Zara’s Guide to Drawing Distance

Learning objective: I can use perspective to show that objects look smaller when they are further away.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look out of a window and notice how cars or trees look smaller the further away they are.

Today, we are learning about perspective with Zara the zebra! When we draw, things close to us look big, and things far away look tiny. This is called a 'vanishing point'.

Example: If you draw a row of oak trees along a path, the tree at the bottom of your page should be large, while the tree near the top of the page should be very small. Follow the sections below to create your own distance masterpiece!

Word bank: vanishing point · horizon line · foreground · background · scale

1. Foreground Planning: Describe three objects you want to draw very close to the viewer in the foreground. Why are they big? (2 marks)

2. The Horizon Line: Draw a straight line across your page to show where the sky meets the ground. Explain why this line is important for your drawing. (2 marks)

3. Vanishing Point: Mark a small dot on your horizon line. Explain what happens to the size of objects as they get closer to this dot. (2 marks)

4. Background Details: List two items that would look very small in the distance, such as a tiny house or a distant robin. (2 marks)

5. Refining Scale: If you draw a person 5cm tall in the foreground, roughly how tall should a person be if they are standing near the vanishing point? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a path that starts wide at the bottom of the page and gets narrow as it moves towards the centre of your page. Add trees or buildings along the path, making them smaller as they get further away.

Extension challenge: Try drawing a 'worm's eye view' by placing your vanishing point very low on the page. How does this change how big the sky looks?

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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