Teacher's notes and answer key

Inanna and Persephone – Two Goddesses in the Underworld

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 13 (B1) | Video: 8:51 min

Answers B

1. Officially to attend the funeral of the husband of her sister Ereshkigal. Ninshubur was to ask the gods for help if she had not returned after three days and three nights.

2. The gatekeeper Neti took one of her symbols of power at every gate until, at the seventh gate, she stood before Ereshkigal without any power.

3. Enki made two beings from the dirt under his fingernails; they revived her with the food and water of life.

4. She had eaten six pomegranate seeds; whoever eats fruit of the underworld is bound to it.

5. Her husband Dumuzi, because he sat carelessly on her throne and did not mourn her. His sister Geshtinanna shares the year with him.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Inanna – goes willingly / Ninshubur, Enki / law of the underworld: return only with a replacement / the change of seasons (Dumuzi and Geshtinanna). Persephone – kidnapped by Hades / Demeter, Zeus, Hermes / six pomegranate seeds / winter (Persephone below) and spring (her return).

Content note and age

Recommended from age 13. Inanna stands naked before her sister and her body hangs on a hook; Persephone's abduction is told. Please preview the video.

Sources of the retelling: the Sumerian text “Inanna's Descent to the Netherworld” and the Homeric Hymn to Demeter.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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