Web resources for *Ubi Fera Sunt* • Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*

Translated into Latin by Richard A. LaFleur (a.k.a. Doctor Illa Flōra)

Mauritiō Sendaciō, Magistrō Fābulārum et Pictūrārum
—For Maurice Sendak, Master of Stories and Pictures—

Pronouncing Latin

Prōnūntiātiō Latīna est facilis, I always tell my students: Latin pronunciation is easy! Why? Because Latin has the very same vowels as English, but with only two possible sounds each (as opposed to, say, the numerous sounds represented by the letter *a* in English); most consonants have only a single pronunciation; there is no "silent *e*" or silent ANYthing, because 99% of the time in Latin, what you see is what you get; and there are rules for which of a word's syllables bears the stress accent that work every time. Here is a quick refresher, with some of the examples drawn from my introductory textbook, *Wheelock's Latin* (and for more detail, LISTEN to the discussions and lots of sample pronunciation at http://www.wheelockslatin.com/chapters/introduction/introduction.html):

VOWELS: *a, e, i, o,* and *u* (Latin has a *y* too, but it was rare in classical Latin and doesn't appear in *Ubi Fera Sunt*). Short vowels are pronounced quickly, and long vowels, marked with a "macron" or "long mark" over the letter, are simply held a bit longer, as follows (with samples drawn from *Ubi Fera Sunt*):

Short	Long
a as in "above": *malum*	*ā* as in "father": *māter*
e as in "pet": *nocte*	*ē* as in "they": *gerēbat*
i as in "pin": *Maximus*	*ī* as in "machine": *dīxit*
o as in "off": *modī*	*ō* as in "clover": *oculōs*
u as in "put": *dum*	*ū* as in "rude": *fremitūs*

Macrons are printed as an aid to reviewing pronunciation in the vocabulary list below, though not in the actual text of *Ubi Fera Sunt*, just as they were not commonly included in the manuscripts of classical texts (though contrary to what you may sometimes be told, long vowels were indeed occasionally marked by the Romans, even in inscriptions, graffiti, and handwritten letters).

DIPHTHONGS: Six vowel combinations were contracted into a single syllable sound in classical Latin; the only such diphthong appearing in *Ubi Fera Sunt* is *ae*, pronounced like the *ai* in "aisle," as in *paene*.

CONSONANTS: Latin consonants are pronounced essentially the same as in English, with but a few exceptions; examples of those exceptions occurring in *Ubi Fera Sunt* are as follows:

c: always hard as in "cream," never soft as in "ice": *nocte*

g: always hard as in "go," never soft as in "gemstone": *gerēbat*

gn following a vowel: pronounced like *ngn*, i.e., with the preceding vowel nasalized, as in *regnāre*, pronounced as if *rengnāre*

i, which also represents a vowel sound: functions as a consonant with more or less the sound of English *y*, when it occurs at the beginning of a word and preceding a vowel, as in *iactāvit* (pronounced "yahk-TAH-wit"), and in the middle of a word between two vowels, as in *eius* (pronounced something like "EH-yus").

q, as in English: always followed by consonantal *u*, the combination having the *kw* sound heard in English "quick": *quō*

r: slightly trilled, as in Spanish (one of the very few sounds in classical Latin not occurring in standard American English, another factor that makes Latin pronunciation so easy): *fera*

s: always unvoiced as in "see," never voiced as in "tease": *ipsa*

t: always hard as in "toy," never the "sh"/"ch" sounds heard in "nation/mention": *factī*

v: has the sound of English *w*: *vestem*

x: has the *ks* sound of "axis," never the *gs* sound of "example": *Maximus*

ACCENT: Latin words are pronounced with a primary stress accent on one of their syllables, just like English words. Disyllabic (two-syllable) words are always stressed on the first syllable, so *úbi* and *féra*. Words of three or more syllables are accented on the next to last ("penultimate") syllable, if that syllable is "long" due to its containing either (a) a long vowel, as in *lupī´nam*, (b) a diphthong, as in *adae´quō*, or (c) a short vowel followed by two or more consonants, as in *eden´dō*; if the penultimate syllable is not long, the accent falls on the preceding syllable, as in *Máximus*. Latin words are never accented on their final syllable.