

Autumnal Artistry with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the use of warm colour palettes, texture, and pattern to represent the changing seasons in landscape art.

Use your knowledge of colour theory and observational skills to complete the following tasks. Refer to the word bank to help you express your artistic choices.

Zara the Zebra is wandering through the Whispering Woods. As the season shifts to autumn, she notices the forest floor transforming into a mosaic of russet, gold, and amber. She wants to capture the way the light filters through the thinning canopy, creating high-contrast shadows on the crisp, fallen leaves. Zara reminds us that artists often use a warm palette to evoke the feeling of autumn, and that adding texture helps the viewer imagine the crunch of the leaves beneath their feet.

Word bank: warm palette · translucent · symmetrical · texture · composition · gradient · contrast · vibrant

1. Identify three colours that belong to a 'warm palette'. Explain why these colours are effective for representing an autumn landscape. (2 marks)

2. Zara is using a technique called 'stippling' to add texture to her drawing of a crunchy leaf. How does changing the density of your pencil marks affect the appearance of texture in your artwork? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the colours found in a summer forest versus an autumn forest. Justify why an artist might choose to use a high-contrast technique when painting autumn trees. (3 marks)

4. If you were to create an autumn collage, how might you use different materials to represent the 'translucent' quality of a leaf that has just begun to turn brown? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the 'mood' of your autumn artwork if you decided to use a cool colour palette instead of a warm one? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Create a close-up drawing of an autumn leaf. Use at least three different patterns (such as cross-hatching, dots, or swirls) within the leaf to show its unique texture. Ensure your composition fills the entire space provided.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an art critic visiting Zara's gallery. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing how the composition of her autumn painting makes the viewer feel. Use at least four words from the word bank in your critique.