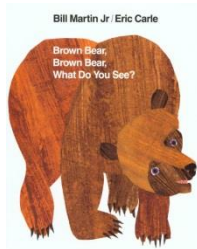


## Color Read-Aloud

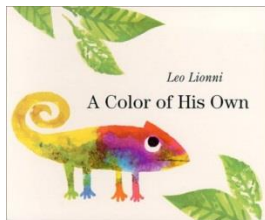
Kids usually learn their colors before they even go to school. But, do they know that colors are made from light? There is science behind colors that we don't often consider. This theme can be taken on a variety of different levels, depending on your age group. With older kids focus on the science of rainbows and light and with a younger group think of items with the same colors.



### ***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*** by Eric Carle

Ages 2 to 6

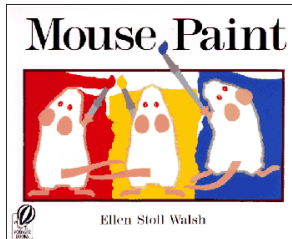
This repetitive book introduces many familiar animals in fun colors. Kids will enjoy predicting what animal and color will come next. By the end they'll be able to help you recite the words.



### ***A Color of My Own*** by Leo Lionni

Ages 3 to 6

A chameleon is unhappy with his ever-changing coat of colors. Then he meets another chameleon whom he can change colors with so he is never alone.



### ***Mouse Paint*** by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Ages 4 to 7

While the cat is asleep, three white mice on a white piece of paper have fun with color. They find jars of blue, red and yellow paint, and soon discover their dancing feet create orange, green and purple by mixing the primary colors. With simple and striking illustrations and a minimum of words, this book can be read quickly or lingered over to examine the mixing of colors.



### ***Hello, Red Fox*** by Eric Carle

Ages 5 to 8

This book plays tricks on your eyes. The colors in the text and pictures don't match, but if you follow the instructions and stare long enough, the colors will change. Some kids may get frustrated if they can't see the optical illusion.

## Other books about colors

### ***Lemons are Not Red*** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Ages 2 to 6)

Kids know what colors certain things should be, so when a book makes mistakes, they get a good laugh out of it.

***Moonbear's Skyfire*** by Frank Asch (Ages 2 to 5)

Bear thinks the sky is on fire the first time he sees a rainbow. Should he look for the pot of gold at its end or try to put out the fire?

***Planting a Rainbow*** by Lois Ehlert (Ages 2 to 6)

Flowers come in all different colors. See how the process of growing a garden can create so many colors.

***Color Dance*** by Ann Jonas (Ages 2 to 6)

Dancing kids wave their colored scarves together to make different color combinations.

***The Magic School Bus Makes a Rainbow*** by Joanna Cole (Ages 4 to 8)

The kids in Ms. Frizzle's class take a trip inside a machine that plays with light. As with most *Magic School Bus* books, this book may be too long to read in its entirety at a Read-Aloud.

***Raindrops and Rainbows*** by Rose Wyler (Ages 5 to 9)

This nonfiction book explains why it rains and how rain causes rainbows.

**Activities**

1. Sunny day rainbows. On a sunny day, place a clear glass of water on the edge of a table where the sun will hit it. Put a piece of white paper on the floor below the glass and you should see a rainbow there. Adjust the placement of the paper until you find the rainbow. (Can be done with a flashlight too: [http://www.pbs.org/parents/sesame/activity\\_4200.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/sesame/activity_4200.html))

If your Read-Aloud site has outdoor space and a hose, you can spray the water in the air and see a rainbow in the spray. This would be perfect for a hot summer day.

2. Flashlight rainbows. Insert a cheap mirror into a bowl of water at a 45 degree angle. Shine the flashlight through the water and mirror. Look for rainbows around the room. This works best in a darkened room.

3. Colorblind test are made up of dots of different colors. Numbers and shapes are hidden in the dots. People with colorblindness have difficulties spotting the hidden items. Try out a few tests with the kids.

Colorblind test with hidden animals: <http://freepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hellmers/test/>

Colorblind test with hidden shapes: <http://colorvisiontesting.com/online%20test.htm>.

