

Zara's Artistic Analysis: The World of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the distinctive style, themes, and techniques used by L.S. Lowry in his industrial landscape paintings.

Use this template to explore the work of L.S. Lowry. Study a selected print of his work carefully. Consider how he uses colour, perspective, and his famous 'matchstick men' to capture the atmosphere of Northern industrial towns. Use your observation skills to complete each section below.

Word bank: industrial · perspective · monochromatic · urban · composition · atmosphere · matchstick figures · stipple · landscape · narrative

1. Subject Matter: Describe the setting and the activity taking place in the painting. Who are the people and what are they doing? (3 marks)

2. Colour Palette: Lowry often used a limited palette. Explain why you think he chose these specific colours and how they affect the mood of the piece. (4 marks)

3. Composition and Perspective: Look at the buildings and the horizon line. How does Lowry use lines to guide your eyes through the painting? (4 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: If you were to paint this same scene today, how would the 'industrial' elements change compared to Lowry's time? Justify your answer. (6 marks)

5. Personal Interpretation: Explain why you think Lowry chose to paint 'matchstick men' rather than highly detailed portraits of individuals. (5 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: What might happen to the narrative of the painting if the sky were bright blue and sunny instead of his typical grey/white tones? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Challenge: Imagine you are a journalist visiting the town in the painting. Write a short, evocative diary entry from the perspective of someone living there, focusing on the sensory details—the sounds of the factories, the smell of the coal smoke, and the bustle of the crowds. Use at least five words from the word bank.