

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mythological Tale: Persephone and the Seasons

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The significance of the earthquake and the crack in the ground lies in their role as the catalyst for the story's events. They created the opportunity for Hades to emerge from the underworld and abduct Persephone. This set the plot in motion by leading to Persephone's absence from the world above, which caused the earth's barrenness and famine.
2. Demeter is portrayed as a loving mother who is deeply attached to her daughter, Persephone. Her emotional turmoil upon learning of Persephone's abduction is a central element of the story. Demeter's grief and anger lead her to neglect her duties as the goddess of agriculture, which results in the withering of crops and famine across the mortal world. Her determination to reunite with her daughter ultimately drives the story's resolution.
3. The pomegranate seed symbolizes the binding connection between Persephone and the underworld. By eating the seed, Persephone unknowingly enters into a pact with Hades, ensuring her return to the underworld for part of each year. This symbolic gesture becomes the reason behind the changing seasons, as her time spent with Hades in the underworld brings winter, while her time with Demeter in the world above brings spring and summer.
4. The theme of sacrifice is evident in Persephone's alternating roles as a daughter to Demeter and a queen to Hades. She is torn between her duty to her mother and her responsibilities in the underworld. Her choice to eat the pomegranate seed in the underworld signifies her sense of duty and responsibility to both realms. Persephone sacrifices her full presence in one world for the sake of the other, leading to the cyclical nature of the seasons.

