Zara the Zebra’s Lowry-Style City Scape

Learning objective: To explore the art of L.S. Lowry, focusing on his use of simple shapes, stick-like figures, and limited colour palettes to represent industrial landscapes.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns and art! Look at the pictures of L.S. Lowry’s paintings. He used simple shapes to draw tall buildings, chimneys, and tiny people. Your task is to look at the list of items below and sort them into two groups: things you see in a busy town or things you would find in a natural forest. Then, use the drawing prompt to create your own Lowry-inspired masterpiece.

Word bank: Chimney · Tall building · Tree · Sticky-man · Flower · Factory · River · Street lamp

1. Sort these items: Which three items would Zara draw in a Lowry-style town scene? (3 marks)

2. Lowry often used a simple colour palette. If you were painting a snowy town, which two colours would you use to keep it looking calm? (2 marks)

3. Look at the 'sticky-men' in Lowry's art. Do they look like they are running, walking, or standing still? (2 marks)

4. If you were building a tall factory like Lowry, what shape would you use for the base of the building? (1 mark)

5. Why do you think Lowry painted so many people in his pictures? Was it because the town was busy or very quiet? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, draw your own busy street scene. Remember to use tall rectangles for buildings, long thin lines for chimneys, and simple 'sticky-men' shapes for the people walking to work. Try to use only three colours for your final painting!

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny person in your drawing. Write one sentence or draw a speech bubble explaining where you are going on this busy day.