her inability to fully escape its influence. The consequences, returning to Hades for a portion of each year, explain the arrival of autumn and winter.
4. The myth illustrates this cycle through Persephone's alternating presence in the Underworld and the world above, which corresponds to the changing seasons of growth and abundance (spring and summer) and rest and dormancy (autumn and winter) on Earth.

