

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Read the text and tick the answer.

Hades fell in love with:

- 1 Persephone
- 2 Demeter
- 3 Zeus



Poor Persephone!

The Ancient Greeks had many stories to explain how and why things happened. These stories are called *myths*. The myth of Persephone is the story of why there are different seasons every year.

Persephone was a beautiful young girl. Her father was Zeus, father of the gods, and her mother was Demeter, goddess of the Earth and of agriculture. Hades was the King of the ¹*underworld*. One day Hades saw Persephone and he fell in love with her. But Persephone's mother, Demeter, did not want her to marry Hades.

One day, Hades appeared and took Persephone with him to the underworld. She became his Queen. Demeter was very angry and sad. She looked everywhere for Persephone. The Earth became dry, the trees lost their leaves and the

plants died. People did not have any food to eat.

Finally, Persephone's father, Zeus, sent a message to Hades. 'Persephone must return to the Earth,' he said. Hades agreed, but before Persephone returned, he gave her a ²*pomegranate* seed to eat. The pomegranate seed is the food of the dead. After Persephone ate the seed, she had to return to the underworld for one third of every year. During this time, the plants die and the trees lose their leaves. When Persephone returns to the Earth, the plants grow again.

¹ In Greek myth the underworld is the place where dead people live.

² A pomegranate is a red fruit with many seeds inside.

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Persephone's parents were not ordinary people.
- 2 People did not have any food to eat because Persephone was sad.
- 3 Hades sent Persephone back to the Earth because her mother and father were angry.
- 4 When Persephone returns to the underworld every year, it is winter on the Earth.
- 5 The myth of Persephone explains why pomegranate seeds are the food of the dead.

3 Every culture has myths to explain different things in the world. Do you know any myths?