



Practice

Read one piece of **nonfiction** and one of **fiction** that are both on the same topic. Compare the two selections by answering the questions below. If you need more space, use your own paper.

Title of Work of Nonfiction: _____

Author: _____

1. What does the author show, explain, or argue in this work? _____

2. What three things did you like about this piece? _____

3. What, if anything, made reading and understanding this piece difficult? _____

4. How are history and culture reflected in this work? _____



Title of Work of Fiction: _____

Author: _____

1. What does the author show, explain, or argue in this work? _____

2. What three things did you like about this piece? _____

3. What, if anything, made reading and understanding this piece difficult? _____

4. How are history and culture reflected in this work? _____

5. Write a short analysis that explains whether you liked the fiction or nonfiction work best. _____



Practice

Use the list below to write the correct term for each definition on the line provided.

autobiography	fiction	nonfiction	short story
biography	genres	novel	theme
drama		poetry	

- _____ 1. a literary genre in the form of dialogue between characters; meant to be performed and seen rather than read
- _____ 2. a long work of fiction in which characters and conflicts can be explored in great depth
- _____ 3. a work of nonfiction in which the author tells his or her own life story
- _____ 4. writing based on real people, events, and facts rather than on imaginary ones
- _____ 5. the central idea or message of the literary work; often a lesson about life
- _____ 6. different categories into which literary works are grouped
- _____ 7. a short work of fiction usually focusing on a few characters and a single conflict
- _____ 8. a work of nonfiction in which the author tells the life story of another person
- _____ 9. a type of literature written in verse and expressing strong feelings
- _____ 10. writing based on imagination; may involve real people or events as well as invented ones



Practice

Match each definition with the correct term. Write the letter on the line provided.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| _____ 1. | conflict which occurs when a person struggles with another person or outside force | A. character |
| _____ 2. | a person or creature in a literary work | B. climax |
| _____ 3. | the skeleton or outline of a literary work; the sequence of the main events in a work | C. conflict |
| _____ 4. | a struggle between opposing forces (often characters); can be internal or external | D. exposition |
| _____ 5. | the time (when) and place (where) in which the story takes place | E. external conflict |
| _____ 6. | an end to the story, in which remaining questions are answered and results of the climax are learned | F. falling action |
| _____ 7. | the most suspenseful point in a (literary) work; the point at which one of the two opposing forces must give way to the other | G. internal conflict |
| _____ 8. | the feeling created by a story, play, or poem | H. mood |
| _____ 9. | an introduction to the people, places, and situation important to the plot | I. plot |
| _____ 10. | the action that follows the climax | J. resolution |
| _____ 11. | conflict which occurs when a person struggles within himself or herself | K. setting |

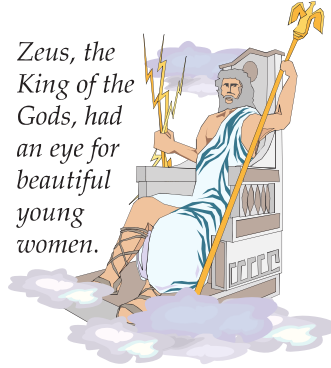


Practice

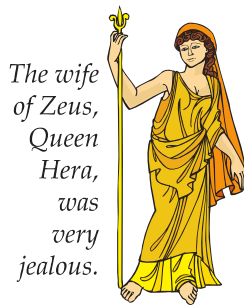
Read the **myth** “Echo and Narcissus.” Then complete the activities that follow.

Echo and Narcissus

Zeus, the King of the Gods, had a very human weakness. Although he was married, he had an eye for beautiful young women. His wife, Queen Hera, was very jealous. Since she could not punish the King of all Mount Olympus, she took her anger out on the poor girls Zeus fell in love with. One of these was the poor wood nymph Echo.



Zeus, the King of the Gods, had an eye for beautiful young women.



The wife of Zeus, Queen Hera, was very jealous.

Zeus often came to the mountains to see the lovely wood nymphs who lived and played there. When he did, the nymphs rushed to embrace the flirtatious god. They played with him in icy waterfalls and laughed with him in lush green glades.

Hera, always jealous, searched the mountainside trying to catch her husband with the nymphs. But whenever Hera came close to finding Zeus, a charming nymph named Echo stepped across her path. Echo chatted with Hera in a lively fashion and did whatever she could to stall the goddess until Zeus and the other nymphs had escaped.

Eventually Hera figured out that Echo had been tricking her, and the Queen of Olympus flew into a rage. “Your tongue has made a fool of me!” she shouted at Echo. “From this moment on, your voice will be more brief, my dear! You will always have the last word—but never the first.”

From that day on, poor Echo could only repeat the last words of what others said.



Whenever Hera came close to finding Zeus, a charming nymph named Echo stepped across her path.



One day Echo spied a golden-haired youth hunting deer in the woods.

The boy's name was Narcissus, and he was the most beautiful young man in the forest. All who looked upon Narcissus fell in love with him

*All who looked upon
Narcissus fell in love
with him immediately.*

*However he would
have nothing to do
with anyone, for he
was very conceited.*



immediately. However he would have nothing to do with anyone, for he was very conceited. He felt no woman worthy of his beauty and charm.

When Echo first laid eyes upon Narcissus, her heart burned like the flame of a torch. She secretly followed him through the woods, loving him more with each step. She got closer and closer until finally Narcissus heard the leaves rustling. He whirled around and cried out, "Who's here?"

From behind a tree, Echo repeated his last word, "Here!"

Narcissus looked about in wonder, "Who are you? Come to me!" he said.