4. Mix colors like the mice in *Mouse Paint*. Start with the primary colors, white and black and then mix them to create the other colors needed to make a picture or a color wheel.

**Conversation Starters**

Where does light come from?

What are the primary colors? What makes a color primary?

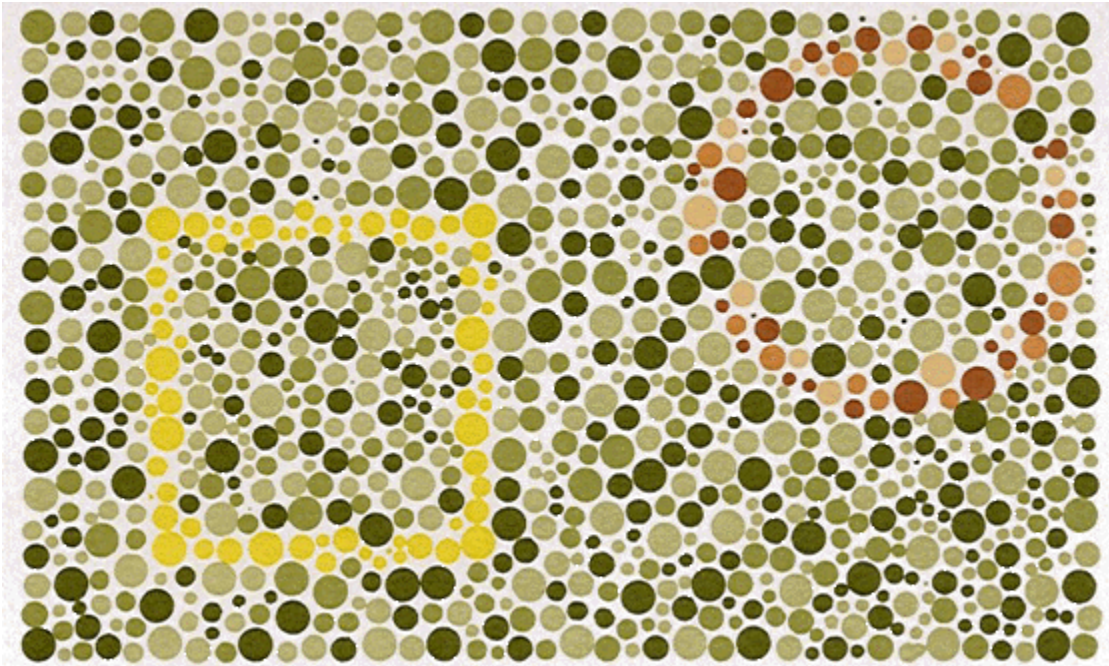
What colors combine to make pink? Orange? Black?

What is your favorite color and why?

Why do we have rainbows? Have you ever seen one?

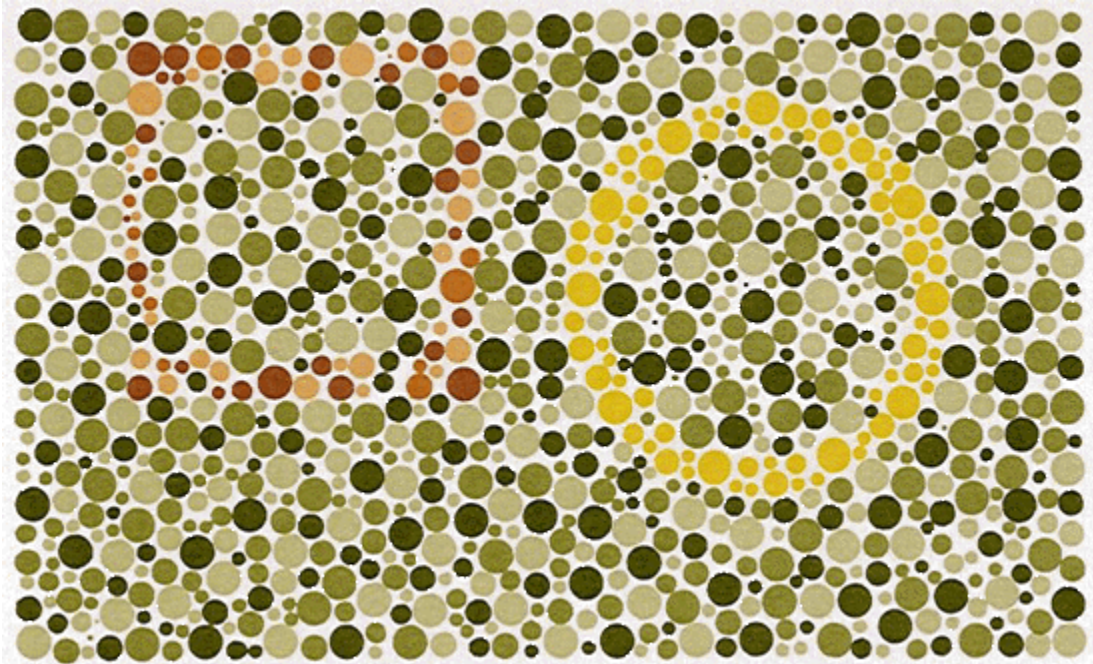
Where do you think the myth of a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow came from?

