

Adjective Alchemy with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To identify, select, and refine the use of powerful adjectives to improve descriptive writing and create atmosphere.

Zara the Zebra is painting a mural, but her colours are feeling a bit dull! Help her upgrade her vocabulary. For each sentence below, replace the 'weak' adjective in brackets with a more precise, sophisticated, or evocative synonym from the word bank to improve the descriptive quality of the writing.

Word bank: dazzling · melancholy · colossal · ancient · vibrant · fragile · tumultuous

1. 1. The artist stood before the (big) canvas, ready to begin her masterpiece. Use a synonym from the word bank. (2 marks)

2. 2. The storm clouds gathered, creating a (loud) atmosphere over the savanna. Use a synonym from the word bank. (2 marks)

3. 3. Zara carefully placed the (old) vase on the shelf, whispering tales of long-lost explorers. Use a synonym from the word bank. (2 marks)

4. 4. The sunset cast a (bright) glow across the plains, turning the grass into liquid gold. Use a synonym from the word bank. (2 marks)

5. 5. Explain why 'colossal' is a more effective adjective than 'big' when describing a mountain. How does it change the reader's perception? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that Zara the Zebra might paint. Include at least three objects or creatures in your drawing, and label them with 'dazzling' adjectives of your own choice.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a busy marketplace. Challenge yourself to use at least three high-level adjectives that appeal to the senses of sight, sound, and touch.