Capturing Industrial Life: The Art of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: I can identify the key characteristics of L.S. Lowry's work and apply his techniques to my own artistic analysis.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look at images of Lowry's work online to identify the 'matchstick men' style before they answer the questions.

Read each question carefully. When asked to analyse an image, look for details like the 'matchstick men' figures, the muted colour palette, and the industrial landscape.

Example: If asked about colour, you might say: 'Lowry used a limited palette of white, black, red, yellow and blue to create a sense of the industrial north.'

Word bank: Industrial · Landscape · Perspective · Atmosphere · Composition

1. L.S. Lowry is famous for painting 'matchstick men'. Describe the appearance and movement of these figures. Why do you think he painted them this way? Give a reason. (3 marks)

2. Lowry often used a very specific colour palette. List the five colours he typically used to paint his backgrounds and buildings. What effect does this have on the mood of his paintings? (2 marks)

3. Zara is looking at a painting of a busy street in Manchester. How does Lowry use perspective to show that the buildings in the distance are further away than the people in the foreground? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

4. Lowry's paintings often show factories with tall chimneys. How does the inclusion of smoke and smog contribute to the 'atmosphere' of his work? Use evidence from your knowledge of industrial history. (2 marks)

5. If you were to paint your local town using Lowry's style, which three features would you include to show it is a modern place, while still using his techniques? Give reasons for your choices. (3 marks)

Draw: A detailed pencil sketch in the style of L.S. Lowry, showing a row of terraced houses, a factory with a smoking chimney, and several small 'matchstick' figures walking on a cobbled street.

Extension challenge: Research a painting by Lowry, such as 'Going to the Match'. Write a short paragraph explaining how the composition draws the viewer's eye towards the stadium, focusing on the use of lines and empty space.

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

Too easy? Try Greater Depth. Too tricky? Try Supported. More at bookflik.com/resources