

ECHO AND NARCISSUS

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The present myth from Greek mythology introduces two people, Echo and Narcissus. Their names have a meaning in the myth that has carried over to our present day language. The given piece has been rendered in English by MOIRA KERR AND JOHN BENETT.

A. Work in small groups and discuss the following:

1. How much do you love yourself?
2. Is loving oneself good or bad?

ECHO AND NARCISSUS

- 1 Not many men, or even gods, were as handsome as young Narcissus. So fair was he that almost everyone who saw him fell in love with him that moment.
- 2 One day, as Narcissus roamed the forests with his hunting companions, he was spied by the watchful nymph Echo. She had once been a great chatterer, ready to talk to any passer-by on any subject at any time, and on several occasions she had detained goddess Hera with hours of casual talks, just as Hera was on the point of stumbling upon Zeus with one of his illicit loves. Eventually Hera grew so annoyed that she put a curse on Echo, and from that time on the unfortunate nymph could say nothing but the last few words that she heard.
- 3 Trembling, Echo followed Narcissus through the trees. She longed to go closer to him to gaze upon the beauty of his face, but she feared that he would laugh at her silly speech. Before long, Narcissus wandered away from his companions, and when he realised he was lost, he called in panic. "Is there anybody here?"
- 4 "Here!" called Echo.
- 5 Mystified by this reply, Narcissus shouted. "Come!"
- 6 "Come!" shouted Echo.
- 7 Narcissus was convinced that someone was playing trick on him.
- 8 "Why are you avoiding me?" he called. The only answer he heard was his own question repeated from the woods.

- 9 "Come here, and let us meet!" pleaded Narcissus.
- 10 "Let us meet!" Echo answered, delighted.
- 11 She overcame her shyness, and crept from her hiding place to approach Narcissus. But he, satisfied now that he had solved the mystery of the voice, roughly pushed her away and ran.
- 12 "I would die before I would have you near me!" he shouted mockingly over his shoulder.
- 13 Helpless, Echo had to call after him, "I would have you near me!"
- 14 The nymph was so embarrassed and ashamed that she hid herself in a dark cave, and never came into the air and sunlight again. Her youth and beauty withered away, and her body became so shrunken and tiny that eventually she vanished altogether. All that was left was the pathetic voice that still roams the world, anxious to talk, yet able only to repeat what others say.
- 15 Poor Echo was not the only one to be treated brutally by Narcissus. He had played with many hearts, and at last one of those he had scorned prayed to the gods that Narcissus would some day find himself scorned by one he loved. The prayer was heard, and granted.
- 16 Tired and thirsty from his hunting, Narcissus threw himself down beside a still, clear pool to drink. As he leaned over the shining surface, he saw the reflection of the most beautiful face he had ever seen. His heart trembled at the sight, and he could not tear himself away from it – his own image.
- 17 For a long time Narcissus remained there beside the pool, never raising his eyes from the surface, and from time to time murmuring words of love. At last his body withered away and became the stem of a flower, and his head the lovely gold and white blossom which still looks into quiet pools, and is called Narcissus.



B.1. 1. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Narcissus was very young and handsome.
2. Narcissus went fishing.
3. Echo had detained goddess Hera.
4. Hera cursed Echo.
5. Echo did not want to speak to Narcissus.

B.1.2. Study the lesson carefully and complete these sentences:

1. The was so embarrassed and ashamed.
2. Her youth and beauty away.

3. Narcissus had many women.
4. Narcissus was tired and
5. Narcissus could not tear himself away from his own

B.1. 3. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. Who was Narcissus?
2. Who was Echo?
3. What did Echo do with any passer-by?
4. Who was detained by Echo?
5. Whom did Echo follow?
6. What was the reaction of Narcissus when he saw Echo?
7. Why did Echo hide herself in a dark cave?
8. Who had cursed Narcissus?
9. Who did Narcissus fall in love with?
10. At last what happened with Narcissus?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

roam (v) : to walk or travel around an area without any definite aim or direction

nymph (n): spirit of nature in the form of a young woman

passer-by (n): a person who passes somebody or something

detain (v): to delay somebody or prevent him from going somewhere.

