Zara’s Portrait Masterpiece: An Art Analysis Template

Learning objective: To observe and describe the features and characteristics of a portrait, using artistic vocabulary to explain how an artist captures a person's personality.

Choose a portrait of a friend, family member, or a historical figure. Study the image carefully and use this template to record your observations. Think about how the artist has used color, expression, and composition to tell us more about the person in the picture.

Word bank: Expression · Composition · Features · Personality · Background · Texture · Mood · Observation · Detail

1. First Impressions: Who is the person in the portrait? Describe their facial expression and what emotion you think they are feeling. (2 marks)

2. Feature Focus: Describe the physical details the artist has included. Look closely at the eyes, hair, or clothing. Why do you think the artist chose to highlight these parts? (3 marks)

3. Setting the Scene: What can you see in the background of the portrait? How does the background help us understand the person’s life or interests? (2 marks)

4. Color and Mood: Which colors has the artist used the most? How do these colors change the mood of the artwork (e.g., are they bright and happy, or dark and serious)? (3 marks)

5. The Artist's Message: If you could ask the person in the portrait one question, what would it be? Explain how their pose or expression makes you want to ask that question. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are the artist. On a separate piece of paper, sketch a self-portrait. Use one object in the background that represents a hobby you have, just like the portraits you have analyzed today.