

PERSEPHONE

Greek name Περσεφόνη

Latin name Proserpina

Name in your language

Parents Zeus and Demeter

Role Queen of the Underworld

Home Underworld

Attributes pomegranate, grain, torch, flowers

Pets deer

Torn between her mother, Demeter, and her husband, Hades, Persephone does not seem to have an active role in her own story. (Check out Hades and Demeter's IDs to brush up!) What is Persephone's version of the myth? A myth is like a prism, and you can watch it from many angles. Persephone was once playing in a flowery meadow along with her Nymph friends when suddenly she smelled the scent of daffodils. She stopped playing and went gathering the flowers. All of a sudden, the Earth opened. Before she knew it, Hades had risen to the surface and carried her off to the Underworld as his queen. Demeter's numerous attempts at rescuing her were in vain: Persephone was bound to the Underworld. Even when Zeus, put in front of the devastated crops caused by Demeter's sorrow, tried to bring Persephone back, he could not obtain a full-time release. Hades had made sure that she was bound to her new kingdom: he had her eat six pomegranate seeds (the food of the Underworld). Once she had eaten them, Persephone could never again come truly back: as we already know, she had to spend six months of the year with Hades, in parallel to the six pomegranate seeds.

