

Zara's Colourful Canvas of Words

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying descriptive language and inferring character motivations in a narrative text.

Read the story about Zara the zebra carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Zara the zebra stood in the middle of her meadow, holding a sketchbook and a set of bright pencils. While other animals were busy gathering nuts or building nests, Zara was busy hunting for magic in the ordinary. She watched the way the sunlight danced through the oak leaves, creating dappled patterns on the grass. To Zara, the world was not just a place to live; it was a giant, unfinished painting.

She scribbled a description in her notebook: 'The sky is a soft blanket of periwinkle blue, tucked around the shoulders of the hills.' Zara loved using words to capture the things she saw. She knew that a good story needed more than just facts; it needed feelings. By adding colourful adjectives, she could turn a plain afternoon into an adventure. Whether she was writing about the rustle of the wind or the smell of rain on dry earth, Zara believed that everyone had a masterpiece inside them. She simply needed to open her eyes, listen closely, and let her imagination lead the way onto the paper.

Word bank: vibrant · imagination · description · perspective · pattern · breathtaking

1. What tools does Zara use to help her capture the things she sees in the meadow? (2 marks)

2. What example does Zara write in her notebook to describe the sky? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Zara believes that a good story needs more than just facts? (2 marks)

4. How does Zara feel about the world around her compared to the other animals? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Zara is a good writer? Explain why using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what Zara sees in the meadow, including the dappled patterns on the grass and the soft blue sky she described.



Extension challenge: Choose one object in your classroom or home. Write three sentences to describe it using 'wow' words (adjectives) to make your description as vivid as Zara's.