

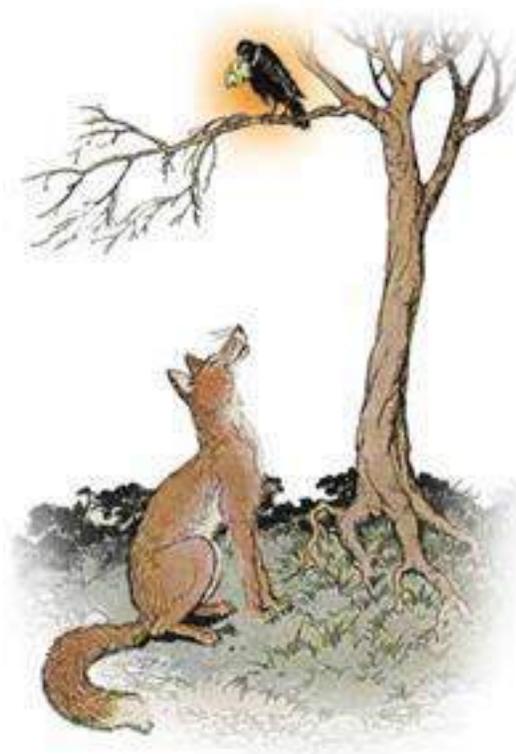
## The Fox & the Crow

One bright morning as the Fox was following his sharp nose through the wood in search of a bite to eat, he saw a Crow on the limb of a tree overhead. This was by no means the first Crow the Fox had ever seen. What caught his attention this time and made him stop for a second look, was that the lucky Crow held a bit of cheese in her beak.

"No need to search any farther," thought sly Master Fox. "Here is a dainty bite for my breakfast."

Up he trotted to the foot of the tree in which the Crow was sitting, and looking up admiringly, he cried, "Good morning, beautiful creature!"

The Crow, her head cocked on one side, watched the Fox suspiciously. But she kept her beak tightly closed on the cheese and did not return his greeting.



"What a charming creature she is!" said the Fox. "How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful

Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion, and also her breakfast. She wanted very much to be called Queen of Birds. So she opened her beak wide to utter her loudest caw, and down fell the cheese straight into the Fox's open mouth.

"Thank you," said Master Fox sweetly, as he walked off. "Though it is cracked, you have a voice sure enough. But where are your wits?"

## **Echo and Narcissus**

### **A retelling of the Roman myth by Ovid**

Once there was a woodland nymph named Echo. Echo had been cursed by Juno, the Queen of the Gods, whom Echo had angered. Echo's curse is that she could only repeat the last few words of what others said first; she could never have the first word. At the same time, there was a young man named Narcissus. Narcissus was so beautiful that all the women who met him instantly fell in love. But Narcissus was not kind to others, and only cared about himself.

One day, Echo was wandering in the woods when she saw Narcissus. She thought he was so beautiful, and she longed to tell him how she felt. However, she was unable to talk to Narcissus, she could only repeat what he said. Narcissus got frustrated and angry when he heard his words repeated to him by Echo, and he rejected her. Echo, so sad his actions, was left to wander the woods for the rest of her life, until she turned into dust.

Narcissus was uninterested in anyone but himself. But he had a new admirer, who also fell in love with him. She wished that Narcissus would love her, but Narcissus ignored her. She got angry and asked the gods to make Narcissus love her. However, the gods who heard her cry are the gods of revenge, and they punished Narcissus.

They waited until Narcissus was hunting one day. He stopped because he was thirsty. When Narcissus bent down to get water, he immediately fell in love with the reflection in the mirror, though he doesn't realize that it was his own reflection. Narcissus was so in love with the face that he saw that he tried to reach into the water to grab the reflection.

So heartbroken that he couldn't reach the person he saw in the water, Narcissus stayed by the water, refusing sleep and food. He could not understand why the reflection didn't return his affections, especially when all the other women loved him so.



Narcissus' tears of sadness disturbed the reflection in the water, and he thought he was being abandoned. Only Echo stayed nearby to watch Narcissus, to repeat his cries of love and sadness. Eventually, Narcissus stared at his reflection so long that he died and turned to ashes. When Echo and the wood nymphs went to bury his ashes, they found a beautiful flower in his place.