

Capturing the Industrial Spirit: A Lowry-Inspired Study

Learning objective: To explore the distinctive style of L.S. Lowry, focusing on the use of perspective, composition, and the 'matchstick men' figure style to represent an industrial landscape.

Follow the steps below to create your own Lowry-inspired cityscape. Focus on using a limited color palette and repetitive shapes to capture the rhythm of a busy town.

Draw: Create a landscape drawing on a white background. Use a pencil to sketch tall, blocky buildings with many small, square windows. In the foreground, draw a group of 'matchstick' people walking in different directions to show movement. Use geometric shapes for the architecture and ensure the scale of the people gets smaller as they move towards the horizon line to show perspective. Use a limited palette of grey, black, white, and one muted color (like a dull red or blue) for the buildings.



Label words: Industrial · Perspective · Matchstick figures · Atmospheric · Composition · Foreground · Background

Steps:

1. Explain why Lowry might have chosen to use 'matchstick men' instead of highly detailed, realistic portraits for his figures.
2. Compare and contrast the appearance of a modern city street with the industrial scenes painted by Lowry.

What are the main differences?

3. Justify your choice of color palette for your drawing. Why does using muted colors create a different mood than using bright, neon colors?
4. Step 1: Draw a faint horizon line. Label the 'Vanishing Point' where your buildings will seem to meet.
5. Step 2: Draw three tall, rectangular chimneys in the background. Label these 'Industrial Chimneys'.
6. What might happen to the 'feel' of your drawing if you decided to place the buildings in the foreground rather than the background? Explain your answer.