

Industrial Landscapes: The Art of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of L.S. Lowry, focusing on his use of perspective, colour palettes, and the depiction of industrial life in Northern England.

Zara the zebra is visiting an art gallery featuring the works of L.S. Lowry. Use your knowledge of his distinctive style to complete the following tasks. You will need to consider his use of 'matchstick men', muted industrial tones, and the way he composed busy urban scenes.

Word bank: Industrial · Muted · Perspective · Matchstick · Foreground · Background · Atmosphere · Monochrome

1. Lowry often used a limited colour palette. Explain why he might have chosen muted greys, browns, and off-whites to represent the industrial cities of the North. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the figures in a Lowry painting to those in a realistic portrait. Why did he choose to paint them as 'matchstick men'? (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Does Lowry's work focus more on the individual person or the collective community? Use evidence from his typical compositions. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the overall mood of a Lowry painting if the artist replaced the grey, cloudy skies with a bright, vibrant yellow sun? (2 marks)

5. How does Lowry use the placement of his figures to create a sense of scale and distance in his landscapes? (2 marks)

6. If you were to paint your local high street in the style of Lowry, which specific architectural features would you include to show the 'industrial' influence? (2 marks)

Draw: Create a sketch of your school playground using L.S. Lowry's signature style. Ensure you include his famous 'matchstick men' figures, a low horizon line to emphasise the buildings, and a muted colour palette for the background structures.



Extension challenge: Research the term 'Industrial Revolution'. Write a short paragraph explaining how the landscape of Britain changed during this period and why this historical shift was so significant to Lowry's subject matter.