Zara’s Literary Masterpiece: Book Cover Design Challenge

Learning objective: To analyse the themes of a chosen book and translate them into a visual composition using colour, texture, and symbolism.

Zara the zebra invites you to become an illustrator for a day! Think about your favourite story. Consider the atmosphere, the main characters, and the key messages. Use this template to plan your own book cover design. Ensure your choices reflect the mood of the story and justify why your artistic decisions capture the essence of the narrative.

Word bank: composition · symbolism · atmosphere · texture · vibrant · mood · illustrate · perspective · contrast · narrative

1. Book Title and Concept: Identify the book you have chosen and describe the core theme or message you want your artwork to convey. (2 marks)

2. Colour Palette Selection: List the colours you will use for your cover. Explain why these specific colours represent the mood of the story. (3 marks)

3. Symbolism and Imagery: Describe one key object or symbol you will include on the cover. Justify why this symbol is important to the narrative. (3 marks)

4. Composition and Perspective: Explain how you will arrange your illustration. Will you use a close-up or a wide-angle view? Why might this choice engage a reader? (4 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: Compare your proposed design with the original cover of the book. What elements are you keeping, and what are you changing to add your own artistic voice? (4 marks)

6. Critical Evaluation: What might happen if you changed the colour scheme from warm tones to cool tones? How would that alter the reader's first impression of the book? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a promotional poster to accompany your book cover. Your poster must include a short, persuasive 'blurb' that uses sophisticated vocabulary to entice a reader, ensuring your visual art and written text work in harmony to create a compelling brand for the book.