Zara’s Garden Sketchbook

1. A circular shape with light shading on the top half and darker shading on the bottom half. (2 marks)

Working: The student should demonstrate a smooth gradient or light pencil pressure to show light hitting the top.

1 mark for a round outline, 1 mark for smooth shading showing light/dark contrast.

2. A rounded shape covered in short, sharp, diagonal lines pointing outwards. (2 marks)

Working: The student should use 'hatching' (short, quick pencil strokes) to represent the prickles.

1 mark for a rounded body shape, 1 mark for using hatching/sharp lines to show texture.

3. A leaf shape with jagged or wavy edges and a central line with smaller lines branching out. (2 marks)

Working: The student should focus on the 'outline' and the 'detail' of the veins.

1 mark for the leaf outline, 1 mark for drawing the internal veins.

4. A trumpet-shaped flower with dots concentrated inside the centre to create a shadow effect. (2 marks)

Working: The student should use 'stippling' (dots) to create the shadow.

1 mark for the flower shape, 1 mark for using dots (stippling) to show shadow.

5. Rough, bumpy, or craggy. (1 mark)

Look for: An adjective that accurately describes the physical feel of tree bark.

Good: It is rough.

Better: The bark is rough and bumpy.

Best: The texture of the tree bark is very rough and craggy.

What moves an answer up: Moving up levels requires more descriptive vocabulary and better sentence structure.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer shows an understanding of how different pencil techniques create different visual textures. Pupils should focus on light pressure to allow for layering.

If your child is stuck

Ask your child to touch the object (if safe) or look closely at a photo. Ask: 'Does it feel smooth like glass or bumpy like a rock?'

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often press too hard with their pencils, making it difficult to shade or erase. They may also try to draw every single detail rather than using the requested technique to suggest texture.