stumbling upon: discovering something/ somebody unexpectedly

mystify (v): to make somebody confused

annoyed (adj): slightly angry

curse (n): a word or phrase or sentence calling for the punishment, injury or destruction of something or somebody

trembling (adj): shaking from fear, excitement

long (v): to want something very much

gaze (v): to look steadily at somebody or something for a long time

embarrassed (adj): to feel awkward or ashamed

wither (v): to become less or weaker, especially before disappearing completely

shrunk (adj): become smaller and less attractive

altogether (adv): in every way, completely

pathetic (adj): pitiful, sad

anxious (adj): desirous

brutally (adv): in a violent and cruel manner

scorned (v): showed contempt

image (n): reflection

murmuring (n): a low quiet voice

C.1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Who was Narcissus? What was special about him?
2. Who was Echo? Who cursed him and why? What was the curse?

- Why did Echo follow Narcissus? Why was she eager to talk to him?
- Describe what happened during the meeting of Echo and Narcissus.
- Why was the nymph embarrassed and ashamed? What was the result of it?
- Who prayed to gods against Narcissus? What did she pray? Was it granted?
- What happened to Narcissus when he went to the pool to quench his thirst?
- What feeling do you have when you see your reflection in a mirror?

C.2. GROUP DISCUSSION

- If you meet two persons, one having a beautiful face and the other a beautiful heart, whom would you prefer and why?
- Falling in love with oneself is dangerous. Do you agree?

C.3. COMPOSITION

- Write a paragraph in about 80 words on 'Beauty is only skin-deep'.

D. WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

Ex.1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

handsom
anoyed

watchfull
embarassed

illicit
blosom

Ex.2. Look up a dictionary and write two meanings of the following words - the one in which it is used in the lesson and the other which is more common.

handsome
roamed
companion

pleaded
convinced
pool

tiny
quiet
anxious

D.2. Word Formation

EX.1. Read carefully the following sentences taken from the lesson:

*She overcame her **shyness**.....*

***Helpless**, Echo had to call after him.....*

In the first sentence, the word '**shyness**' is an abstract noun which is derived from the adjective '**shy**' by adding the suffix '**-ness**' to it. In the

second sentence the word '**helpless**' is an adjective which is derived from the noun '**help**' by adding suffix '**-less**' to it.

Now, make at least 10 words each by adding suffixes '**-ness**' and '**-less**' to different nouns and adjectives.

Ex.2. Read carefully the following sentences taken from the lesson:

*But he, satisfied now that he had solved the mystery of the voice, **roughly** pushed her away and ran.....*

*"I would die before I would have you near me!" he shouted **mockingly** over his shoulder.*

In the first sentence the word '**roughly**' is an adverb which is derived from the adjective '**rough**' by adding the suffix '**-ly**' to it. In the second sentence, again the adverb '**mockingly**' is derived from the adjective '**mocking**' by adding the suffix '**-ly**' to it. Now, make adverbs from the following adjectives.

skilful	.....	slow	.....	wise	.....
brave	.....	smart	.....	intelligent	.....
beautiful	.....	careless	.....	strong	.....
bitter	.....	heart	.....	clear	.....
final	.....	foolish	.....	rough	.....

D.3. Word Meaning

Ex.1. Find out from the lesson the words of which the meanings have been given in Column A. The last part of each word has been given in Column B:

A	B
spirit in the form of a woman	..... mph
make somebody confused	..... tify
felt awkward	..... assed
refuse something in pride	..... orn
violently and cruelly	..... ally
pitiful	..... tic
wanting something very much	..... ous

D.4. Phrases

Ex.1. Read the lesson carefully and find out the sentences in which the following phrases have been used. Then use these phrases in sentences of your own.

follow through
wither away

before long
tear oneself away

play trick on
at last

E. GRAMMAR

*Tired and thirsty from his **hunting**, Narcissus threw himself beside a still, clear pool to drink.*

*As he leaned over the **shining** surface, he saw the reflection of the most beautiful face he had ever seen.*

In the first sentence '**hunting**' has been used as a 'Gerund' whereas in the second sentence '**shining**' has been used as a Participle.