Narcissus searched the woods, but wood nymphs were very skilled at hiding among the trees. "Stop hiding! Let us meet!" he shouted in fear and frustration.

"Let us meet!" Echo cried. Then she stepped from behind the tree and unable to control her passion, rushed to embrace Narcissus.



*When Echo first laid
eyes upon Narcissus,
her heart burned like
the flame of a torch.*



*"Love me!" was all
poor Echo could say as
she watched Narcissus
run from her through the
woods. "Love me! Love
me! Love me!"*

Narcissus saw that Echo was just a nymph. Only one of the beautiful goddesses of Olympus would have been worthy of him. Therefore, the youth was disgusted when Echo flung her arms around his neck. He pushed her away and shouted, "Leave me alone! I'd rather die than let you love me!"

"Love me!" was all poor Echo could say as she watched Narcissus run from her through the woods. "Love me! Love me! Love me!"

Humiliated and heartbroken, Echo wandered the mountains until she found a lonely cave to live in.

Aphrodite, the goddess of love, had seen Narcissus' cruel rejection of Echo. She felt anger at the

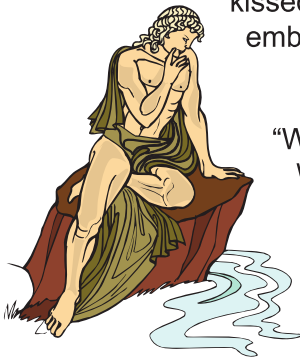


young man and pity toward Echo. She enchanted Narcissus in a way that would allow him to feel the pain of unreturned love.

Narcissus continued hunting in the woods, still proud and still convinced no mortal woman was worthy of him. One day he discovered a hidden pool of water with a silvery-smooth surface. No shepherds ever disturbed its waters—no goats or cattle, no birds or fallen leaves. Only the sun danced upon the still pond.

Tired from hunting and eager to quench his thirst, Narcissus lay on his stomach and leaned over the water. But when he looked at the glassy surface, he saw someone staring back at him.

Narcissus was spellbound. Gazing up at him from the pool were eyes like twin stars, framed by hair as golden as Apollo's and cheeks as smooth as ivory. But when he leaned down and tried to kiss the perfect lips, he kissed only spring water. When he reached out and tried to embrace this vision of beauty, he found no one there.



Day after day, Narcissus stared at the water, in love with his own reflection.

"What love could be more cruel than this?" he cried.
"When my lips kiss my beloved, they touch only water!
When I reach for my loved one, I hold only water!"

Narcissus began to weep. When he wiped away his tears, the person in the water also wiped away tears. "Oh, no," sobbed Narcissus. "I see the truth now. It is myself I weep for! I yearn for my own reflection!"

Aphrodite smiled.

As Narcissus cried harder, the tears broke the glassy surface of the pool and caused his reflection to disappear. "Come back! Where did you go?" the youth cried. "I love you so much! At least stay and let me look upon you!"

Day after day, Narcissus stared at the water, in love with his own reflection. He began to waste away from grief, until one sad morning, he felt himself dying. "Goodbye, my love!" he shouted to his reflection.

"Goodbye, my love!" Echo cried to Narcissus from her cave deep in the woods.

Then Narcissus took his last breath.



*Aphrodite's heart
relented a bit, seeing
the young man's pain.
She determined his
beauty would not
completely fade from
the earth.*

Aphrodite's heart relented a bit, seeing the young man's pain. She determined his beauty would not completely fade from the earth.

After he died, the water nymphs and wood nymphs searched for Narcissus's body. But all they found was a magnificently beautiful flower beside the hidden pool where the youth had once yearned for his own reflection. The flower had white petals and a yellow center, and from that time on, it was called Narcissus.

The story and the flower became well known. Even today, when someone feels he or she is more beautiful, intelligent, or charming than all others, this person is called a "narcissist." We often say that narcissists are in love with themselves.



*The water nymphs
found a beautiful flower
beside the hidden pool
where Narcissus had
once yearned for his own
reflection and from that
time on, the flower was
called Narcissus.*

And alas, poor Echo, desolate after her love's death, did not eat or sleep. As she lay forlornly in her cave, all her beauty faded away, and she became very thin until her voice was all that was left. Thereafter, the lonely voice of Echo was heard in the mountains, repeating the last words anyone said.

Answer the following.

1. You will notice that the word "love" or at least a reference to being in love appears very frequently in this myth. (This includes words such as "beloved.") Therefore, around what theme will this story center?



2. You have read in books, seen on television and in movies, and heard many stories that also center around love. What messages do these stories offer about love?

3. There are two love stories within this story.

- Echo's love for Narcissus
- Narcissus love for himself

Provide the following information about the plot of each love story.

- a. Echo's love for Narcissus

- (1) For what reason did this love begin?

- (2) Why was it unsuccessful?



- (3) **At what point does the person realize he or she will not attain his or her heart's desire?** (This would represent the climax of this love story's tale.)

- (4) How is this unsuccessful love resolved?

b. Narcissus's love for himself

- (1) For what reason did this love begin?

- (2) Why was it unsuccessful?

- (3) **At what point does the person realize he or she will not attain his or her heart's desire?** (This would represent the climax of this love stor ☐ ☐)



(4) How is this unsuccessful love resolved?

4. How do you feel about the fate of each character?

Does Echo deserve what happened to her? Give your reasons why.

Does Narcissus deserve what happened to him? Give your reasons why.

5. Based on all of your answers above, what message about love do you think this my ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
