

Year 5 Assessment: Visualising Stories for World Book Day

Learning objective: To analyse how artists use colour, composition, and texture to represent narrative themes in literature.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art techniques and design principles to provide detailed answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use subject-specific vocabulary.

Zara the zebra is designing a mural for the school library to celebrate World Book Day. She wants to use a mixture of collage and sketching to show that books are portals to new worlds. Zara is focusing on the 'emphasis' of her piece by making the central book appear larger than the surrounding objects, using a technique called forced perspective. She is also considering the emotional impact of colour, choosing cool blues for underwater adventures and warm oranges for desert expeditions.

Word bank: Composition · Texture · Tone · Emphasis · Narrative · Primary colours · Contrast · Perspective

1. Identify two techniques Zara is using to create visual interest in her library mural and explain why these are effective in storytelling. (2 marks)

2. Explain why an artist might choose a 'cool' colour palette over a 'warm' colour palette when illustrating a scene set in the deep ocean. (2 marks)

3. Define the term 'composition' in the context of an illustration. How does the arrangement of elements influence the viewer's focus? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the effect of using charcoal versus watercolour paint when creating a portrait of a character. Justify which medium might better suit a 'mysterious' character. (4 marks)

5. If you were asked to redesign a book cover for your favourite story, how would you use 'texture' to hint at the plot without using any words? Give a detailed example. (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Imagine you are an illustrator commissioned to create a mural that depicts the history of storytelling. Discuss how you would use scale, colour, and space to represent the transition from ancient oral traditions to modern digital books. Consider how your artistic choices guide the viewer's eye across the timeline. (5 marks)

7. What might happen to the emotional impact of a piece of art if the artist chose to use only monochromatic tones instead of a full colour spectrum? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

8. Justify why an artist might choose to use an asymmetrical composition rather than a symmetrical one when depicting a chaotic action scene. (3 marks)

Draw: In the box below, create a thumbnail sketch for a book cover. You must include one example of 'emphasis' and use at least two different textures (e.g., cross-hatching for rough stone, smooth shading for clouds).



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Creative Extension: Research the work of a professional book illustrator. Write a short critique of their use of 'negative space'. How does the empty space on the page contribute to the overall narrative mood?