Greek Myths: *Orpheus and Eurydice*

A BAREFOOT DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR AGES 5 – 11

1. “There has only been one mortal man whose skill at playing the lyre compared with that of the god of music . . . His name was Orpheus. It is said that when he played even the trees would dance.”
   What sort of music do you like listening to? What sort of music do you like playing?

2. “The morning after the wedding, Eurydice woke up early and slipped out for a walk. Dawn was breaking.”
   Do you ever get up early and go outside? What is it like outside in the early morning?

3. “Orpheus makes a long and difficult journey into the Land of the Dead.”
   Can you draw a map of a journey you might make into a far away and mystical land and the dangers you might meet?


5. “Cerberus, the great three-headed dog guards in the riverbank of the Land of the Dead.”
   What imaginary, magical monsters can you think of who guard a dangerous and secret place? Can you make up your own magical guardian?

6. “Persephone was like the moon shining in a dark sky, like a pale mistletoe berry in the depths of winter.”
   Can you think of any opposites in nature? (examples: a rainbow in a grey sky, a bright star in the night sky, an orange fox in the snow, a blackbird in a blue sky)

7. Have you ever played Statues? In the game, players creep up behind the person who is the leader without them noticing. Players can only move when the leader’s back is turned. Whoever tags the leader then becomes the leader! Play the game now and then answer the following questions. What did it feel like to creep up on someone? And how did it feel when it was your turn to be the leader and you could sense that there were people creeping up behind you?

8. What happens when you find you’re with a group of people who gang up against on another person? How do you feel when you join in? How do you feel if you decide NOT to join in?

9. “Apollo set Orpheus’s lyre in the night sky as a constellation.”
   Do you know the names of any other constellations? Do you know their stories? Can you tell one?