## Color vision test #1



**Answer to Card # 1:** **Colorblind** individuals should see the yellow square. **Color normal** individuals should see the yellow square and a "faint" brown circle.

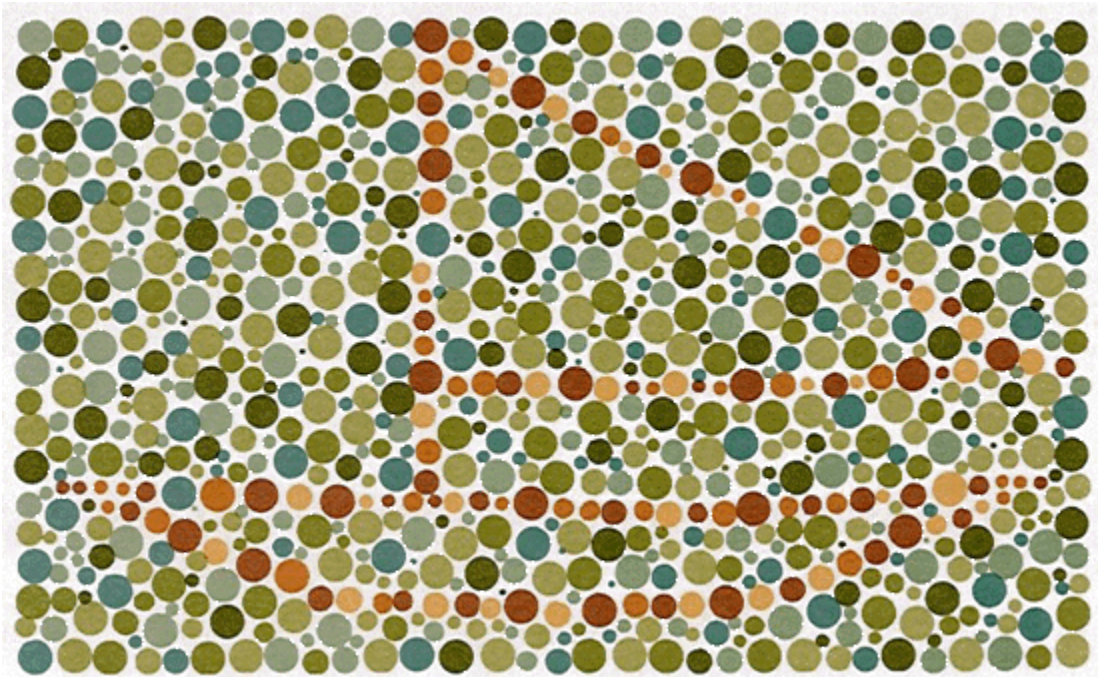
## Color vision test #2



**Answer to Card #2:** **Colorblind** individuals should see the yellow circle. **Color normal** individuals should see the yellow circle and a "faint" brown square.



### Color vision test #3



**Answer to Card #3:** **Colorblind** individuals should see nothing. **Color normal** individuals should see a "faint" brown boat.

