





Table of Contents

What Is Fiction?	5
The Importance of Using Fiction	6
Elements of Fiction	10
A Closer Look at Mythology	12
Leveled Texts to Differentiate Instruction	14
Teaching Suggestions	17
How to Use This Book	23
Correlation to Standards	27
Setting Passages	31
<i>Odin's Eye</i>	31
<i>Perseus and Medusa</i>	39
<i>Theseus and the Minotaur</i>	47
Character Passages	55
<i>Atalanta and Hippomenes, The Race</i>	55
<i>Romulus and Remus</i>	63
<i>Paris and the Golden Apple</i>	71
<i>Perseus and the Gray Women</i>	79
Plot Passages	87
<i>Cupid and Psyche</i>	87
<i>Echo and Narcissus</i>	95
<i>Midas and the Golden Touch</i>	103
<i>Orpheus and Eurydice</i>	111
Language Usage Passages	119
<i>Persephone</i>	119
<i>The Trojan Horse</i>	127
<i>Sif's Golden Hair</i>	135
<i>Thor and Elli</i>	143
References Cited	151
Contents of the Digital Resource CD	152

How to Use This Book *(cont.)*

Title	ELL Level	Below Level	On level	Above level
Setting Passages	 1.5–2.2	 3.0–3.5	 5.0–5.5	 6.5–7.2
<i>Odin’s Eye</i>	2.2	3.0	5.2	6.8
<i>Perseus and Medusa</i>	2.2	3.4	5.1	6.8
<i>Theseus and the Minotaur</i>	1.9	3.5	5.1	6.5
Character Passages				
<i>Atalanta and Hippomenes, The Race</i>	2.2	3.5	5.2	6.6
<i>Romulus and Remus</i>	2.2	3.4	5.3	6.5
<i>Paris and the Golden Apple</i>	2.2	3.4	5.0	6.7
<i>Perseus and the Gray Women</i>	1.5	3.2	5.1	6.5
Plot Passages				
<i>Cupid and Psyche</i>	2.1	3.4	5.0	6.6
<i>Echo and Narcissus</i>	2.2	3.4	5.0	6.6
<i>Midas and the Golden Touch</i>	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.8
<i>Orpheus and Eurydice</i>	2.2	3.3	5.3	6.5
Language Usage Passages				
<i>Persephone</i>	2.0	3.5	5.5	6.9
<i>The Trojan Horse</i>	2.2	3.4	5.4	6.9
<i>Sif’s Golden Hair</i>	2.0	3.1	5.0	6.6
<i>Thor and Elli</i>	2.2	3.3	5.0	6.7

Echo and Narcissus

retold by Stephanie Paris

In Greece, there lived a very handsome young man. He was named Narcissus. He was a sight to see! He had perfect teeth. He had perfect hair. And his movements were all graceful. He seemed to flow like water, not run like a human. Everyone noticed him. And wherever he went, he broke hearts. Narcissus was not interested in love. He did not care about romance. He felt nothing for those who fell in love with him. He turned them all away without an understanding word.

Nearby, there lived another lovely creature. Her name was Echo. She was a forest nymph. She and the other nymphs walked the woods. They cared for the plants. They played games. And they chatted happily. Unfortunately, Echo liked talking too much. She always talked a little too long. And she never let anyone else have the final word! Still, she was well-liked. And she was a good friend.

Zeus was the king of the gods. He knew of Echo's gift for talking. He thought it could be put to good use. Zeus asked Echo to serve as his lookout. He liked to come and spend time with many of the pretty nymphs. But his wife, Hera, was jealous. So when Hera came looking for Zeus, Echo would greet her. Echo would make small talk. She would flatter Hera. Then she would walk the goddess a safe distance away. This would give Zeus time to escape. The plan worked well for a while. But Hera grew suspicious. One day, she figured out the trick.

That was not a good day for poor Echo. Hera was furious! She said, "You are so fond of talking. I know a punishment that will fit. From this moment forward, you will never be allowed to speak unless you are first spoken to!" Hera cursed Echo to have no voice. But Echo would still be able to repeat whatever was said to her.

Silently, Echo wandered. She listened for the voices of others. That was the only time she could use her own voice. One day, she saw Narcissus. She fell instantly in love! She followed him secretly through the woods. Echo watched him from behind the trees. She was amazed by his beauty. She wished she could call out to him. But of course, she could not.



