

## Persephone/Inanna Writing Assignment

Due: Nov. 27

Description: This is a 1 (or so) page paper. It counts for a quiz grade. Particularly good papers will earn extra credit.

Topic: A comparison of the central myths of Persephone in the Greek world, and Inanna in the Ancient Middle East, drawing on the story of Persephone as it appears in the *Homeric Hymn to Demeter* excerpts in ML (with their commentary) and on other art, myth and cult information about Persephone (e.g. in the Demeter Power Point); and the text of the *Descent of Inanna into the Underworld* with the supporting information in the Ancient Middle East Power Point.

Approach: The central myths of these two goddesses, Persephone and Inanna, both show a young woman descending into the underworld and ultimately returning, with an etiological element of the change of seasons. But are the differences as important as the similarities? Are the similarities on the surface or do they go deeper? In what areas are the relationships between these two deities and their myths the most telling about the nature of the deity and her relationship with her culture?

Procedure: In preparation for writing the paper, you might want to note straightforward points of similarity and difference (not to turn in to me, but possibly for use in class discussion later). When you write the essay, though, you should choose the observations that make the most effective thematic statement and write, as you would any essay, with an overall point /set of ideas in mind, argued from the literature.

Rubric:

- A = A supportable overall theme in your discussion, incorporating different similarities and differences; good overall comprehension of both works and the myths behind them; specific examples to support your points, a satisfying conclusion.
- B = The same as A, but not fulfilled as well in one or more particulars
- C = Attempting the A categories, but without as complete awareness of the myths and their themes and context, or argumentation that is not as specific or effective as it should be, or a proportion of comments that do not get beyond the a/b comparison stage.
- D/F = comments without a thematic overview, or that do not go beyond simple comparisons of events and situations; inaccuracies and misconceptions that undermine arguments; lack of awareness of the works and underlying myths.

Extra Credit: Up to 50 points extra credit on your quiz grade will be awarded to well thought out, well-argued A papers with well-chosen, effectively interpreted quotes, and conclusions that go above and beyond the call of necessity.