

Grade 4 Art Assessment: The Art of Still Life

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of composition, light, shadow, and artistic technique within the Still Life genre.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help with your explanations. Ensure your answers are clear and written in full sentences where requested.

Zara the zebra is arranging a bowl of fruit and a silver teapot on a table for her latest painting. She spends time moving the fruit so that the light hits the side of an apple, creating a bright spot. She also thinks about how to arrange the items so they overlap, creating depth on her canvas.

Word bank: Composition · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Perspective · Form · Medium · Contrast

1. Define the term 'Still Life' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Zara is using light to create a 'highlight' on the apple. Explain why an artist uses highlights and shadows in a drawing. (3 marks)

3. What is 'composition' and why is it important when Zara arranges her fruit and teapot? (3 marks)

4. If Zara wanted to show that the teapot is made of smooth metal and the apple has a waxy skin, which artistic element is she focusing on? (2 marks)

5. Look at the objects Zara has chosen. If she places the teapot behind the bowl of fruit, how does this change the 'perspective' of the drawing? (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast: Why might an artist choose to use oil pastels instead of a graphite pencil for a still life piece? Consider the visual effect on the final artwork. (7 marks)

7. Plan your own still life. Write a paragraph describing three objects you would choose and explain why they would make an interesting composition, focusing on shape, size, and texture. (5 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, sketch a simple still life composition consisting of a book, a mug, and a piece of fruit. Ensure you include at least one light source to show where your shadows will fall.



Extension challenge: Total: /25