

Eduqas Latin GCSE

Prescribed text for Component 3A: Latin Literature (Narratives)

Ovid, Echo and Narcissus

N. B. The passages in italics are summaries of events to support understanding of the narrative. They are not part of the prescription.

This is the official examination text
for the Eduqas Latin GCSE (2018-2019)

Echo and Narcissus (from Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 3)

In his Metamorphoses, Ovid fitted together into a continuous poem of around 12,000 lines an enormous range of myths and folk-tales, beginning with the creation of the world and ending in Ovid's own day. Almost all the stories it contains involve a change of shape (in Greek, a 'metamorphosis') of one sort or another - humans, for example, being transformed into animals, trees, and even mountains!

The beautiful nymph Liriope gave birth to a boy, whose father was the river god Cephissus. She called him Narcissus. When she asked the prophet Tiresias whether her son would live to a ripe old age, he answered, 'If he never knows himself'. This was not understood at the time, but the strange madness which led to his death proved the truth of the prophecy.

By the time Narcissus was sixteen, many young men and many girls fancied him; but he was so proud that he allowed no young men and no girls near him. One day Narcissus was out hunting, when he was spotted by the nymph Echo.

A

aspicit hunc trepidos agitantem in retia cervos
vocalis nympe, quae nec reticere loquenti
nec prius ipsa loqui didicit, resonabilis Echo.
corpus adhuc Echo, non vox, erat; et tamen usum
garrula non alium, quam nunc habet, oris habebat,
reddere de multis ut verba novissima posset.

5

B

Juno had done this because frequently, when she could have caught nymphs sleeping with her husband Jupiter on the mountain, Echo would deliberately distract the goddess with her continual chatter until the nymphs made their escape. When the daughter of Saturn realised this, she said, 'The power of that tongue, which you have used to fool me, will be restricted, and you will be allowed only very brief use of your voice'. She made good her threats. Echo can only repeat the last words of the person speaking and reproduce the words she hears.

5

C

ergo ubi Narcissum per devia rura vagantem
vidit et incaluit, sequitur vestigia furtim,
quoque magis sequitur, flamma propiore calescit,
non aliter quam cum summis circumlita taedis
admotas rapiunt vivacia sulphura flammis.
o quotiens voluit blandis accedere dictis
et molles adhibere preces. natura repugnat
nec sinit incipiat; sed, quod sinit, illa parata est
exspectare sonos, ad quos sua verba remittat.

5

D

forte puer comitum seductus ab agmine fido
dixerat 'ecquis adest?' et 'adest!' responderat Echo.
hic stupet, utque aciem partes dimittit in omnes,
voce 'veni!' magna clamat; vocat illa vocantem.
respicit et rursus nullo veniente 'quid' inquit
'me fugis?' et totidem, quot dixit, verba recepit.
perstat et alternae deceptus imagine vocis,
'huc coeamus!' ait nullique libentius umquam
responsura sono 'coeamus' rettulit Echo
et verbis favet ipsa suis egressaque silva
ibat, ut iniceret sperato bracchia collo.
ille fugit fugiensque 'manus complexibus aufer;
ante' ait 'emoriar, quam sit tibi copia nostri.'
rettulit illa nihil nisi 'sit tibi copia nostri.'

5

10

E

spreta latet silvis pudibundaque frondibus ora
protegit et solis ex illo vivit in antris;
sed tamen haeret amor crescitque dolore repulsae:
attenuant vigiles corpus miserabile curae,
adducitque cutem macies, et in aera sucus
corporis omnis abit; vox tantum atque ossa supersunt:
vox manet: ossa ferunt lapidis traxisse figuram.
inde latet silvis nulloque in monte videtur.
omnibus auditur: sonus est, qui vivit in illa.

5

F

In this way Narcissus had toyed with her feelings, as he had those of other nymphs sprung from the waters or the mountains, and those of his male admirers too. Then one of the admirers he had rejected, raising his hand to the sky, said: 'Let he himself fall in love and may he also be rejected by his beloved.' The goddess Nemesis granted these well-deserved prayers.

5

G

There was a clear and silvery pool, with shining water, which neither the shepherds nor the goats which feed on the mountain nor any cattle had muddied, and which no bird nor wild beast nor branch fallen from a tree had disturbed. Around it was lush grass which the nearby water nourished, and the wood kept it cool, so that it would not suffer from the heat of the sun.