Narcissus had become lost. He heard the nymph's soft footsteps. So he shouted, "Who's here?" Echo answered, "Here!" Narcissus called, "Come to me!" Echo answered, "Come to me!" "Let us join one another!" cried Narcissus. And Echo answered back the same. Her heart was full of love! She rushed out from her hiding place. She threw her arms around the startled young man.

It did not take him long to understand what had happened. Narcissus had seen others fall in love with him. He had never known love himself. So he was never very kind to those who loved him. He roughly pulled away from the nymph. He said, "I should rather die than for you to have me!" She wanted him to talk with her. But all she could say was a sorrowful "Have me!" "Have her" he would not. Echo went sadly away. She crept into valleys and caves. There she could hide her sadness.

Narcissus's cruelty did not go unnoticed. Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, had always liked Echo. She soon learned the nymph's fate. She knew a way that Narcissus would feel the same kind of unreturned love that others had felt.



Narcissus came to a cool, smooth pool. He sat by the edge to drink. And there he saw his own reflection. Instantly, he fell in love! He thought he was seeing a water sprite. He lay down by the pool. He reached out to touch the figure in the water. The figure reached out, too. But when he touched the pool, the image disappeared!

"Why do you run away? Surely my face is not ugly to you. Even the nymphs have loved me. And you, yourself, reach out for me when I reach for you!" he cried. But try as he might, he could never touch the lovely figure in the water. He refused to leave, though. The nymphs came and tried to lure him away. Even Echo came and sat by his side. She gave him food. But he would not eat. He would just stare into the pool.

Narcissus grew thin and weak. He died there on the banks of the pool. The nymphs went to place his corpse on a funeral pyre. But they could not find it. In its place was a purple and white flower. It hung its head over the face of the water.

Echo went back to her wandering, until she too faded away. All that was left was her voice. It repeated back whatever she heard. In this way, even in her death Echo always got the last word!

Element Focus: Plot

In what ways does Psyche's conflict with Venus mirror the conflicts that are central to other stories that you have heard? Are the conflicts resolved in similar ways?

Echo and Narcissus

retold by Stephanie Paris

Long ago in Greece, there lived a handsome young man. He was named Narcissus. He was truly a sight to behold! He had perfect teeth. He had perfect hair. And his movements were so graceful that he seemed to flow like water rather than run like a human. Broken hearts followed wherever he passed. But Narcissus was not interested in love or romance. He cared nothing for his many suitors. He unfeelingly turned them all away without an understanding word.

Nearby, there lived another lovely creature. Her name was Echo. She was a forest nymph. She and the other nymphs walked the woods. They cared for the plants, played games, and chatted happily with the creatures of the woods. Unfortunately, Echo liked chatting a bit too much. She was known for always talking slightly too long. And she never let anyone else have the final word!

Zeus, the king of the gods, knew of Echo's gift for conversation. He decided it could be put to good use. Zeus convinced Echo to serve as his lookout. He liked to come and pass the time with many of the pretty nymphs. But his wife, Hera, was jealous. So whenever Hera came looking for Zeus in the woods, Echo would greet the goddess. She would make small talk and flatter Hera. This would give Zeus and the other nymphs time to escape. The plan worked well for quite a while. But Hera grew suspicious. One day, the goddess figured out the trickery.

As you might imagine, that was not a good day for poor Echo. Hera was furious! She said, "Well, since you are so fond of talking, I know a punishment that will fit. From this moment forward, you will never be allowed to speak unless you are first spoken to!" Hera cursed Echo to have no voice. Echo would still have the ability to repeat whatever was spoken to her.

Silently, Echo wandered the woods and meadows. She listened for the voices of others so that she might be able to use her own. One day, she happened to see Narcissus. She fell instantly in love! She followed him secretly through the woods. She was entranced by his beauty and wished she could call out to him. But she could not.



Narcissus had become separated from his friends. Hearing the nymph's soft footsteps, he shouted, "Who's here?" Echo answered, "Here!" Narcissus called, "Come to me!" and Echo answered eagerly, "Come to me!" "Let us join one another!" cried Narcissus. Echo answered back the same. Her heart was full of love! She rushed out from her hiding place and threw her arms around the man.

It did not take him long to understand what had happened. Narcissus had seen others fall in love with him. But maybe because he had never known love himself, he was never very kind to those who loved him. He roughly pulled away from the nymph. He said, "I should rather die than for you to have me!" Echo wanted to beg him to stay. But what came out was just a sorrowful, "Have me!" Echo went sadly away. She crept into valleys and caves where she could hide.

