



SUMMARY

This musical intertwines the mythic tales of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and King Hades and his wife Persephone. It's a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back that pits industry against nature, doubt against faith and fear against love.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Hermes: The narrator and guide to the audience who serves as mentor and friend to Orpheus.

Orpheus: A pure-hearted, gifted artist who is focused on saving the world with his art.

Eurydice: A jaded, world-weary wanderer who is just trying to survive.

Persephone: The goddess of spring and growth and wife to Hades who is responsible for providing warmth and fertility to the earth.

Hades: The unforgiving god of the underworld, a collector of souls and husband to Persephone.

The Fates: Three goddesses who determine the destinies of mortals.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

Choose a story from Ancient Greek mythology and rewrite it in a new setting that is interesting to you.

Embodiment

In small groups, create a three-part tableau inspired by the responses to stress that people typically have: fight/flight/freeze. What do each of these look like? Consider which of the characters in *Hadestown* are fighting. Which are fleeing? Which are staying as they are without making a decision to fight or flee? What would you do in a world that is rarely warm and where the climate makes it difficult to grow enough food?

Contextual

The setting of *Hadestown* is an imagined apocalyptic world that draws on New Orleans, Louisiana, for inspiration. Watch “Tailgate Rumble” by the Preservation Hall Band from New Orleans. What do you notice about the setting? What do you notice about the performers? How do they interact with the crowd? After the discussion, look at some images of architecture from the French Quarter in New Orleans. What stands out to you about the design? How do you imagine the Ancient Greek story of Orpheus and Eurydice changed when told in a setting inspired by New Orleans?

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