

Skellig

David Almond



Mid morning. Mina's mother brought cups of tea for us. She sat beside us on the step. She talked about the fledglings, the flowers that were bursting into bloom, the air that every day became warmer, the sun that every day was a little higher and a little warmer. She talked about the way spring made the world burst into life after months of apparent death. She told us about the goddess called Persephone, who was forced to spend half a year in the darkness deep underground. Winter happened when she was trapped inside the earth. The days shrank, they became cold and short and dark. Living things hid themselves away. Spring came when she was released and made her slow way up to the world again. The world became brighter and bolder in order to welcome her back. It began to be filled with warmth and light. The animals dared to wake, they dared to have their young. Plants dared to send out buds and shoots. Life dared to come back.

"An old myth," I said.

"Yes," she said. "But maybe it's a myth that's nearly true. Look around you, Michael. Fledglings and blooms and bright sunshine. Maybe what we see around us is the whole world welcoming Persephone home."

She rested her hand on my arm.

"They can do marvellous things, Michael. Maybe you'll soon be welcoming your own Persephone home."



Recall and Examine

What punctuation marks are in the sentence below?
Why have they been used?

She told us about the goddess called Persephone, who was forced to spend half a year in the darkness deep underground.



Identify: Rainbow Grammar

What part of the sentence should green, orange, purple and red?

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Identify: Rainbow Grammar

ANSWERS

What part of the sentence should green, orange, purple and red?

Subject -
tells us who

Predicate - tells
us what they did

The comma separates this main
clause from the relative clause.

She told us about the goddess called Persephone,
who was forced to spend half a year in the
darkness deep underground.

Relative clause - gives the reader extra information about something mentioned in the main clause. In this example, David Almond tells us an extra fact about Persephone while also describing what Mina's mother was saying to Michael.

LO: Use a relative clause

- Some will create their own sentence about Persephone, Michael or Mina's mum.
- Some will create their own sentence about Persephone.
- Most will use a modelled sentence and add their own extra information.
- All will identify a relative clause and know how to use one.

Apply:

1. What is a relative clause?
2. Complete this sentence:

She told us about the goddess called Persephone, who ...

3. Write your own sentence about Persephone and include a relative clause.
4. Write a sentence about Michael or Mina's mother and add some extra information about what we already know about them from the passage.

