Zara’s Secret Sketchbook Skills

1. Zara should use soft, light strokes. (2 marks)

Working: The instructions state that using short, soft strokes makes it easier to rub out mistakes and build up an outline.

1 mark for choosing 'soft/light strokes', 1 mark for the reason (e.g., easier to correct or build shape).

2. A drawing of an oak leaf with a clear, faint outline. (2 marks)

Look for: The student has used light, sketchy lines rather than one heavy, continuous dark line.

Good: A drawing of a leaf.

Better: A drawing of a leaf using light, soft lines.

Best: A drawing of a leaf using light, soft lines that show the wavy edges of an oak leaf clearly.

What moves an answer up: Moving up levels requires demonstrating the specific technique of 'light pressure' mentioned in the instructions.

3. The right side. (2 marks)

Working: If the sun is on the left, the light hits that side, so the shadow falls on the opposite side (the right) to create depth.

1 mark for 'right side', 1 mark for explaining that shadows appear on the side away from the light source.

4. Short, dashed marks. (2 marks)

Working: Texture is created by varying the marks; short, dashed marks can represent the bumps or spots on a banana peel better than long, smooth lines.

1 mark for 'short, dashed marks', 1 mark for explaining that these marks represent the texture/surface of the peel.

5. A sketch of an object showing both curved and straight lines. (3 marks)

Look for: Evidence of two distinct line types used to define the shape of the chosen object.

Good: A drawing of an object.

Better: A drawing of an object using both straight and curved lines.

Best: A clear drawing of an object using light pressure, showing both straight and curved lines to define the shape.

What moves an answer up: Moving up levels requires applying the 'pressure' technique and the 'line type' requirement.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer shows the child understands that sketching is a process of building up shapes with light, controlled pressure rather than drawing one heavy, permanent outline.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to hold their pencil near the very end, furthest from the lead. This naturally makes their hand lighter and prevents them from pressing too hard.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often press too hard because they want the drawing to be 'finished' immediately, or they try to draw one perfect, continuous line instead of using short, soft strokes.