

Zara's Colorful Story

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and make simple inferences about a character's creative process.

Read the story about Zara the zebra carefully. Use your best handwriting to answer the questions below.

Zara the zebra loves to paint. While other animals might just see a plain white wall, Zara sees a giant, empty canvas waiting for a masterpiece. Every morning, she trots into her sunny studio with a heart full of ideas. Zara does not just use one color; she loves to mix bright blues, sunny yellows, and deep forest greens. She believes that every story needs a little bit of sparkle. Today, Zara is painting a picture of a magical forest where the trees have polka-dot leaves and the river flows with glittery purple water. She hums a happy tune as her paintbrush dances across the paper. For Zara, writing a story is just like painting. She thinks of a character, adds a splash of excitement, and weaves a pattern of words that takes her friends on an amazing adventure. She knows that as long as she keeps imagining, there will always be a brand new story to tell. Zara smiles, knowing that her biggest tool is her own wonderful imagination.

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

1. What colors does Zara love to mix in her paintings? (2 marks)

2. What does Zara paint on the trees in her magical forest? (2 marks)

3. How does Zara feel when she is painting? Use evidence from the text to explain. (2 marks)

4. Why does the author say Zara's paintbrush 'dances' across the paper? (2 marks)

5. If you could paint a magical scene like Zara, what would you include in your picture? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of Zara's magical forest. Remember to include the polka-dot leaves and the glittery purple river!



Extension challenge: Write one sentence about a new character who might live in Zara's magical forest. What is their name and what do they like to do?