Narcissus's cruelty did not go unnoticed. Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, had always liked Echo. She soon learned the nymph's fate. And she heard the tales of others who had loved Narcissus. She planned a way that Narcissus would feel the same kind of unreturned love that others had felt for him.



Shortly after that, Narcissus came to a cool, smooth pool. He sat by the edge to drink. And there he spied his own reflection. Instantly, he fell in love! He lay down by the pool. He reached out to touch the figure in the water. The figure reached out, too. But when he touched the pool, the image disappeared!

"Why, Beautiful One, do you run away? Surely my face is not ugly to you. Even the nymphs have loved me." he cried. Try as he might, he could never touch the lovely figure in the water. He refused to leave, though. The nymphs came and tried to lure him away. Even Echo came and sat by his side. She offered him food. But he would not eat or drink. He would only stare as if in a trance at the object of his love.

Narcissus grew thin and weak. He died there on the banks of the pool from the grief he had felt so keenly. When the nymphs went to place his corpse on a funeral pyre, they could not find it. In its place was a purple and white flower.

Echo went back to her wandering, until she too faded away. All that was left was her voice, repeating back whatever she heard. In this way, even in her death Echo always got the last word!

Element Focus: Plot

How might the story have ended differently if Narcissus had been kind to Echo?

Echo and Narcissus

retold by Stephanie Paris

Long ago in Greece, there lived a handsome young man named Narcissus. He was truly a sight to behold! He had perfect teeth, perfect hair, and movements so graceful that he seemed to flow like water rather than run like a human. Narcissus was not interested in love or romance. He cared nothing for his many suitors and callously rebuffed every advance.

Nearby, there dwelt another lovely creature. Her name was Echo, and she was a forest nymph. She and the other nymphs walked the woods caring for the plants, playing games, and chatting happily with the creatures of the woods. Unfortunately, Echo liked chatting a bit too much. She was known for always talking slightly too long and never letting anyone else have the final word!

Zeus, the king of the gods, was aware of Echo's gift for conversation and decided it could be put to good use. He convinced Echo to serve as his lookout. He liked to come and pass the time with many of the pretty nymphs, but his wife, Hera, was jealous. So whenever Hera came looking for Zeus in the woods, Echo would greet the goddess and engage her in small talk. She would flatter Hera and walk her a safe distance away, giving Zeus and the other nymphs time to escape. This worked well for quite a while, but Hera grew suspicious. One day, the goddess figured out the trickery.

As you might imagine, that was not a good day for poor Echo. Hera was furious! She said, "Well, since you are so fond of talking, I know a punishment that will fit. From this moment forward, you will never be allowed to speak unless you are first spoken to!" Hera cursed Echo to have no voice except the ability to repeat whatever was spoken to her.

Silently, Echo wandered the woods and meadows listening for the voices of others so that she might be able to use her own. One day on her travels, she happened to spy Narcissus. She fell instantly in love! She followed him secretly through the woods as he hunted stags. She watched him from behind the trees, entranced by his beauty and wishing she could call out to him. But of course, she could not.



Narcissus had become separated from his companions. Hearing the nymph's soft footsteps, he shouted, "Who's here?" Echo answered, "Here!" Narcissus called, "Come to me!" and Echo answered eagerly, "Come to me!" "Let us join one another!" cried Narcissus. And Echo answered back the same, her heart full of love! She rushed out from her hiding place and threw her arms around the young man.

It did not take him long to understand what had happened. Narcissus had seen others fall in love with him just as suddenly. Perhaps because he had never known love himself, he was never very kind to those who loved him. He pulled away from the enthralled nymph, saying, "I should rather die than for you to have me!" Echo wanted to beg him to stay and talk with her, but what came out was just a sorrowful, "Have me!" Echo withdrew into the valleys and caves where she could hide.

Narcissus's cruelty did not go unnoticed, however. Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, had always been fond of Echo. Then she learned the nymph's fate and heard the tales of others who had loved Narcissus. She planned a way that Narcissus would experience the same kind of unreturned love that others had felt for him.



So the next time that Narcissus came to a cool, smooth pool to drink, he spied his own reflection. Instantly, he fell in love, thinking he was viewing some magical water sprite. He lay down by the pool and reached out to touch the figure in the water. The figure reached out too, but when he touched the pool, the image disappeared!

