

Spooky Shadows and Autumnal Art

Learning objective: To explore the use of silhouette, contrast, and atmospheric colour palettes in seasonal art.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of colour theory and composition to answer. Zara the zebra is looking for creative ways to represent the mood of late autumn!

In Year 5 art, we look at how light and shadow create mood. Halloween provides a perfect opportunity to experiment with high contrast. Using black paper for silhouettes against a background of blended watercolours or pastels can create a dramatic, spooky scene. Think about how the placement of objects in your picture—the composition—affects how the viewer feels when they look at your work.

Word bank: silhouette · contrast · warm colours · cold colours · composition · atmospheric · translucent

1. Explain why using 'contrast' is effective when creating a spooky Halloween scene. How does it help the main subject stand out? (2 marks)

2. Zara wants to create an 'atmospheric' sunset. Which colours from the word bank should she use to show the sky, and why? (2 marks)

3. Define the term 'silhouette' in your own words. How can you make a silhouette look like a recognisable object without drawing any details inside it? (2 marks)

4. If you were designing a Halloween-themed poster, how would you arrange your 'composition' to make it look balanced but still eerie? (2 marks)

5. Look at the colour wheel. Name one pair of complementary colours that could be used to create a vibrant, intense effect in an autumn-themed drawing. (1 mark)

Draw: Using a pencil, sketch a 'spooky forest' scene in the box below. Focus on using silhouettes for the trees and a large moon in the background. Use shading to show where the light hits the ground.



Extension challenge: Research how artists use 'negative space' to create mystery. Write two sentences explaining how you could use negative space in your next art project to make it look more professional.