

Zara's Colourful Garden of Stories

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying personal opinions within a creative writing context.

Read the story about Zara the zebra carefully. Then, answer the questions below to show how well you understand the text.

Zara the zebra is never bored. While other animals might just see a plain green field, Zara sees a canvas waiting for a story. She loves to sit under the old oak tree with her sketchbook. Zara believes that every great story starts with a tiny spark of an idea. Today, she is writing about a brave squirrel who discovers a hidden map inside a walnut. To make her writing exciting, Zara uses 'wow' words. Instead of saying the squirrel was 'fast', she writes that he 'zoomed like a shooting star'. She thinks about how the squirrel feels, whether he is nervous or excited to find the treasure. Sometimes, Zara gets stuck, but then she looks at the patterns on her own coat to find inspiration. She remembers that a good story needs a clear beginning, a middle where something happens, and a happy ending. By the time the sun sets, Zara has filled three pages with her adventure. She smiles, knowing that her imagination can take her anywhere in the world, all without leaving her favourite garden.

Word bank: imagination · patterns · creative · sparkle · adventure · character

1. What does Zara use to write her stories in? (2 marks)

2. What is the name of the animal that is the main character in Zara's story? (1 mark)

3. How does Zara feel about writing her stories? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. Why does Zara look at the patterns on her coat when she gets stuck? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Zara is a good writer? Explain why you think this, using information from the story. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the brave squirrel from Zara's story, including the hidden map and the walnut mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Choose one 'wow' word that Zara might use to describe a giant mountain, and write a full sentence using it.