

Autumnal Aesthetics: A Study of Colour and Pattern

Learning objective: To explore the formal elements of art by observing seasonal changes in nature and applying colour theory through autumn-inspired design.

Zara the zebra loves finding patterns in the changing leaves. Look at the word bank provided and use these artistic terms to complete the analysis tasks below. Think about how the temperature of colours changes as we move from summer to autumn.

Word bank: Warm palette · Texture · Complementary · Contrast · Symmetry · Hue · Organic shapes · Tone

1. Zara has collected three leaves: one bright red, one burnt orange, and one golden yellow. Explain why these colours are categorised as a 'warm palette' and how they evoke the feeling of autumn. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the shapes of a smooth, flat pebble and a crinkled, dried autumn leaf. Which artistic term would you use to describe the surface quality of the leaf? (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If you were to paint an autumn forest scene, why might you use 'contrast' between the dark brown tree trunks and the bright yellow leaves? (2 marks)

4. Many leaves show 'symmetry' when you draw a line down the centre. What might happen to the visual balance of your artwork if you drew an asymmetrical, decaying leaf instead? (2 marks)

5. If a pack of high-quality sketching pencils costs £4.50 and a set of watercolours costs £7.75, calculate the total cost. If you have a £15.00 voucher, how much change would you receive? (3 marks)

6. Describe the difference between 'hue' and 'tone'. How would you change the 'tone' of an orange leaf to make it look like it is fading? (2 marks)

Draw: Create an autumn leaf design using 'organic shapes'. You must incorporate at least three different patterns within the leaf surface (such as stripes, dots, or cross-hatching) and use a warm palette of colours to fill it in.



Extension challenge: Research the work of famous landscape artists who focused on the changing seasons. Write a short paragraph justifying which 'warm palette' colours best represent the month of November in your local area and explain the emotions those colours trigger for you.