Capturing the Industrial Spirit: The Art of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: I can identify the unique stylistic features of L.S. Lowry's paintings and apply them to my own observation of a local scene.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look at how buildings in their neighbourhood have shapes and patterns, just like Lowry did.

L.S. Lowry was famous for painting the industrial streets of Northern England. Look at the characteristics below and complete the tasks.

Worked Example: Lowry often used a 'limited palette'. If you were painting like him, you might mix a little black into your colours to make them look muted, rather than using bright, neon shades.

Word bank: Industrial · Matchstick men · Muted · Perspective · Atmospheric

1. Lowry is famous for his 'matchstick men'. Why do you think he painted people this way instead of adding detailed faces and clothing? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Lowry used a very specific colour palette. Circle the colours he would most likely use for a winter scene in a factory town: Bright Neon Pink, Slate Grey, Cream, Ochre, Electric Blue, Black. (1 mark)

3. Look at the horizon line in a typical Lowry painting. Does he use one-point perspective to draw the eye into the distance, or does he flatten the scene to look like a stage set? Describe the effect this has on the viewer. (2 marks)

4. Zara the Zebra wants to paint the village green near our school. List two features of the landscape she should include to make it look 'industrial' like a Lowry painting. (2 marks)

5. If you were to paint your local high street in the style of Lowry, what 'mood' would you create? Would it be busy and loud, or quiet and still? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: A landscape sketch of a modern street scene, but using L.S. Lowry’s style: simplified 'matchstick' figures, a muted colour palette of greys and ochres, and tall, dark chimneys or buildings in the background.

Extension challenge: Find a photograph of a busy street in London or Manchester. Try to sketch it using only five colours, focusing on the shapes of the buildings rather than the fine details.



I did it! **Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

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