

World Book Day: Illustrating Our Favourite Stories

Learning objective: To explore how artists use colour, texture, and composition to bring characters and settings from literature to life.

Read each question carefully and use your artistic knowledge to answer. Think about how Zara the zebra sees patterns and shapes in the world around her as you plan your responses.

As an artist, you have the power to create a window into a story. Whether you are drawing a bustling forest or a quiet library, the way you use your materials tells the reader how to feel about the scene.

Word bank: composition · texture · perspective · primary colours · shading · illustration · background · focal point

1. When creating an illustration of a character, why is it important to choose a specific 'focal point'? How does this help the viewer understand the story? (2 marks)

2. If you were drawing a scene set in a dark, mysterious cave, how could you use shading and tone to change the mood of the artwork? (2 marks)

3. Look at the word bank. Choose two words and explain how an illustrator uses these techniques to make a flat drawing look more 'three-dimensional'. (2 marks)

4. Zara the zebra loves patterns. If you were designing a book cover for a story about a magical jungle, what repeating patterns would you include to make the environment look wild and exciting? (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are buying art supplies for your World Book Day project. You have £10.00. You buy a set of sketching pencils for £3.50 and a high-quality sketchbook for £4.25. How much change would you receive? (2 marks)

Draw: Choose a favourite storybook character. Draw them in the centre of your page, but change their environment! For example, if your character usually lives in a house, draw them exploring an underwater city. Use at least three different textures (like bumpy scales, soft fur, or smooth metal) in your drawing.



Extension challenge: Research a famous illustrator. Write a short paragraph explaining which technique they use that you find most effective. Why does their style help the reader engage with the story?