Zara’s Portrait Masterclass: A Year 4 Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the techniques, proportions, and emotional expression used in portraiture.

Join Zara the Zebra for a quick quiz on the art of portraits! Answer all 10 questions to prove you are a master of facial features and artistic expression.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Proportion, 4.B, 5.True, 6.Expression, 7.D, 8.False, 9.Medium, 10.A. Teacher Note: Ensure pupils understand that a portrait captures the character of a person, not just their physical appearance.

Word bank: Proportion · Expression · Self-portrait · Medium · Feature · Sketch · Shading · Composition

1. 1. What do we call a painting or drawing that an artist makes of themselves? A) A landscape B) A sculpture C) A self-portrait* D) A still life (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: When drawing a face, artists often use a vertical line to help keep features symmetrical. (True/False) (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the term for the relationship in size between different parts of the face, like the distance between the eyes and the chin? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these is a technique used to create the illusion of 3D depth on a flat piece of paper? A) Colouring B) Shading* C) Framing D) Sketching (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: A portrait can show a person’s mood or personality through their facial expression. (True/False) (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the name for the way an artist draws the mouth and eyebrows to show if a person is happy, sad, or surprised? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

7. 7. Where are the eyes typically positioned on a standard human head? A) At the very top B) Near the chin C) In the corners D) Halfway down the head* (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Portrait artists only ever use pencils to create their work. (True/False) (1 mark)

9. 9. What do we call the material an artist uses, such as charcoal, oil paint, or watercolours? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these would help an artist show a person is feeling 'joyful'? A) An upward curve of the lips* B) A dark background C) Narrowed, straight eyebrows D) A pale colour palette (1 mark)

Draw: Using a mirror, create a self-portrait. Before you draw, measure the distance between your eyes and the top of your head to ensure correct proportion. Use shading to show the light source in your room.

Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use exaggerated features in a portrait instead of realistic ones. 2. Compare and contrast a portrait painted in the 1700s with a modern-day photograph; what do they both tell us about the subject? 3. Justify your choice of medium (e.g. pencil, chalk, or paint) for your self-portrait. 4. What might happen to the 'mood' of a portrait if you changed the background colour from bright yellow to deep navy blue? 5. If you were painting a portrait of a historical figure, what objects would you include in the background to tell the viewer about their life? 6. Critique your own self-portrait: which feature was the most challenging to place correctly and why?