Zara’s Guide to Sketching Magic

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look for shadows in the house and try to draw them using only light and dark pencil marks.

Grab your sketchbook and a soft pencil! To shade, try holding your pencil at an angle rather than upright. For example: press lightly for a soft grey, or press firmly for a deep, dark black.

■ Why is it useful to use different amounts of pressure when you draw?

■ Look at a local oak tree. How would you use 'hatching' to show the rough texture of the bark?

■ What happens to your sketch if you hold your pencil very loosely compared to gripping it tightly?

■ How can blending two colours or shades help make an object look round instead of flat?

■ Explain why artists often sketch a light outline before they start adding the final details.

> *Did you know? Did you know that the word 'sketch' comes from an old word meaning 'to dash off'? Great artists often use quick sketches to plan their ideas before starting a big, colourful painting!*

Key vocabulary: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Pressure · Blending · Texture