

Zara's Abstract Art Challenge

Learning objective: To understand, interpret, and create abstract art by focusing on the elements of colour, shape, and texture rather than literal representation.

Zara the Zebra loves to see the world through patterns and abstract shapes. Look at the artistic concepts below and apply them to your own creative work. For the questions, use your knowledge of visual elements to analyse how abstract art conveys emotions and ideas.

Word bank: Geometric · Organic · Composition · Saturation · Asymmetrical · Texture · Contrast · Hue

1. Explain why an artist might choose to use 'organic' shapes instead of 'geometric' shapes when trying to express the feeling of a stormy sea. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a portrait of a person with an abstract painting of the same person. What is gained and what is lost in the abstract version? (3 marks)

3. If you wanted to show 'joy' using only colours and lines, which hues would you select and why? Justify your choice using colour theory. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the balance of an artwork if all the 'heavy' visual elements (dark colours and large shapes) were placed on one side of the canvas? (2 marks)

5. Critique this statement: 'Abstract art is just random scribbles and requires no skill.' Do you agree or disagree? Use evidence from your understanding of composition. (3 marks)

6. How does the texture of a canvas or the thickness of paint (impasto) change the way a viewer experiences an abstract piece? (2 marks)

Draw: Create an abstract artwork titled 'The Sound of Music'. Use only geometric shapes to represent rhythm and organic shapes to represent melody. Use high contrast in your colour choices to show the difference between a loud drum beat and a soft flute note.



Extension challenge: Research a 20th-century abstract movement such as Suprematism or Fauvism. Write a short manifesto (a statement of your artistic beliefs) explaining how your style of abstract art aims to change the way people look at the world.