

Class 4 Art Assessment: The Power of the Portrait

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of portraiture techniques, facial proportions, and the use of artistic expression to convey personality and mood.

Read each question carefully. Use your artistic vocabulary to explain your ideas clearly. For the drawing section, ensure you use light pencil lines first before adding detail.

Zara the zebra is creating a gallery of portraits featuring her friends. She notices that when she draws Max the monkey, she must pay close attention to the distance between his eyes and the bridge of his nose to ensure the portrait looks like him. Zara uses light shading to create the illusion of roundness on his cheeks and bold, dark lines to capture his excited expression.

Word bank: Proportion · Expression · Tone · Texture · Symmetry · Composition · Feature · Contrast · Shading · Perspective

1. When drawing a human face, where are the eyes typically positioned in relation to the rest of the head? Explain why this is important for correct proportion. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'expression' in portraiture and explain how an artist might use the shape of the mouth and eyebrows to show that a subject is feeling surprised. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a 'self-portrait' with a 'portrait of someone else'. What are the unique challenges of drawing yourself compared to drawing a friend? (4 marks)

4. Why is 'tone' or 'shading' essential when drawing a portrait? Describe what might happen to the appearance of a face if it were drawn without any shading. (3 marks)

5. Identify two different types of media (e.g., charcoal, watercolour, pencil) that an artist might use for a portrait. Justify why an artist might choose one over the other to convey a specific mood. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are commissioned to paint a portrait of Leo the lion. Describe the composition, colour palette, and artistic style you would use to portray his brave and gentle nature. Justify your choices using your knowledge of colour theory and line quality. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a portrait of a friend or family member. Focus on facial proportions (the 'rule of thirds') and use at least three different types of shading techniques (e.g., cross-hatching, stippling, or smooth blending) to show texture and form.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Research the work of a famous portrait artist. How does their use of light (chiaroscuro) influence the mood of the piece? Compare their style to your own portrait. What might happen if you changed the background of your portrait from a plain colour to a patterned, chaotic setting? How would that change the viewer's interpretation of the character? Total: /25