Demeter and Persephone
Notes to Pseudo-Apollodoros 1.5.1-3

Ῥέα = Κρόνος
Δημήτηρ = Ζεύς
Πλούτων
Μετανείρα = Κέλεός
Περσεφόνη (Κόρη)
Τριπτόλεμος
Δημοφῶν

1. ἐράσθείς, from ἐράω, imperfect ἤρων, ήράσθην (where the aorist passive is used with an active meaning) + genitive. ἥρπασεν, aorist of ἁρπάζω, to seize and overpower, plunder, ravish, snatch.

2. κρύφα (cf. κρύπτω), secretly.

3. περιῄει, imperfect of περιῄεω, to go round or about.

4. εἰκασθείσα, aorist passive of εἰκάζω, to make like to; pass. resemble, to be like (cf. ἡ εἰκών –ονος, image, likeness).

5-6. ἐπὶ τὴν . . . πέτραν: “to the rock called “Mirthless” from her (disposition).” ἐκείνης refers to Demeter; κληθεῖσαν, aorist passive of καλέω, modifies πέτραν. ἰαγνὸς ἀγέλαστον (ἀ + γελάω), without laughter, mirthless.

tὸ φρέαρ, well, cistern; what do you think the name Καλλίχορον (καλός + χορός) means?

7. ὁ Κέλεός –ου, husband of Metaneira and king of Eleusis.

8. σκώψασα, aorist participle of σκόπτω, to mock, jeer, jest at, joke.

9. μειδιᾶσαι, aorist infinitive of μειδιάω or μειδάω, to smile.

10. ἐν τοῖς Θεσμόφοριοις: The Thesmophoria was held during the month Pyanopsion (late October, early November) in honor of Demeter. The festival, attended by freeborn “citizen” women, was crucial for the renewal of fertility of the land and the community. The passage presents Iambe’s jokes as the aition for the obscene jokes uttered at the festival. It is possible that
women’s obscene jests were designed to stimulate the growth of the seeds just planted through a kind of sympathetic magic.

11. ὄντος . . . παιδίου, genitive absolute; τῇ . . . Μετανείρᾳ, dative of possession; τοῦ Κελεοῦ γυναικὶ describes Metaneira.

περιανέρω, take away, strip off; what tense is ἔτρεφεν and κατετίθει and περιῄρει?

13. τὸ βρέφος –εος, infant.

θνητός -η –ον, mortal, opposite of ἀθάνατος.

15. ἐπετήρησεν, aorist of ἐπιτηρέω, to look out or watch for, notice.

καταλαμβάνω, seize, catch, discover, detect.

17. What is the difference of φαίνω (active) and φαίνομαι (middle)?

προϊδομένη, comparative of πρέσβυς -εια –υ, old.

19. κατεσπείρω, to sow or plant. Can also mean to engender or beget children.

21. ὁ πυρός, wheat. Notice how the paragraph plays with τὸ πῦρ and ὁ πυρός.

πτηνός -η –ον, feathered, winged (cf. τὸ πτερόν, wing).

22. What do you think προϊδομένη (πρὸ + ἰδών) means?

κατηνάλωσεν, aorist active of ἀναλίσκω (cf. 16).

24. λοιπός -η –ον, the remaining, the rest.