

The Calligraphy Quest with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To improve handwriting consistency, letter size, and the correct formation of joins in line with Year 4 expectations.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns, and she believes that beautiful handwriting is a pattern of movement! Look at the words in the word bank. Your task is to rewrite each word twice. First, write it in your neatest print, then try writing it again using cursive (joined-up) script. Focus on keeping your ascenders (like l, t, h) tall and your descenders (like g, p, y) dropping below the line. Finally, answer the questions below to analyse your own handwriting style.

Word bank: magnificent · pattern · journey · brilliant · twinkle · landscape

1. Compare your print writing to your cursive writing. Which letter did you find the most difficult to join smoothly? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Look at your ascenders (the tall parts of letters like 't' or 'h'). Are they all the same height? Why is it important for handwriting consistency to keep them uniform? (2 marks)

3. If you were writing a letter to a friend, why might you choose to use cursive script instead of print? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

4. Zara suggests that spacing is just as important as letter shape. What might happen to the readability of your work if you stopped leaving spaces between your words? (2 marks)

5. Choose one word from the word bank and write it using your 'best' handwriting. Then, try writing it using your non-dominant hand. Contrast the two results. (2 marks)

6. Propose a 'handwriting rule' that would help a Year 3 pupil improve their own presentation. Explain why this rule would be effective. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a pattern that Zara the Zebra might use to decorate the border of a poem. _____
Ensure your pattern is symmetrical and uses flowing lines that mimic cursive handwriting movements.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, four-line poem about a landscape in your neatest cursive script. Ensure every word is joined correctly and that your letters sit precisely on the line.