

Int.2 and Higher Expressive Essay Guide

When writing your Expressive Essay you must try to remember the following sentence

and to write about the following 9 points...

“Chocolate Cake Fills My Tummy Say St. Paul’s Pupils!!!”



- **The C in *chocolate* stands for... COMPOSITION**

Composition means 'putting together,' or the arrangement of the objects or subjects in a piece of art.

Is the composition symmetrical - the same sort of shapes to left and right, top and bottom? Or is everything placed to a certain side? Does the composition look busy and crowded or minimalist?

- **The C in *cake* stands for... COLOUR**

The types of colour used in the image, for example colours can be *soft and subtle* or *bold and dramatic*, *warm* or *cool*, *harmonious* or *contrasting*

How has colour been used within the image?

Do the colours clash or complement each other?

How does the use of colour effect the way the painting makes you feel?

If there is no colour in the piece and it is just black and white it could be called *monochromatic*.

If the artist has only used a small number of colours this could be called a *limited colour palette*.

- **The F in *fills* stands for... FOCAL POINT**

The focal point of the painting is the part of the painting your eye is first drawn to, it may be the darkest or lightest area or the centre point of the painting.

- **The M in *my* stands for... MATERIALS/MEDIA**

The material or media used to create the image for example it could be *pencil*, *oil paint*, *acrylic paint*, *watercolour*.

- **The T in *tummy* stands for... TONE**

Tone is the amount of light and dark or highlights and shadows in the image.

How has the artist used tone to create the image?

Is the contrast between light and dark dramatic or subdued?

Is there a definite light source in the image, what direction is the light coming from?

- **The S in say stands for...SUBJECT MATTER**

What is the painting based on, what is its subject matter or theme for example; it could be a still life based on a hobby or a job...what do you think it is about?

- **The S in St. stands for...STYLE**

Style refers to what the work looks like...does it look extremely realistic if so it can be called *photorealism*, if it does not look realistic but you can recognise shapes and form it could be called *semi abstract*.

Does it look very precise and controlled or is it loose and expressive?

- **The P in Paul's stands for...PATTERN**

Pattern is created by repeating any shapes or colours.

Is the pattern used obvious or unclear?

Are important shapes or colours are repeated to construct a pattern.

How would you describe the pattern? For example; *geometric or organic, irregular or regular*.

- **The P in pupils stands for...PROCESS**

Process is how the art work has been created or made

Does it look as though it has been created with a brush or palette knife (if the paint looks really thick), does it look thickly applied or can you see the canvas through?

Does it look like the artist has worked fast, slow? Why do you think this?

Has the artist used short brushstrokes or long brushstrokes?