

ABSTRACT

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Title: PERSEPHONE THROUGH THE AGES: AN EXPLORATION OF THE INDIVIDUATION OF THE GREEK GODDESS THROUGHOUT TIME, LITERATURE, ART, AND MUSIC

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Persephone's character is defined by transition. In her originally Greek mythologem, the goddess first exists as Kore, whose sole companion is her mother, Demeter. As Kore, the goddess is merely an extension of Demeter, possessing the older goddess' powers and role as a goddess of fertility. Her first great transition occurs with her abduction by Hades. Separating her from her identification with Demeter, Kore becomes Persephone, the queen of the underworld. Within the next stage of her life, she is no longer solely a goddess of fertility, Persephone is now a goddess of death. This stage of her life is defined by Hades. Throughout recreations of her character and story throughout the years, Persephone is heavily identified with either Demeter or Hades, rarely depicted on her own. Within the past twenty-five years, however, Persephone has been depicted apart from both prominent deities in her life, incorporating both her fertility and chthonic aspects into her identity, while gaining her own voice and authority.