

Autumnal Aesthetics: A Study of Seasonal Shadow and Light

Learning objective: To analyse the use of colour, tone, and texture in seasonal art, focusing on high-contrast compositions and the application of atmospheric perspective.

Read each question carefully. Use artistic vocabulary to justify your creative choices. Ensure your responses demonstrate an understanding of how light influences the mood of a composition.

In the late autumn, the landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation. As the sun dips lower, shadows elongate and the golden hour provides a high-contrast environment. Artists often use a mixture of deep, cool tones and vibrant, fiery colours to capture the essence of this transition, employing techniques like silhouette and layered textures to create depth.

Word bank: chiaroscuro · silhouette · atmospheric perspective · warm palette · cool tones · texture · composition · monochromatic · contrast · opacity

1. Define the term 'silhouette' and explain how an artist might use it to create a sense of mystery in a seasonal drawing. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the use of warm colours (reds, oranges) versus cool colours (blues, purples) when depicting an autumn evening scene. How does this affect the viewer's mood? (3 marks)

3. Zara the Zebra wants to create a piece of art that uses 'chiaroscuro'. Explain what this technique is and how it could be used to highlight a pumpkin in a dark field. (3 marks)

4. Justify why an artist might choose to use 'atmospheric perspective' when painting a misty woodland scene at dusk. (3 marks)

5. If you were to create a monochromatic piece of art using only shades of orange, describe two different textures you could use to make your work look more realistic. (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the 'focal point' of a painting if the artist used bright, saturated colours in the background instead of the foreground? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Critically evaluate the role of light and shadow in creating an 'eerie' or 'atmospheric' mood. Refer to the use of high contrast, the placement of objects, and the emotional response of the viewer. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Using your knowledge of composition, sketch a scene featuring a single, gnarled tree in a field. Use cross-hatching to create a silhouette effect and demonstrate an understanding of how light hits an object from a low angle.



Extension challenge: Research the work of famous landscape painters who focus on twilight. Select one piece of art and write a short paragraph explaining how they used light to guide the viewer's eye across the canvas. Total: /25