

1888

A LESSON IN LATIN

Lewis Carroll

Carroll Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898)
 - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. A Lesson in Latin (1888) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines: Our Latin books, in motley row, / Invite us to our task-...

LESSON IN LATIN

***OUR Latin books, in motley row, Invite us to our task
 Gay Horace, stately Cicero: Yet there's one verb, when once we know, No higher skill we ask: This ranks all other lore above
 We've learned "Amare' means 'to love'!"***

So, hour by hour, from flower to flower, We sip the sweets of Life:
 Till, all too soon, the clouds arise, And flaming cheeks and flashing eyes
 Proclaim the dawn of strife: With half a smile and half a sigh,
 "Amare! Bitter One!" we cry.

Last night we owned, with looks forlorn, "Too well the scholar
 knows There is no rose without a thorn"-

But peace is made! We sing, this morn, "No thorn without a rose!"
 Our Latin lesson is complete: We've learned that Love is Bitter
 Sweet!

May 1888.

THE END