

Echo

A long, long time ago, the Greeks had interesting stories about gods, goddesses, and nymphs. Here is a story about a nymph. She lived in the woods. Her name was Echo. She was very beautiful, but she had one fault.

When she started talking, she never stopped. She talked for hours and hours, and made all her friends tired.

Hera, the goddess of the heavens, got angry with Echo and said to her, "You talk too much. From now on, you can only repeat the last two or three words of other people."

Echo was very sad and would not come out of the woods.

One day Echo saw a handsome young man. His name was Narcissus. She fell in love with him at once. She wanted to talk to him, but she could not. She followed him sadly in the woods.

Narcissus was in love with himself and did not show any interest in others. But when he noticed the beautiful girl among the trees, he said, "Who's there?"

Echo was very happy and wanted to say, "I've been in love with you for a long time." But she could not. She just repeated, "Who's there?"

"Come here!" called Narcissus.

"Come here!" Echo repeated and ran toward him.

"Hello," said Narcissus.

"Hello," repeated Echo.

"Who are you?"

"Who are you?"

"Do you live near here?"

"Live near here?"

"Stop that!"

"Stop that!"

This went on for a few minutes. Finally Narcissus got angry and walked off. Echo was very sad. She said to herself, "Oh, Narcissus! Please talk to me again." But he would not speak to her any more. She did not know how to overcome her sadness. She broke into tears and ran out of the woods. Then she went up a hill, and disappeared.

Even today we can hear Echo in the mountains. Have you ever heard her?