

Zara's Spooky Patterns: A Halloween Art Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the use of pattern, shape, and composition to create mood and atmosphere in thematic art.

Zara the zebra has been looking at how artists use repeating patterns and contrasting colours to create a spooky atmosphere for Halloween. Below, Zara has described five artistic techniques. Your task is to match the technique to the intended effect it creates in a piece of artwork.

Word bank: Contrast · Symmetry · Negative Space · Repetition · Texture

1. 1. Using bright orange pumpkins against a dark, midnight blue background. Which technique is this, and why does it make the artwork stand out? (2 marks)

2. 2. Drawing a perfectly balanced haunted house where the left side is a mirror image of the right. Which technique is this, and what feeling does it create? (2 marks)

3. 3. Creating a border of tiny, identical black bats around the edge of your page. Which technique is this, and how does it frame the main image? (2 marks)

4. 4. Leaving the area around a glowing ghost blank to make it look like it is floating in the dark. Which technique is this, and why is it effective? (2 marks)

5. 5. Using thick, layered paint to create a bumpy, rough look on the bark of a spooky, ancient tree. Which technique is this? (2 marks)

Draw: Using Zara's techniques, draw a 'Spooky Garden' scene. You must include at least one example of symmetry (like a gate) and one example of contrast (like glowing moonlight against a dark sky).



Extension challenge: If you were selling your artwork at a school autumn fair, how would you price it? If you spent £2.50 on card and £3.25 on high-quality paints, what is the minimum price you would need to charge to make a profit of at least £5.00?