

World Book Day Art: Vocabulary Reference Mat

Learning objective: To develop a sophisticated artistic vocabulary for describing, analysing, and creating illustrations inspired by literature.

Key Vocabulary

Use this reference mat to help you describe your artistic choices for World Book Day. The terms are grouped into categories to help you structure your critiques and creative ideas.

Illustration A drawing or painting that visually represents a story or idea.	Composition The way an artist arranges the elements of a work of art.	Perspective A technique used to create the illusion of three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface.
Medium The specific material used to create a work of art.	Texture The perceived surface quality of an object or image.	Tone The lightness or darkness of a colour, used to create depth and mood.
Palette The selection of colours an artist chooses to use in a work.	Contrast The difference between two things, such as light and dark, or rough and smooth.	Emphasis Making a specific part of an illustration stand out.
Foreground The area of the picture that appears closest to the viewer.	Background The area of the picture that appears furthest from the viewer.	Characterisation Using visual details like clothing and facial features to describe a character.
Atmosphere The mood or feeling created by a work of art.	Abstract Art that does not attempt to represent a recognizable subject.	Narrative The way an image tells a story or conveys a message.
Symbolism Using an object or colour to represent an idea or concept.	Justify why an artist might choose a particular style or technique.	Compare and contrast two different artworks.
Explain why the picture is effective.	What might happen next in the story?	Choose a favourite character and describe them.
If you were to create a picture of this scene, what would you include?		