

***Instruction: Parents please ensure that the child reads the summary given in Worksheet 3, reads the chapter twice and understands the same before attempting the exercises given below.**

Jupiter had been watching all this from the heaven. When he heard the distraught (*dis/trot*) mother's cry for help, he got worried. People would die if the crops failed. If that happened, who would worship him? He could never allow that!

"I must do something," he said to himself. After pondering over the matter, he sent for his youngest son, Mercury, God of Flight

"My son," he said to the handsome God with tiny wings attached on his head and feet. "Go to my brother, your uncle Pluto, and get Proserpine back." He then told him all that had happened and how Ceres, in her **desperation**, was **destroying** all that grew on earth.

Meanwhile, Proserpine cried and cried, desperately wanting to get back to the earth to her beloved mother.

She refused any food offered to her by the handmaidens (Legend said that if one ate anything in the land of Pluto, one could never leave) She did not know if this legend was true but as the days passed, she started to feel the pangs of hunger more and more. How she **yearned** to be with her mother!

Mercury, the winged Messenger, now flew down into the depths of the earth. Nothing would have happened but just as he entered the royal chamber, he found Pluto seated on his black throne, lovingly feeding the weak and hungry Proserpine four seeds of the pomegranate fruit.




Mercury was ready to strike a bargain between Pluto and himself. If Pluto were to marry Proserpine and make her his queen, she would live with him for four months of the year, since she had **partaken** four seeds of the pomegranate fruit. The rest of the year, she would return to her mother, Ceres, and live with her on earth. Pluto, much against his will, had to bow to the wishes of his nephew, sent by Jupiter, the King of the Gods.

So, every year when Mother Ceres receives her daughter, the beautiful Proserpine on earth, it is Spring time everywhere. Fresh, green leaves and buds cover every tree, the grass grows and covers the earth like a green carpet, the sun shines down brightly and birds chirp on every tree. Summer time ripens the golden corn and fills the granaries for man to eat. In the autumn, Ceres changes the leaves to shades of brown and orange as a gift to Proserpine before she returns into the loving arms of her husband, Pluto.

During the time Proserpine resides with Pluto, the world goes through winter- a time when the earth becomes barren and nothing grows, for Ceres is sad, waiting for her daughter to return to her on earth.

• **Read aloud the new words along with their meanings:-**

desperation	:	completely without hope; when all else has failed
distraught	:	very worried and upset
hurled	:	threw with great force
nymph	:	a spirit of nature in the form of a beautiful young girl
immortal	:	that lives forever
unaware	:	ignorant; not knowing
underworld	:	Hades: the kingdom of the dead
yearned	:	longed for



EXERCISE 1- Give one word for each of the following meaning:-

- very worried and upset
- longed for
- completely without hope
- that lives forever
- threw with great force

EXERCISE 2- Who said to whom:-

- “How beautiful she is!”
- “Proserpine, where are you my dear child?”
- “I must do something.”
- “Go to my brother, your uncle Pluto and get Proserpine back.”

EXERCISE 3- One word answer:-

- What was the name of Jupiter’s youngest son?
- Who searched for Proserpine in every corner of the earth?
- How many seeds of the pomegranate fruit did Proserpine eat?
- During which season does Proserpine reside with Pluto?

EXERCISE 4- Answer in short:-

- a) Where did Greek and Roman gods and goddesses live?
- b) Who was Proserpine?
- c) What was Proserpine doing when Pluto saw her for the first time?
- d) Why were Proserpine and her nymph friends plucking flowers?

EXERCISE 5- Write and learn the following long question and answers:-

Q1.) State two instances which tell us that Pluto loved his wife, Proserpine dearly.

A1.) Two instances which tell us that Pluto loved his wife, Proserpine dearly are -

- a. Pluto lovingly fed weak and hungry Proserpine.
- b. Since Proserpine yearned to be with her mother, he agreed to live with Proserpine only for four months and allowed her to live with her mother for the rest of the year.

Q2.) Which season described in the story appeals to you most? Why?

A2.) Spring season appeals to me the most because during this time fresh, green leaves and buds cover every tree, the grass grows and covers the earth like a green carpet, the sun shines down brightly, birds chirp on every tree and there is beauty and greenery everywhere.

EXTRA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1.) Why did Pluto kidnap Proserpine?

A1.) Pluto kidnapped Proserpine because the moment he saw Proserpine, he fell instantly in love with her and decided to make her his wife, the Queen of the Underworld.

Q2.) What did Pluto do immediately after saying 'I will take her away'?

A2.) Immediately after saying 'I will take her away', quick as lightning, Pluto drove his chariot close to Proserpine, scooped her into his arms, threw the startled girl on the seat of his chariot and hurled it down into the darkest depths of the underworld, taking the lovely Proserpine with him.

Q3.) Who succeeded in convincing Pluto and what decision was made in the end?

A3.) Mercury, God of Flight succeeded in convincing Pluto. The decision made was that if Pluto was to marry Proserpine, she would live with him for four months of the year since she had eaten four seeds of the pomegranate fruit and the rest of the year, she would live with her mother on earth.

Q4.) What did Proserpine's mother do when she did not find her daughter anywhere?

A4.) When her mother returned home and did not find Proserpine, she looked for her here and there and then searched the entire neighbourhood.

Q5.) How does Ceres welcome Proserpine back on earth every year?

A5.) Mother Ceres welcomes Proserpine back on earth with the season of spring with its fresh, green leaves, buds and flowers on every tree, green grass covering the earth like a carpet, the sun shining down brightly and birds chirping on every tree.

END

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