Mastering the Art of the Portrait with Zara

Learning objective: To develop drawing skills by observing facial proportions, features, and expressions to create an original portrait.

Follow the steps below to create a detailed portrait of a friend or a character. Focus on the placement of features and how shading can create depth and mood.

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person showing a specific emotion (e.g., surprise, joy, or concentration). You must include: 1. Correct facial proportions using the 'rule of thirds'. 2. Shading under the chin and nose to create depth. 3. Texture on the hair or clothing. 4. A background that reflects the subject's interests.

Label words: Proportion · Symmetry · Shading · Texture · Expression · Highlight · Focus · Composition

Steps:

1. Step 1: Lightly sketch an oval for the head. Draw a horizontal line halfway down for the eyes. Why is it important to start with a light, faint sketch before adding details?
2. Step 2: Add the nose and mouth. Compare and contrast: How does the position of the mouth change the 'mood' or expression of your portrait?
3. Step 3: Add the ears and hair. Label the 'Highlight' area on the hair where the light hits the surface.
4. Step 4: Use shading to create volume. Explain why using a range of pencil pressures (light to dark)

creates a more realistic effect.

5. Step 5: Add a background. Justify your choice of background: How does the setting help the viewer understand the personality of the person you are drawing?

6. Step 6: Review your work. What might happen if you drew the eyes too close together? Describe the effect this would have on the symmetry of the face.