"Why, Beautiful One, do you shun me? Surely my face does not repel you. Even the nymphs have loved me. You, yourself, reach out for me when I reach for you!" he cried. But, try as he might, he could never touch the enchanting figure in the water. He refused to leave, though. Even Echo came and sat by his side. She offered him food, but he would not eat. He would only stare at the object of his love.

Eventually, Narcissus grew thin and weak. He died on the banks of the pool from the grief he had felt so keenly. When the nymphs went to place his corpse on a funeral pyre, they could not find it. In its place was a purple and white flower.

Echo went back to her wandering, until she too faded away. All that was left was her voice, repeating back whatever she heard. In this way, even in her death Echo always got the last word!

Element Focus: Plot

Explain how Echo and Narcissus might have altered their fates by changing their actions early in the story.

Echo and Narcissus

retold by Stephanie Paris

Long ago in Greece, there lived a handsome young man named Narcissus. He was truly a sight to behold with his perfect teeth, perfect hair, and movements so graceful that he seemed to flow like water rather than run like a human. But Narcissus was not interested in love or romance. Indeed, he cared nothing for his many suitors and callously rebuffed every advance.

Nearby, there dwelt another lovely creature. Her name was Echo, and she was a forest nymph. She and the other nymphs walked the woods caring for the plants, playing games, and chatting happily with the creatures of the woods. Unfortunately, Echo liked chatting a bit too much and was known for always talking slightly too long and never letting anyone else have the final word!

Zeus, the king of the gods, was aware of Echo's gift for conversation and decided it could be leveraged for his own purposes. He convinced Echo to serve as his lookout whenever he was passing the time with any of the other pretty nymphs. So whenever Hera, Zeus's jealous wife, came looking for the king in the woods, Echo would greet the goddess and engage her in small talk. She would flatter Hera and walk her a safe distance away, giving Zeus and the other nymphs time to escape. This worked well for quite a while, but Hera grew suspicious, and one day, the goddess figured out the trickery.

As you might imagine, that was not a good day for poor Echo! Hera furiously declared, "Well, since you are so fond of talking, I know a punishment that will fit. From this moment forward, you will never be allowed to speak unless you are first spoken to!" Hera cursed Echo to have no voice except the ability to repeat whatever was spoken to her.

Silently, Echo wandered the woods and meadows listening for the voices of others so that she might be able to use her own. One day on her travels, she happened to spy Narcissus, and she fell instantly in love! She followed him secretly through the woods as he hunted stags. She watched him from behind trees, entranced by his beauty and wishing she could call out to him—but of course, she could not.



Narcissus had become separated from his companions, and hearing the nymph's soft footsteps, he shouted, "Who's here?" Echo answered, "Here!" Narcissus called, "Come to me!" and lovesick Echo answered eagerly, "Come to me!" "Let us join one another!" cried Narcissus. And Echo answered back the same, her heart aching with desire. She rushed out from her hiding place and threw her arms enthusiastically around the startled young man.

It did not take long for the youth to understand what had happened, for Narcissus had seen others fall in love with him. However, perhaps because he had never known love himself, he was never very kind to those who loved him. He roughly pulled away from the nymph, saying bitterly, "I should rather die than for you to have me!" Echo wanted to beg him to stay, but what came out was just a sorrowful, "Have me!" Echo withdrew into the valleys and caves where she could hide.

Narcissus's cruelty did not go unnoticed, however. Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, learned the nymph's fate and heard the tales of others who had loved Narcissus. She decided that enough was enough! She planned a way that Narcissus would experience the same kind of unrequited love that others had felt for him.



Thus, the next time that Narcissus came to a cool, smooth pool to drink, he spied his own reflection in the water. Because of the goddess's magic, he fell instantly in love. He lay down by the pool and reached out to touch the figure in the water. The figure reached out, but as soon as he touched the pool, the image disappeared!

"Why, Beautiful One, do you shun me? Surely my face does not repel you, for even the nymphs have loved me. You reach out for me when I reach for you!" he cried. The nymphs came and tried to lure him away, and even Echo tried. She offered him food, but he would not eat. He would only stare at the object of his love.

Eventually, Narcissus grew thin and weak. He died on the banks of the pool from the grief he had felt so keenly. When the nymphs went to place his corpse on a funeral pyre, they could not find it. In its place was a purple and white flower.

Echo went back to her wandering, until she too faded away. All that was left was her voice, repeating back whatever she heard. In this way, even in her death Echo always got the last word!

Element Focus: Plot

Describe several ways that Echo and Narcissus might have altered their fates by behaving differently.