Zara's Guide to Perspective: Creating Depth in Art

1. Foreground (1 mark)

Working: The passage states objects closer are larger and in the foreground.

Award 1 mark for the correct word.

2. Objects that are further away appear smaller to our eyes, so drawing them smaller creates the illusion of distance. (2 marks)

Look for: The child must explain that size relates to distance/depth.

Good: Because it is far away.

Better: Because things look smaller when they are further away from you.

Best: Because objects that are further away look smaller, so drawing them that way creates a sense of depth.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a simple statement to a clear explanation of the relationship between size and distance increases the level.

3. The horizon line. It is useful because it helps the artist place the vanishing point and shows where the ground ends and the sky begins. (3 marks)

Look for: Identification of the horizon line and its function in perspective.

Good: The horizon line. It helps you draw.

Better: The horizon line. It is useful because it shows where the sky meets the land.

Best: The horizon line. It is useful because it provides a guide for the vanishing point and helps keep the drawing level.

What moves an answer up: Adding the specific function of the vanishing point makes the answer more accurate.

4. You can draw the robin so that part of its body covers or 'overlaps' the shed. This makes it look like the robin is closer to the viewer. (4 marks)

Look for: The concept of one object obscuring another to show depth.

Good: Draw the robin on top of the shed.

Better: Draw the robin so it overlaps the shed, which shows it is in front.

Best: Draw the robin so that its body covers part of the shed; this overlapping shows the robin is in the foreground.

What moves an answer up: Using the vocabulary word 'foreground' and explaining the visual effect improves the answer.

5. 1. The path is wider at the bottom (foreground) and narrower at the top (background). 2. The path lines converge towards a single point. (5 marks)

Working: Observation of the provided scene description.

Award 2.5 marks for each valid observation.

6. The bus next to me would be in the foreground, so I would draw it large and with lots of detail. The bus far away would be in the background, near the vanishing point, so I would draw it very small and blurry. (10 marks)

Look for: Use of 'foreground', 'background', 'vanishing point', and size comparison.

Good: I would draw the close bus big and the far bus small.

Better: The bus next to me is in the foreground so it is big. The far bus is in the background so it is small.

Best: The bus next to me is in the foreground, so I would draw it large. The far bus is in the background near the vanishing point, so I would draw it tiny.

What moves an answer up: Using the technical vocabulary from the word bank correctly demonstrates mastery of the concept.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer uses the vocabulary words correctly and links the size of objects to their position in the foreground or background.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to hold their hand out in front of their face and compare its size to a tree outside the

window. Ask: 'Which one looks bigger?'

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the horizon line with the edge of the paper, or they may draw all objects the same size regardless of distance.