

World Book Day: Artistic Interpretation Flashcards

Learning objective: To explore how visual artists use composition, texture, and colour to represent narrative themes and characters from literature.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of artistic concepts used when creating illustrations for books. Work with a partner to discuss how these techniques change the mood of a scene.

Composition

The deliberate arrangement of visual elements within a frame to guide the viewer's eye through an illustration.

Focal Point

The specific area of an image that attracts the viewer's attention first, often used by illustrators to highlight a main character.

Texture

The perceived surface quality of an object in a drawing, created by using varying line weights, shading, or patterns to represent things like fur, wood, or water.

Colour Palette

The specific selection of colours used by an artist to establish the atmosphere or emotional tone of a story scene.

Perspective

A technique used to create the illusion of depth and distance on a flat surface, making scenes appear three-dimensional.

Narrative Illustration

An image that tells a story or captures a specific moment of action from a book, allowing the viewer to infer what is happening.

Contrast

The arrangement of opposite elements, such as light versus dark or bright versus dull colours, to create visual interest and drama.

Foreground

The part of an illustration that appears closest to the viewer, often containing the most detail.

Background

The area of an image that appears furthest away, providing context or setting for the scene.

Mood

The feeling or emotion evoked by an illustration, influenced by the artist's choice of light, shadow, and hue.

Explain why an illustrator might choose a cool colour palette for a mystery story.

A cool palette (blues, purples, greys) can create a sense of mystery, coldness, or calm, which helps set an eerie or quiet tone for a suspenseful chapter.

Justify why 'Composition' is essential when illustrating a scene involving multiple characters.

Without careful composition, an illustration with multiple characters can look cluttered. Effective composition ensures the viewer understands the relationships between characters and the 'action' of the narrative.