

Zara's Sketchbook Study: Mastering Tone and Texture

Learning objective: To explore sketching techniques, including hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling, to represent light, shadow, and texture in observational drawings.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to sketching. Choose a simple object from your classroom or home to observe closely. Use your pencil to experiment with different mark-making techniques to bring your drawing to life. Remember to look at your object more than your paper!

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Gradient · Silhouette · Texture · Proportion · Highlight

1. Subject Observation: Describe the object you have chosen to sketch. What specific textures can you see (e.g., smooth, rough, metallic, fuzzy)? (2 marks)

2. Technique Selection: Explain why you have chosen a specific sketching technique (like stippling or hatching) to represent the shadows on your object. (3 marks)

3. Comparative Analysis: Compare your finished sketch to the real object. What is one area where you successfully captured the light, and one area you would refine if you were to sketch it again? (4 marks)

4. Justification of Scale: Explain why it is important to consider the proportion of your object before you begin your initial outlines. (3 marks)

5. Predictive Thinking: What might happen to the mood or 'feel' of your sketch if you used smudged charcoal instead of precise pencil lines? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Creative Synthesis: If you were to draw this object in a different environment—for example, underwater or in outer space—how would the light source change your sketching technique? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Create a 'Value Scale' at the bottom of your page. Start with a square of white paper, and create five boxes, gradually increasing the density of your marks until the final box is as dark as your pencil can make it. Use this scale to check your tones as you draw.