

Zara's Lowry-Inspired Patterns

Learning objective: To understand the artistic style of L.S. Lowry and apply his techniques, such as the use of 'matchstick' figures and industrial landscapes, to create a new composition.

Zara the zebra has been studying the famous artist L.S. Lowry. Look at the key features of his work listed below. Your task is to complete the 'Artistic Analysis' table by matching the Lowry technique to the correct description. Once you have finished, use the drawing prompt to create your own industrial scene.

Word bank: Matchstick figures · Industrial landscape · Muted palette · High horizon line · Atmospheric perspective

1. Matchstick Figures: Why did Lowry paint people this way, and what do they add to the scale of the painting? (2 marks)

2. Muted Palette: Lowry often used colours like flake white, yellow ochre, vermillion, Prussian blue, and ivory black. Why do you think he avoided bright, neon colours? (2 marks)

3. Industrial Landscape: Lowry painted the busy streets of Northern England. How does he show the difference between the buildings and the people? (2 marks)

4. Perspective: If you were painting your local high street in the style of Lowry, where would you place the horizon line to show lots of movement? (2 marks)

5. Observation: Look at a typical Lowry painting. How does the lack of shadows on his 'matchstick' people affect the mood of the artwork? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil and a limited palette (black, white, and two other colours), draw a busy street scene inspired by Lowry. Include tall, dark factory chimneys in the background, rows of terraced houses, and many small 'matchstick' people walking in different directions. Remember to keep the horizon line high so the ground takes up most of your paper.



Extension challenge: Research how much a Lowry painting might sell for at an auction today. If you were an art collector, what details would you look for to ensure a painting is in the 'Lowry style'? Write a short paragraph explaining your choices.