

Still Life Masterclass with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the principles of still life art, including composition, lighting, and the use of form and texture.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of art techniques to answer. Refer to the word bank if you need help with artistic terminology.

Word bank: Composition · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Perspective · Medium · Foreground · Background

1. Zara the Zebra is arranging fruit for a still life drawing. Explain what the term 'composition' means and why it is important when setting up objects to draw. (2 marks)

2. When drawing a bowl of apples, how do you use light and dark tones to make the fruit look 3D rather than flat? (2 marks)

3. If Zara places a glass vase in the foreground and a wooden chair in the background, how does 'perspective' help the viewer understand the space in the drawing? (2 marks)

4. Choose one item you might find in a kitchen (e.g., a metal spoon, a woollen jumper, or a ceramic mug). Describe how you would use your pencil or pen to show its specific 'texture'. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to have a single, fixed light source when creating a still life? What happens to the shadows if the light moves? (2 marks)

Draw: Find three objects around your classroom or home that have different shapes and textures. Arrange them on a table and create a still life sketch. Pay close attention to where the light hits the objects (the highlight) and where the shadows fall.



Extension challenge: Zara suggests trying a 'colour study'. Choose one object from your still life and draw it twice: once using only shades of grey (pencil), and once using complementary colours to show the shadows and highlights.