

World Book Day: Illustrating Imaginary Worlds

Learning objective: To explore how artists use colour, texture, and composition to visually interpret characters and settings from literature.

Use your artistic knowledge to respond to these tasks. Think about how Zara the Zebra uses patterns to make her art pop, and consider how you can use different mark-making techniques to convey mood and atmosphere in your illustrations.

As World Book Day approaches, our friend Zara the Zebra is busy sketching new cover designs for her favourite library books. She believes that a great book illustration should tell a story before you have even read a single word. By using bold patterns and careful colour choices, Zara creates a visual world that invites the reader to step right into the pages.

Word bank: composition · texture · vibrant · contrast · perspective · shade · hue · atmosphere · focal point

1. If you were illustrating a scene set in a dark, mysterious forest, explain why you would choose a specific colour palette to convey the mood to the reader. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the effect of using 'vibrant' colours versus 'muted' shades when designing a character's costume. How does this change the reader's first impression? (2 marks)

3. Justify your choice for a 'focal point' in a book cover illustration. Why is it important for the viewer's eye to be drawn to one specific area first? (2 marks)

4. Zara uses patterns to add texture to her drawings. Describe two different mark-making techniques you could use to show that a character's coat is made of rough, thick fur. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the balance of an illustration if the entire page was filled with heavy, dark patterns? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Create a 'front cover' for a book about an underwater city. Incorporate at least three different patterns inspired by Zara the Zebra, and use a range of blue and green hues to create a sense of depth.



Extension challenge: Write a short justification for your design. Explain the artistic decisions you made regarding composition and colour, and describe how your illustration captures the personality of your main character.