

# Quo Colore Est?



**Quo Colore Est?**, written by Marie Carducci Bolchazy and translated into Latin by Mardah Weinfeld, is a delightful little book written for children. The surprise inside the 54 pages of this charming, illustrated volume is how well it is designed to meet the needs of middle or high school students who are learning noun–adjective agreement in Latin. I propose the following lesson plan as a unique way to introduce the concept of noun–adjective agreement. Use transparencies of the pages noted below if a classroom set of the books is not available.

**Step One:** P. 42: introduce the students to the Latin words for eleven different colors. On this page the Latin adjectives are in the nominative singular masculine form.

**Steps Two, Three, Four:** P.44-54: use as many of these pages as necessary to show students how adjectives look in their dictionary form. Remember to include the third declension adjective *viridis*, *viridis*, *viride* as well as the more numerous first and second declension adjectives such as *azureus*, *azurea*, *azureum* and *ruber*, *rubra*, *rubrum*.

**Steps Five, Six, Seven, and more:** P.40: show the phrase *fringilla citrea* as an example of a first declension feminine noun modified by a first declension feminine adjective. Do the same with the following

P. 26: *Cibus fuscus*—second declension masculine noun with a second declension masculine adjective

P. 26 28: *Cibus viridi*—second declension masculine noun with a third declension masculine adjective

P. 3: *Malum rubrum*—second declension neuter noun with a second declension neuter adjective

P. 3 & 5: *Malum virid*—second declension neuter noun with a third declension neuter adjective

P. 8 & 9: *Flos citreus*—third declension masculine noun with a second declension masculine adjective

P. 34: *Avis fusca*—third declension feminine noun with a first declension feminine adjective

P. 34 & 38: *Avis viridis*—third declension feminine noun with a third declension feminine adjective

**Step Eight:** Next, ask the students to change each of these nominative singular noun–adjective phrases into the nominative plural.

**Steps Nine and Ten:** Finally, show the students two more examples. On P.31 *cibum atrum* is an example of a second declension masculine noun in the accusative with a second declension adjective in the accusative. On P. 39 *coloribus multis* is an example of a third declension masculine noun in the ablative plural with a second declension masculine adjective in the ablative plural. After seeing these two examples of noun-adjective phrases in cases other than the nominative, ask the students to change the nominative singular noun–adjective phrases used as examples earlier into whatever cases you choose.

**Result:** students will know the names of eleven colors and understand that nouns and adjectives of the same or different declensions modify one another in case, number, and gender.

