

## Narcissus

Narcissus was a beautiful looking boy. He had long, flowing, blond hair, beautiful, bright, blue eyes and even, white teeth. Many young ladies fell in love with him including the nymph; Echo.

Nymphs were lively spirits who lived near lakes and protected trees in the forest. Echo had offended the Queen of the Gods: Hera. As a punishment Hera made Echo unable to speak except to repeat the last three words of the person she was talking to.

Poor Echo fell in love with Narcissus but could never tell him how she felt. Narcissus teased her and she ran away with tears pouring down her face. Aphrodite, the goddess of love saw what happened and decided to punish Narcissus. When he came to a pool of water, Narcissus saw his reflection and fell in love with the vision he saw...it was, of course, his own reflection.

Poor Narcissus! He watched his own reflection, every time he tried to touch the face of the vision in the surface of the water, but it was impossible. Narcissus stopped eating, lost his beautiful looks and was very sad for his love. Finally he died.

Aphrodite took pity on him and made a flower grow in his place on the bank of the lake. So narcissus flowers can be found to this day growing where you can find water and trees.

## **Apollo & Cassandra**

Apollo was Zeus' son. Apollo enjoyed showing up at the various temples around ancient Greece built in his honor. One day, Apollo appeared in his temple of Troy.

Cassandra, a young and beautiful priestess, worked at the temple. When Apollo saw Cassandra, he fell in love. Immediately, Apollo offered Cassandra a deal. He would give her a very special gift, the gift of prophecy - the ability to see the future - if she would give him a kiss.

Cassandra thought that was a great deal. Apollo gave her his gift. Instantly, Cassandra could see the future. She saw Apollo, in the future, helping the Greeks destroy Troy. When Apollo bent his head to gently kiss her, she angrily spit in his face.

Apollo was furious. He could not take away his gift. But he could add to it.

Although Cassandra could forever see the future, nobody would believe her. That was his added gift. And nobody did. When Cassandra implored her people in Troy to be careful with the Trojan horse, nobody person believed her.