

Narcissus was a beautiful young man who refused to love anyone. Despite this, he was deeply loved by the woodland fairy, or *nymph*, named Echo. Echo followed Narcissus through the forest, watching over him tenderly. One day, Narcissus sent her away, angrily telling her that he would never love her. Echo was so hurt by his rejection that she shut herself up in a cave to cry. She never came out again and wasted away there, leaving only the echo of her voice. Artemis, the Goddess of the forest, was furious with Narcissus for mistreating her favorite nymph. Artemis placed a curse on Narcissus: *since he refused to love others, he would be overwhelmed with love for himself*. The next day, Narcissus saw his reflection in a forest pond and fell in love with himself. He sat on the banks of the pond for many years, gazing at his reflection in the water with hopeless desire as he slowly wasted away. Finally, Artemis took pity on him and changed him into a beautiful flower that still bears his name today.

Narcissus (pronounced nar-SISS-uss)

nymph (pronounced NIMF)

Echo (pronounced EH-koh)

Artemis (pronounced AR-teh-miss)

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Modern situation: a rock star refuses to sign an autograph because he's too busy looking into a mirror