Mastering Portraits with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To identify key techniques and terminology used in portraiture to capture likeness and expression.

Read the front of the flashcard to test your knowledge about creating portraits. Flip the card mentally (or check the answer provided) to see if you are correct. Zara the Zebra says: 'Look closely at the details to make your art pop!'

What is a portrait?

A drawing, painting, photograph, or sculpture of a person or animal where the face and its expression is the main focus.

What does 'proportion' mean in portrait drawing?

The size of one part of the face in relation to the other parts, such as ensuring the eyes are placed correctly in the middle of the head.

What is a self-portrait?

A portrait that an artist creates of themselves.

Define 'composition' in the context of a portrait.

The way the artist arranges the subject and the background within the frame of the artwork.

What is a 'profile' view?

A view of the face from the side, showing only one eye and one side of the nose and mouth.

What is the purpose of 'shading' in a portrait?

To show where light hits the face and where shadows fall, which helps to make the drawing look 3D rather than flat.

What is 'medium' in art?

The material used to create the art, such as charcoal, watercolours, pencils, or oil paints.

How can an artist show 'expression' in a portrait?

By changing the shape of the eyebrows, the curve of the mouth, or the angle of the eyes to show feelings like joy, sadness, or surprise.

What is a 'sketch'?

A quick, rough drawing often used to plan the basic shapes of a portrait before adding final details.

What is 'tone' in a drawing?

The lightness or darkness of a colour or a shade, which helps to create depth and mood.

Why do artists use 'guidelines' when starting a portrait?

To help them place features like the eyes, nose, and mouth in the right positions on the face.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns. What is a 'feature' of a face?

A distinct part of the face, such as the eyes, nose, ears, or mouth.