

# Persephone

## Literacy Links

Activities which can be used with any story are in blue print. Brackets indicate which activities can be carried out by children on their own and which need teacher intervention.

Speaking, Listening and Responding	Drama	Writing	Historically-based Information Texts
(Children) Retell the story in pairs, swapping over when the teacher calls out 'change'.	(Teacher) Make a video or audio recording of groups of children telling their version of the story to show to other classes/parents.	(Teacher with children) After modelling, children create a story map plotting the sequence of events in the story.	(Teacher with children) Research in books and on the internet to create a leaflet, poster, PowerPoint or oral presentation, with information about:
(Children) In pairs, retell one part of the story with sound effects or music added to create atmosphere or a special effect.	(Teacher with children) Create a finger or shadow puppet play to retell the story. Use appropriate voices for the characters when you perform it.	(Teacher with children) Write one scene of the story as a playscript. Use it to make a stop-frame animation of the scene. You could add music or sound effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greek gods and goddesses</li> <li>• Ancient Greek religious beliefs and practices</li> <li>• Volcanic eruptions in history</li> <li>• Creation myths from other ancient civilisations</li> </ul>
(Children) Devise questions about the story for others to answer. Try to include all the different kinds of Talking Points.	(Children) Improvise a short monologue in role as either Demeter or Hades explaining to a friend your reasons for wanting Persephone to be with you.  (Teacher and children) Discuss how being in role helps understand characters' motives.	(Children) Write in role as Persephone, describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the events that led to your capture</li> <li>• how your life changed when you had to live in the underworld</li> <li>• how you felt and what you did when you lived on earth for half the year.</li> </ul>	
(Children) Present the case for Zeus' decision not to interfere with his brother Hades' decision to capture and keep Persephone.	(Teacher and children) Put Hades in conscience alley, presenting the reasons for and against him imprisoning Persephone.	((Teacher and children) Re-watch the story once or twice, making notes of the different types of persuasive language used. Use some of the language to write a letter to Zeus urging him to persuade Hades to release Persephone	
(Teacher and children) Find one or two other versions of the story of Persephone and discuss any similarities and differences between them and the story on the DVD.	(Children) Put Demeter in the hot seat, asking questions from the point of view of the people of the world, and the effects her actions had on them.	(Children) Write a dialogue between Demeter and Persephone when Persephone is released from the underworld for the first period of six months.	
(Teacher and children) Ask the children to work in groups of three to retell the story from the viewpoint of Hades, Persephone or Demeter. Discuss the differences in their points of view.	(Children) In small groups, improvise a conversation between the boys and girls who were in Paradise when Hades came out of the underworld,	(Children) Use all your senses to write a poem describing the part of the story where Hades emerges in his chariot from the volcano.	