A Gerund is a verbal noun; it is formed by adding '-ing' to the end of the first form of the Verb. As a noun, it is used in various ways. It is used as a subject, as an object to a verb, as an object of a preposition and as a complement of a verb etc; e.g.

Swimming is a good exercise.

I like **painting**.

A Gerund can also be used after prepositions; e.g.

He stopped me **from smoking**

It is used in the following ways:

a) as a subject

Swimming is a good exercise.

Smoking is injurious to health.

Walking is good for health

b) as an object

I like **painting**

She hates **smoking**

I know **swimming**

Ex.1. Fill up the blanks with suitable gerunds.

1. He was accused of
2. She stopped her mother from
3. I controlled myself from
4. He avoids ruffians.
5. They were accused of

The Participle as is obvious in the second sentence ('shining') works as a Verb as well as an Adjective. The main difference between a Gerund

and a Participle is that a Gerund works as a noun and a verb while a Participle works as an Adjective to qualify Nouns or Pronouns.

There are three kinds of Participles

1. **Present Participle**
2. **Past Participle**
3. **Perfect Participle**

The present participle 'shining' in the second sentence above has been used as an Adjective. See another example:

Barking dogs seldom bite.

Ex. 2. Fill up the blanks to make meaningful sentences.

1. A crying child
2. He was hit by a running
3. Investigating officers
4. Hunting dogs
5. Caring parents
6. I was charmed by the
7. Patna is a city.
8. This is myroom.

Past Participle :- It is formed by adding - 'd', 'ed', 't', 'en', and 'ne' to the end of verbs. It always functions as an Adjective.

A **tired** man can't work well.

I found the room **locked**.

She gave a **written** statement.

Ex. 3. Write ten sentences using Past Participle form of different Verbs as Adjectives.

Perfect Participle : It is formed by using the word 'Having' before the Past Participle form of the Verb i.e. (Having + Past Participle) or (Having + V³); e.g.

Having taken his meal he went to school.

Having fallen at the feet of his mother he started weeping.

The difference among the use of Present Participle, Past Participle and Perfect Participle:

(a) The Present Participle is used to denote an unfinished action; e.g.

I saw a **running horse** in the circus. (It shows that the action is taking place or is in progress or unfinished)

(b) Past Participle is used to denote a finished action; e.g.

She gave a **written statement**. (It shows a finished action)

(c) **Perfect Participle** is used to denote a finished action before another action takes place; e.g.

Having taken his meal he went to college.

Ex. 4. Write ten sentences using Present Participle form of different verbs.

Ex. 5. Write ten sentences using Past Participle form of different Verbs.

Ex. 6. Write ten sentences using Perfect Participle forms of different Verbs.

F. ACTIVITIES

1. Collect two fairy tales.
2. Read the story **Echo and Narcissus** carefully and narrate it in your own words.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. मैंने उसे पार्क में बैठा हुआ देखा।
2. मैंने उसे पढ़ते हुए पाया।
3. उसने मुझे सोया हुआ पाया।
4. पुलिस ने चोर को भागते हुए देखा।
5. एक लड़का चलती हुई गाड़ी से कूद पड़ा।
6. मैंने एक पीये हुए आदमी को वहाँ देखा।
7. इस कमरे में दो टूटी हुई कुर्सियाँ थीं।
8. उसने घायल आदमी की बहुत सेवा की।
9. मैंने उसे कमरे में ताला लगाते देखा।
10. सुबह में टहलना लाभदायक है।
11. सिगरेट पीना हानिकारक है।
12. मैं गाना जानती हूँ।