5

H

hic puer, et studio venandi lassus et aestu,
procubuit faciemque loci fontemque secutus;
dumque sitim sedare cupit, sitis altera crevit,
dumque bibit, visae correptus imagine formae, 5
spem sine corpore amat, corpus putat esse, quod umbra est.
astupet ipse sibi vultuque immotus eodem
haeret, ut e Pario formatum marmore signum.
spectat humi positus geminum, sua lumina, sidus
et dignos Baccho, dignos et Apolline crines,
impubesque genas et eburnea colla decusque 10
oris et in niveo mixtum candore ruborem,
cunctaque miratur, quibus est mirabilis ipse.
se cupit imprudens et, qui probat, ipse probatur,
dumque petit, petitur, pariterque accendit et ardet.
irrita fallaci quotiens dedit oscula fonti! 15
in mediis quotiens visum captantia collum
bracchia mersit aquis nec se deprendit in illis!
quid videat nescit, sed quod videt uritur illo
atque oculos idem qui decipit incitat error.
credule, quid frustra simulacra fugacia captas? 20
quod petis est nusquam; quod amas, avertere, perdes.
ista repercussae, quam cernis, imaginis umbra est.
nil habet ista sui; tecum venitque manetque,
tecum discedet, si tu discedere possis.

I

No thought of food or rest was able to drag him away from there, but sprawled on the shady grass he stared at the deceitful shape with a gaze that was never satisfied – and it was by his own eyes that he perished. Then raising himself a little and holding out his arms to the encircling woods, he said, ‘O woods, who has ever loved more cruelly? You should know, for you have been a lucky meeting-place for many. Do you, who have lived for so many centuries, recall anyone in that long time who has wasted away like this? What I see pleases me, but what pleases me to see I cannot reach: I am in love, but all I feel is confusion! I grieve all the more, since no great ocean separates us, nor a highway nor mountains nor city walls with closed gates: we are kept apart by the tiniest stretch of water. He himself desires to be embraced, for as often as I reach out to kiss him through the clear water, he, with upturned face, strives to reach me. You would think he could be touched. It is such a small thing that stands in the way of our love.

J

Whoever you are, come out here! Why do you play tricks on me, o boy unparalleled in beauty! Where are you going when I seek for you? It is certainly neither my looks nor my age that you flee, for the nymphs have loved me too! With your friendly face you offer me hope; when I stretch out my arms to you, you stretch out yours in return; when I laugh, you laugh back, and often I have noticed your tears while I am crying; you return my signs with a nod, and as far as I can see from the movement of your beautiful lips you answer me with words that do not reach my ears. I am that boy! I understand it: my own image does not deceive me! I burn with love for myself. I both fan the flames and suffer them. Sorrow is draining my strength; no long life lies ahead for me; I am snuffed out in the first flush of youth. But death does not lie heavy upon me, for in death I shall remove all my sorrows: my only wish would have been for him whom I adore to outlive me. Instead we will die together, united in a single spirit.’

K

He spoke and, maddened by grief, turned back to that same face and disturbed the waters with his tears; the image returned, but indistinct in the swirling water. When he saw it disappearing, he cried out, 'Where are you fleeing? Stay, cruel one! Do not desert me who loves you! Let me look on what I cannot touch and so feed my unhappy passion.' While he was grieving he tore away the top of his tunic and beat his naked breast with hands white as marble. His beaten chest showed traces of red, in the way that apples do which show part white and part red, or as grapes starting to ripen display a tinge of purple amongst clusters of different colours. 5 10

L

quae simul aspexit liquefacta rursus in unda,
non tulit ulterius sed, ut intabescere flavae
igne levi cerae matutinaeque pruinae
sole tepente solent, sic attenuatus amore
liquitur et tecto paulatim carpitur igni; 5
et neque iam color est mixto candore rubori,
nec vigor et vires et quae modo visa placebant,
nec corpus remanet, quondam quod amaverat Echo.
quae tamen ut vidit, quamvis irata memorque
indoluit, quotiensque puer miserabilis 'eheu' 10
dixerat, haec resonis iterabat vocibus 'eheu'.
cumque suos manibus percusserat ille lacertos,
haec quoque reddebat sonitum plangoris eundem.
ultima vox solitam fuit haec spectantis in undam:
'heu frustra dilecte puer!' totidemque remisit 15
verba locus, dictoque vale, 'vale' inquit et Echo.

M

ille caput viridi fessum summisit in herba,
lumina mors clausit domini mirantia formam.
tum quoque se, postquam est inferna sede receptus,
in Stygia spectabat aqua. planxere sorores
Naides et sectos fratri posuere capillos,
planxerunt Dryades; plangentibus assonat Echo.
iamque rogam quassasque faces feretrumque parabant:
nusquam corpus erat; croceum pro corpore florem
inveniunt foliis medium cingentibus albis.

5