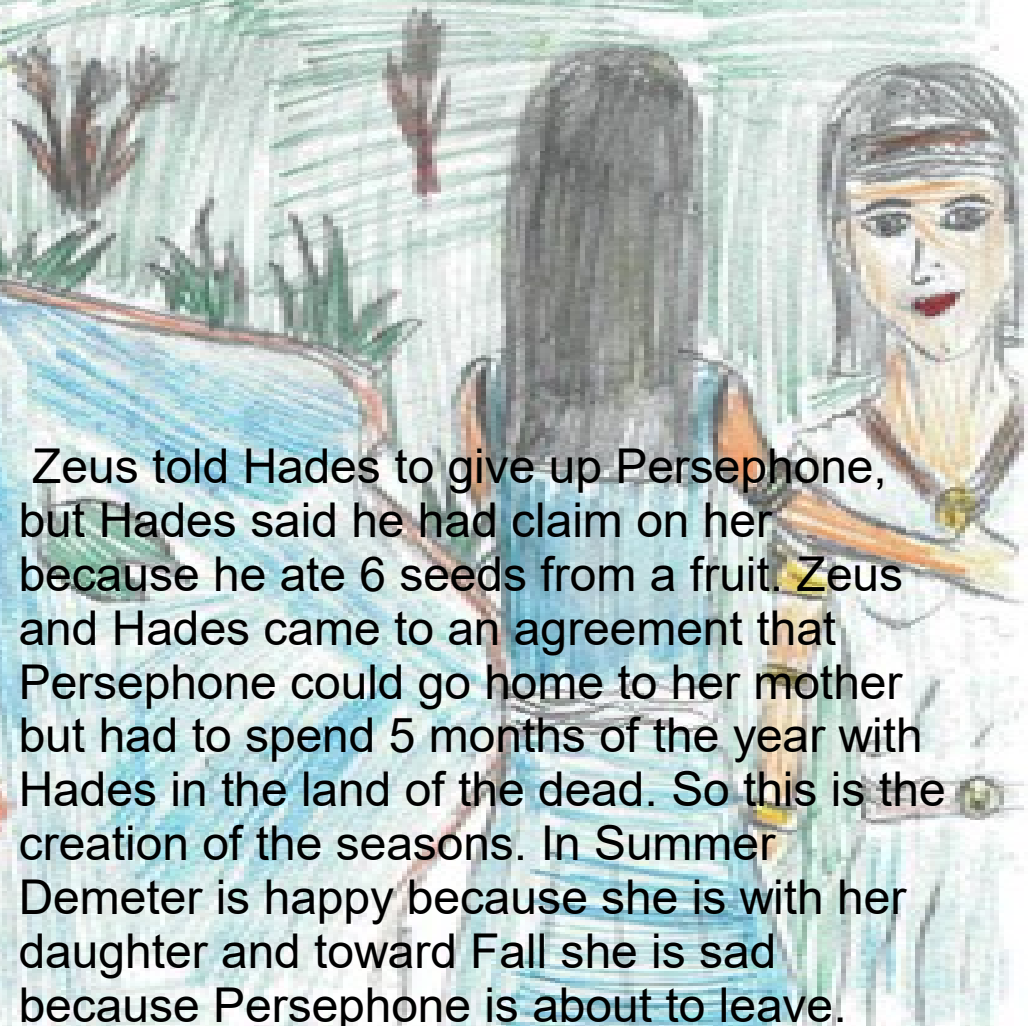
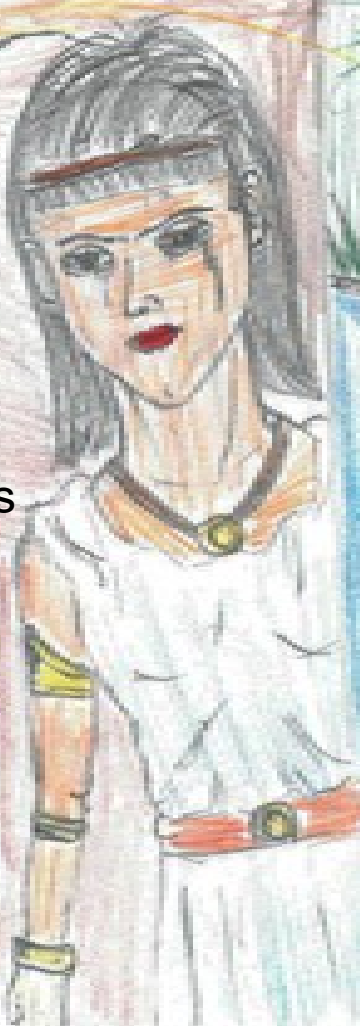


The most popular myth about the Mermaid is connected with Alexander the Great. According to the Alexander romance, a collection of legends concerning his exploits, composed in the 3rd century but very popular throughout the Middle Ages, one of Alexander's soldiers managed to find the Water of Life or Immortal Water during the expedition but did not reveal the secret to Alexander, so that he could become immortal. Later on the people's imagination changed the story a little. In the popular myth Alexander collects the water in a cup but his sister drinks it or spills it by accident.

This sister is often identified with a real person, his sister Thessaloniki, who gave her name to the second biggest city of Greece. In a rage Alexander curses her to become half woman and half fish. But she bears him no grudge. She travels the sea and asks the sailors if King Alexander is still alive. The wise sailors should answer "He is alive and reigns and conquers the world", so that she lets them continue their voyage. But if they make the mistake and answer that he is dead, she flies into a fury and sinks the ship.



Demeter is the goddess of crop growth and was always happy, so earth had year round perfect weather and there was always crops. Persephone was Demeter's only child and loved her dearly. One day when Demeter was working in the fields making plants grow Persephone was kidnapped by Hades God of the dead. (he kidnapped her because cupid hit him with an arrow and Hades knew Demeter would never part from her daughter) Demeter was sad without her daughter and crops stop growing and humanity was going to die.



Zeus told Hades to give up Persephone, but Hades said he had claim on her because he ate 6 seeds from a fruit. Zeus and Hades came to an agreement that Persephone could go home to her mother but had to spend 5 months of the year with Hades in the land of the dead. So this is the creation of the seasons. In Summer Demeter is happy because she is with her daughter and toward Fall she is sad because Persephone is about to leave.