

Zara's Portrait Masterpiece: An Art Analysis Template

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and critique artistic techniques used in portraiture, demonstrating an understanding of composition, tone, and expression.

Welcome, young artist! Use this template to analyse a portrait of your choice—it could be a self-portrait, a sketch of a friend, or a portrait of a historical figure. Observe the fine details, think about the artist's intent, and use your most descriptive vocabulary to complete the sections below. Zara the Zebra is looking forward to seeing your artistic insights!

Word bank: composition · shading · expression · perspective · vibrant · silhouette · contrast · texture · foreground · background

1. Subject and Setting: Who is the subject of the portrait and where are they situated? Describe the environment surrounding them. (2 marks)

2. Technical Techniques: Explain how the artist has used line, tone, or colour to create a specific mood or atmosphere in the piece. (3 marks)

3. The Artist's Intent: Why do you think the artist chose this particular pose or facial expression for the subject? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: If you were to create a second version of this portrait, what is one major element you would change, and why? (3 marks)

5. Critical Reflection: Evaluate the success of the portrait. What might happen to the 'feel' of the artwork if the lighting was altered to be much darker or more dramatic? (4 marks)

6. Artistic Vocabulary: Select three words from the word bank and write a sentence for each that links directly to a feature of this portrait. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Portrait Brief' for a future masterpiece. Imagine you have been commissioned to paint a portrait of a famous historical figure. Write a 150-word proposal detailing the colour palette you would use, the physical pose of the subject, and the 'hidden' symbolic objects you would include in the background to tell their life story.