

# **Persephone**

Written by the Class of 2023

Spring 2020

## **Announcement for the Chime**

Written by Niko Rubinstein

When the beautiful Persephone, daughter of Demeter, is kidnapped by the grim Hades, Demeter sets out to find Persephone. But first! She must get past Hades and Zeus. It will be sad, it will be happy, it will be performed by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Come join us on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am

## **List of Characters**

<b>Narrator 1</b>	Sabine, Molly and Lila
<b>Narrator 2</b>	Molly, Gypsy and Lucca
<b>Narrator 3</b>	Lila, Lucca and Sabine
<b>Persephone</b>	Lauren, Cecilia and Molly
<b>Demeter</b>	Gypsy, Lauren and Cecilia
<b>Zeus</b>	Theo, Lila and Niko
<b>Hermes</b>	Niko, Theo and Silas
<b>Hades</b>	Cecilia, Silas and Cole
<b>Shepard Boy</b>	Cole, Sabine and Theo



Narrator 1:

The harsh cold winters we have are because Persephone is down in the underworld, the world of death! This is how it happened. One day, Hades lord of the underworld spotted Persephone dancing in the meadow, he needed a queen to rule alongside him, and had his sights set on her! Persephone was the daughter of Demeter, Goddess of the Earth, and she loved all things beautiful. So, Hades created a mysterious flower and set it in a place where Persephone would see it. When she saw the flower, she gently touched it. As soon as she did a portal to the underworld opened and Hades came out! He grabbed Persephone and pulled her down into the underworld with him.

Narrator 2:

After some time, Persephone started to get bored and sad, she had no love for Hades and felt trapped in the underworld. Meanwhile, on Mt. Olympus Demeter could not find Persephone until a young shepherd approached her saying.

Shepard Boy:

I think I know where your daughter is! Earlier, a couple of my brother's pigs fell into the underworld!

Narrator 3:

Demeter then knew that Hades must have pulled Persephone down into the underworld with him. She started to cry. The shepherd boy had never seen an adult cry before, so he started to laugh. Angry at being laughed at, Demeter yelled

Demeter:

You think this is funny little boy!?

Narrator 1:

With that she snapped her fingers and smoke came up under the boy and (sound effect) He was a lizard! Just then, a hawk came and swooped him up and ate him.

Narrator 2:

Demeter walked to Zeus's castle. She walked into the throne room and ask Zeus...

Demeter:

Can we bring her back from the dead?

Zeus:

NO!

Narrator: 2

Cried Zeus



Narrator 3:

Just then Demeter noticed two glistening lightning bolts at Zeus's side.

Demeter:

Where did you get those lightning bolts?! Did Hades make those for you so he can keep Persephone down in the underworld?!

Narrator 3:

Zeus did not reply.

Demeter walked home crying. Her heart, a chest of sadness. She missed the shining girl she saw every day when she went outside, but now all she saw was grey grass and fallen trees. She was mad and angry, and she took her pain and threw it on the earth! Nothing would survive!

(Song)

Narrator 1:

Zeus realized that Demeter would eventually kill the world, so he called upon Hermes.

Zeus:

Hermes, go to the underworld and command Hades to let Persephone go.

Narrator 1:

Hermes agreed and set out for the underworld. Meanwhile, Persephone walked through the garden. Hades appeared and looking worried said...

Hades:

My darling, you look grey. Please try a pomegranate, they will help you.

Persephone:

No, if I eat, I could be stuck here forever!

Narrator 2:

But, how could she resist the glistening ruby red pomegranate? She slowly ate six pomegranate seeds. Suddenly, vivid flashbacks of her climbing a pomegranate tree as a young child came to her and her beautiful mother calling to her softly

Demeter (softly):

Persephone! Come down from there you will fall!



Narrator 2:

She fell back to reality just as Hermes entered.

Hermes:

Hades! Zeus commands you to let Persephone go!

Hades:

Fine. Take her.

Narrator 3:

Persephone left with Hermes. They made their way to the surface where Demeter was waiting for them. There was much happiness and joy until Hermes said...

Hermes:

I'm sorry to break up this lovely moment, but we must know Persephone, did you eat anything in the land of the dead?

Narrator 1:

With sadness in her eyes, Persephone admitted she had. After much deliberation and arguing Zeus decided that Persephone would stay six months with Hades as his wife and the other with Demeter.

Demeter was furious! She raged at Zeus!



### Zeus:

I'm sorry, but she ate the food of the dead. If she hadn't, she would be free to be with you. I cannot change this rule. I am done arguing with you Demeter.

### Narrator 2:

Finally, Demeter understood that this must happen, at least she would get to see her daughter. But she promised Zeus that during the six months that Persephone was with Hades, nothing would grow on the earth.

### Narrator 3:

This is why we have four seasons. Fall is when Persephone leaves, Winter is when she is in the underworld, Spring is when she comes back home and Summer, she is home. That is the story of Persephone.

The End

**Special thanks to Alyson, Marjorie and Trefford for your  
willingness to help us with the Crankie!**