



- reading comprehension

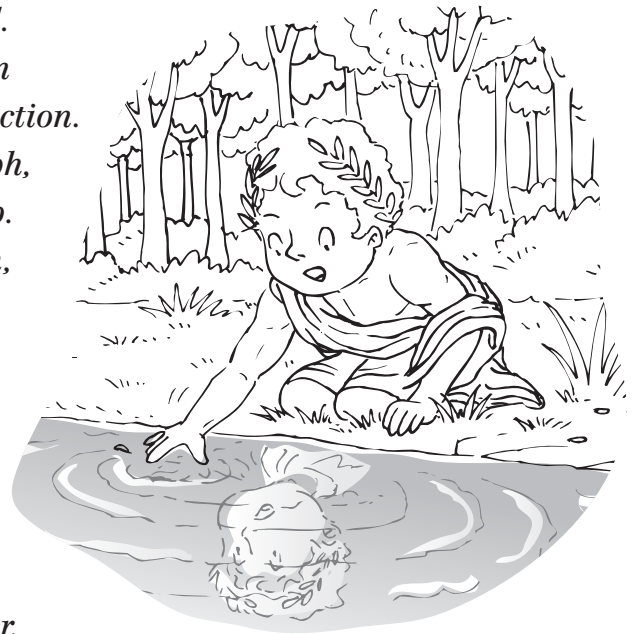
Read the poem.

## Narcissus and Echo

*Narcissus, a young man, the most handsome of all,  
was adored by women, both large and small.  
But Narcissus returned no woman's affection  
and instead roamed the woods in quiet reflection.  
In those very same woods was Echo, a nymph,  
whose beautiful voice had become quite limp.  
In fact, she could speak no words of her own,  
but only others' words and songs.  
So Echo roamed the forest in despair  
'til she saw Narcissus, a man so rare.*

*Narcissus could feel a presence and cried,  
"Who is there?" but he received no reply  
except for "is there," so he spoke once more:  
"Show me your face!" It came out like a roar.  
"Your face," he heard, and a small nymph appeared  
with her arms held out, so he ran in fear  
and ran and ran from Echo's embrace,  
until he grew tired and stopped at a place.  
This place, it was the bank of a stream  
where he knelt to drink, and saw quite a scene.  
His reflection, a face he had never seen,  
stared at him with beauty calm and serene.  
He loved it so much that he could not leave,  
and turned into a flower, so still was he.  
This flower, called Narcissus, is purple and white,  
dotting riverbanks, reminding us all of his plight.*

*Echo, meanwhile, wanders hills in distress,  
repeating all words she hears in her quest  
to forget the beautiful man who fled,  
ran from her arms, but remains in her head.*



**A. Write the correct words or phrases from the poem.**

- 1. simile phrase \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. mythical creature \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. pair of synonyms \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. pair of antonyms \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. pair of homophones \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Write six rhyming pairs from the poem.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Answer the questions.**

**Why is each character below special? What part of nature is explained by his or her story?**

- 1. Narcissus  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Echo  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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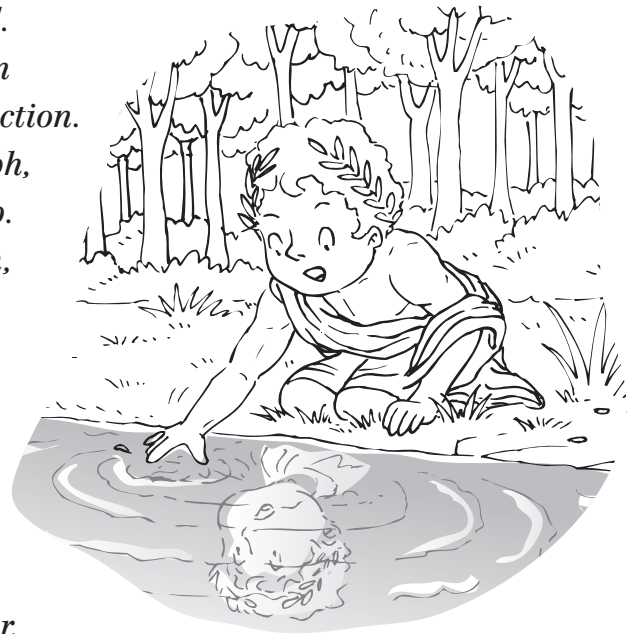
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**A. Write the correct words or phrases from the poem.**

1. simile phrase came out like a roar
2. mythical creature nymph
3. pair of synonyms calm and serene
4. pair of antonyms large, small
5. pair of homophones scene, seen

**B. Write six rhyming pairs from the poem.**

(Suggested answers)

1. affection and reflection
2. despair and rare
3. more and roar
4. embrace and place
5. white and plight
6. fled and head

**C. Answer the questions.**

Why is each character below special? What part of nature is explained by his or her story?

1. Narcissus  
He is special because he is the most handsome man. The purple and white flowers dotting riverbanks called Narcissus are explained by his story.
2. Echo  
She is special because she is a nymph with no words of her own. Echoes heard in hills are explained by her story.