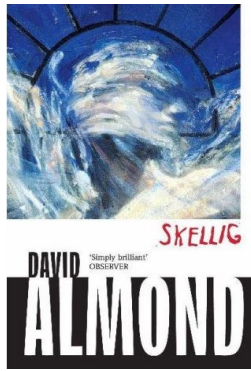


# Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

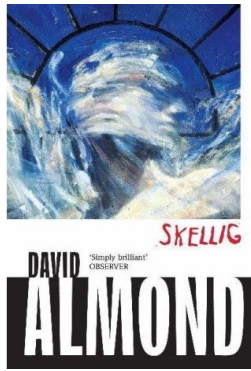
Let's listen to **chapters 38-39** today.



# LO: Creating a myth

In chapter 38, we hear about the Greek goddess Persephone.

Read the myth of Persephone.



## Persephone

According to Greek mythology, Persephone was the daughter of Zeus, the God of Thunder, and Demeter, the Goddess of the Harvest.

Demeter was the most nurturing of goddesses and, in turn, was the most nurturing of mothers. She cared as deeply for her daughter Persephone as she did the Earth. Persephone lived a happy childhood, playing with the other Olympian children and spending time in the gardens of Olympus.



Demeter was an incredibly protective mother and kept her daughter hidden away. One day, as Persephone was picking the narcissus flower, the Earth suddenly opened up. Out of the deep, dark blackness emerged Hades, ruler of the Underworld.

From his place in the Underworld, he had seen Persephone's beauty grow. He desperately wanted her to be his Queen and approached Zeus to ask for permission. With little concern for how Demeter or Persephone would feel, Zeus agreed.

Hades took hold of Persephone and carried her down to the Underworld. As she left the Earth, Persephone cried out for her mother, who did not hear.

When Demeter discovered Persephone's disappearance, she was stricken with grief. She scoured the Earth in search of her daughter. Her immense sorrow caused the Earth to grow dark, cold and barren. The once lush meadows yellowed. The trees curled and furlled. The rain stopped.

Having searched the entire living land, Demeter finally went to Zeus. He told her of Persephone's marriage to Hades in the Underworld. Demeter flew into a rage. She demanded Zeus return Persephone to her.

But Zeus refused.



Demeter left Olympus and watched as the Earth began to decay without her nurture. She sought to punish Zeus for betraying her and their daughter. The once yellow meadows blackened and turned to dust. The trees began to shrink into the hard dirt. The rivers shrivelled up and the lakes froze over.

Zeus had no other choice but to agree to Demeter's demands. He instructed Hermes, the messenger, to return Persephone to her.

Meanwhile, in the Underworld, Persephone had grown to love Hades, who loved her and treated her with compassion. Hades admired her kind and nurturing nature. Even so, Persephone missed her mother greatly and wished to spend time on Earth with her.

When Hermes reached the Underworld, he asked that Persephone come back to Earth with him to re-join her mother and father. Hades knew he could not refuse the commands of Zeus, but he also could not part with his beloved Persephone.

Before she departed from the Underworld, Hades offered Persephone a pomegranate as a farewell.

This was a cunning move by Hades. All Olympians knew that if you ate or drank anything in the Underworld you would be destined to remain there for eternity.



Thinking of her mother, Persephone decided to eat the seeds of the pomegranate – assuming that these would not count. Little did Persephone know that this was exactly why Hades had given her the pomegranate. After eating six of the seeds,

Persephone was approached by the Fates, who told her she would remain in the Underworld as Hades' Queen forever.

Hermes returned to Zeus and Demeter, who anxiously sat awaiting her daughter's return. Upon the sight of Hermes alone, Demeter spiralled into a fit of immense grief and sobbing; she knew what Hades must have done to keep Persephone there.

However, Zeus, being the king of all gods, could not allow his beloved land to become decayed and barren.

He met with Hades and, with the help of Hermes, the infamous deal was struck:

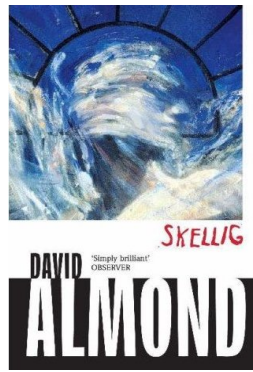
As Hades had tricked Persephone into eating the pomegranate, Zeus commanded that he allow Persephone to leave the Underworld to visit her mother. In return, Zeus promised Hades that Persephone would remain with him for one month for each seed she had eaten. Thus, for half of each year, Persephone was to sit on the throne of the Underworld beside Hades.

During Persephone's six months on Earth reunited with her mother, the land was fertile, beautiful and warm. The meadows were lush and of the deepest green. The trees were tall, sturdy and fruitful. The rains came often and drought was unseen.

However, when Persephone left the land to enter Hades' domain, Earth experienced a cold, dark period with no growth. Demeter grieved for her daughter and had little time to nurture the land.

According to Greek mythology, this is how the seasons were created: the autumn and winter months were when Persephone sat on the throne of the Underworld beside Hades, and the spring and summer months were when Persephone was reunited with her mother, Demeter.

# LO: Creating a myth



**Your task today** is to create your own myth about Skellig.

- Who do you think he is?
- Why does he have wings?
- How did he come to be in the shed in Ernie Myers' back garden?

***Have a go at planning your myth.***

***If you are stuck for ideas, there is an example on the next slide.***

# LO: Creating a myth



DAVID  
"Simply brilliant!"  
OBSERVER  
**ALMOND**

## *Example plan:*

**Intro:** Skellig was an angel. His job was to visit people on Earth who were sick and help them to heaven. Describe his personality, his friends, his family, his job.

**Main:** He comes down to Earth to visit Ernie's wife, who is really ill. He makes friends with Ernie. Ernie asks him to help his wife and not take her up to heaven. Skellig does this. This is breaking the rules. The other angels find out and Skellig is thrown out of heaven. When he is thrown out, his wings begin to die. He becomes more human the more time he spends with Ernie. When Ernie's wife dies, another angel takes her to heaven. Ernie falls ill and dies.

**Conclusion:** Skellig loses all hope now he has lost his best friend.