Exploring the World of Abstract Art with Zara

Learning objective: I can identify, analyse, and create abstract art by focusing on shapes, colours, and textures.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look for shapes in everyday objects to help them think like an abstract artist.

Zara the zebra is visiting the art gallery and needs your help to understand abstract works. Abstract art does not try to look like a real person or place. Instead, it uses colour, shape, and pattern to show feelings or ideas. Look at the characteristics below and decide if they belong to 'Representational Art' (showing real things) or 'Abstract Art' (showing ideas through shape and colour).

Worked Example: A painting of a realistic bowl of fruit = Representational Art. A painting using only jagged black lines and bright yellow circles to show 'energy' = Abstract Art.

Word bank: Abstract · Representational · Geometric · Organic · Composition

1. A portrait of a person sitting on a bench in a London park. Is this Representational or Abstract? (1 mark)

2. A canvas filled with overlapping blue triangles and golden circles to represent a stormy sea. Is this Representational or Abstract? (1 mark)

3. If you wanted to create an abstract piece to show 'calmness', which colours and shapes would you choose and why? (2 marks)

4. Explain the difference between 'geometric' shapes (like squares) and 'organic' shapes (like blobs or leaves) in an abstract composition. (2 marks)

5. Zara is painting a mural. She uses thick, dark lines to create a frame and fills the gaps with bright, contrasting colours. Describe how this 'composition' might make the viewer feel. (2 marks)

Draw: A sketchbook page showing Zara the zebra standing in an art gallery looking at a large, vibrant abstract painting full of triangles and swirls.

Extension challenge: Find an object in your classroom or at home, such as a stapler or a robin feeder. Create a small 'abstract' version of it by breaking it down into only three geometric shapes and two primary colours.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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