Year 6: How can designers use layers to create depth and tell a story?

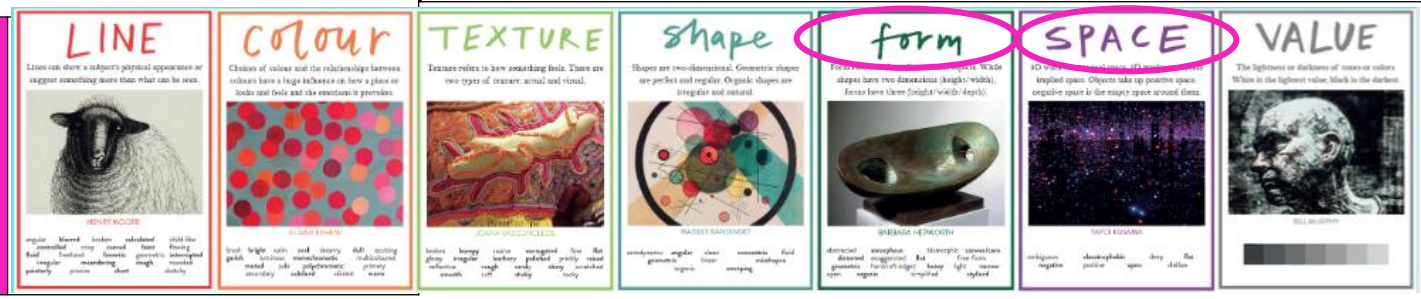
Subject Specific Vocabulary

layer	One part of a design placed in front of or behind another to build depth.
foreground	The part of the picture or scene that is closest to the viewer.
background	The part of the scene that is furthest away.
depth	How we show that some things are closer and some are further away
construction	How all the parts of a design are arranged and placed

Artist Appreciation & Formal Elements

How does Lizzie Clachan use different shapes and structures in her set designs? How do the spaces and layouts in her designs help tell the story or show what is happening? How does Lizzie Clachan use space to make the audience feel a certain way?

Formal Elements of Art



Lizzie Clachan (1986 - Present)







Name: Lizzie Clachan is British Set Designer
Dates: 1986 – Present
Famous for: designing creative sets for theatre productions. She creates the stage backgrounds and structures that help tell the story and show where the action is happening. Her work often includes detailed spaces and interesting layouts.
Inspired by: storytelling and how spaces can shape a performance. Lizzie's designs focus on building environments that help the audience understand the story, using layers, objects, and structure to bring each scene to life.

Lesson Objectives

A tunnel book is designed and constructed using layered card to create depth, structure and a clear visual story.

Designers must consider how layers, composition and viewpoint can be used to create depth and communicate a scene to an audience.

1. To learn about Lizzie Clachlan and understand how stage designers use layers to create depth.
2. To design and create a detailed background that shows the setting of my story.
3. To design and make the first foreground layer, showing important objects or scenery.
4. To design and build additional layers that add depth and tell more of the story.
5. To create the final front layer and carefully assemble all parts into a tunnel book structure.
6. To evaluate my finished tunnel book, explaining what worked well and what I would improve.