

Mastering the Impressionist Style: A Study of Claude Monet

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic techniques of Claude Monet and evaluate how light and colour influence the viewer's interpretation of a landscape.

Use this template to document your research and personal critique of a selected Monet painting. Examine the brushwork, the use of light, and the emotional response the piece evokes. Ensure your explanations demonstrate a deep understanding of Impressionist principles.

Word bank: Impressionism · palette · juxtaposition · ephemeral · en plein air · texture · vibrant · atmospheric · pigment

1. Subject and Setting: Identify the chosen painting and describe the physical scene depicted. Why might Monet have chosen to paint this specific location? (2 marks)

2. Technique Analysis: Examine the brushstrokes. How do the short, thick dabs of paint contribute to the overall movement and energy of the composition? (3 marks)

3. The Role of Light: Explain how Monet manipulates colour to capture a specific time of day or weather condition. How does this affect the 'mood' of the artwork? (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: If you were to paint the same scene at a different time of day, what specific changes would you make to your palette? Justify your choices. (4 marks)

5. Critical Evaluation: Zara, our creative zebra, believes that Impressionism is about 'capturing a feeling rather than a photograph.' Do you agree? Justify your answer with reference to the painting. (4 marks)

6. Hypothetical Scenario: What might happen to the impact of this painting if the colours were blended into smooth, invisible strokes instead of textured, visible ones? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Task: Create a 'colour study' of a local scene near your school. Using the 'en plein air' method, produce two sketches of the same object at different times of the day (e.g., morning and afternoon). Write a 100-word reflection explaining how the changing light altered your use of colour and line.