

Year 5 Art Assessment: Illustrating Stories

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of visual storytelling, composition, and the use of colour to convey mood in literature-based art.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly. Ensure your answers reflect your knowledge of how artists interpret characters and settings.

In the world of book illustration, the artist acts as a bridge between the reader and the story. When Zara the zebra creates art, she considers how the lines and colours can make a reader feel excited, scared, or calm. By choosing where to place a character in the frame and how much detail to add to the background, an illustrator guides the reader's eye across the page. Whether using charcoal, watercolours, or digital tools, the goal is always to bring the author's words to life.

Word bank: Composition · Atmosphere · Proportion · Texture · Perspective · Contrast · Illustrator · Foreground · Background

1. Name two tools or media an illustrator might use to create a book cover, and explain why an artist might choose one over the other. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'composition' in the context of an illustration. Why is it important for an artist to think about where they place objects on the page? (3 marks)

3. If you were drawing a scene set in a dark, mysterious forest, what colours would you use to create a 'spooky' atmosphere? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

4. Look at the concept of 'perspective'. How can an artist use it to make a character look larger or more powerful in an illustration? (4 marks)

5. Choose a favourite book character. Describe how you would use 'texture' in your drawing to show what their clothing or fur feels like. Use at least two descriptive adjectives. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: You have been asked to design a front cover for a new story about a journey across the stars. Write a paragraph explaining your design choices. You must mention your choice of colour palette, how you will use the foreground and background, and the overall mood you want to create for the reader. (5 marks)

7. Why do illustrators often include clues in the background of their drawings that aren't mentioned in the text of the story? (4 marks)

Draw: In the space provided below, sketch a book cover for a story titled 'The Secret Library of the Clouds'. Ensure your drawing shows clear foreground and background elements.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research an illustrator of your choice. Write a 50-word summary explaining how their unique artistic style influences the way a reader understands the story.