

Creative World Book Day: Illustrating Stories with Zara

Learning objective: To explore how artists use colour, texture, and composition to represent narrative themes and characters from literature.

Read each question carefully and use your artistic knowledge to explain your choices. Think about how Zara the Zebra sees patterns and shapes in every story she reads!

Word bank: Composition · Primary colours · Texture · Perspective · Contrast · Narrative · Focal point

1. Zara is designing a book cover for a story set in a dark, mysterious forest. Explain which two colours she should use to create high contrast and why this makes the image more exciting for the reader. (2 marks)

2. When drawing a character, why is it important to consider 'composition'? Define the term and explain how placing a character in the centre of the page changes the feeling of the artwork. (2 marks)

3. If you were illustrating a scene where a character is feeling very brave, what kind of lines would you use (e.g., jagged, wavy, straight) and why? (2 marks)

4. Imagine you are drawing a wooden treasure chest for a story. Describe how you would use 'texture' to make the chest look like real, aged wood rather than smooth plastic. (2 marks)

5. Pip the caterpillar is tiny compared to the giant books he reads. If you were drawing Pip, how could you use 'perspective' to show the reader just how small he is compared to his environment? (2 marks)

Draw: Choose your favourite book character. Draw a scene featuring them, but add a 'Zara-style' pattern (like stripes, spots, or geometric shapes) to their clothing or the background to make the artwork pop!



Extension challenge: Research a famous illustrator. Write a short paragraph explaining how they use light and shadow to create a mood in their work. How could you apply their technique to your World Book Day drawing?