



Laurence Stephen Lowry

Painter

Born: 1 November 1887

Died: 23 February 1976

ARTY FACT!

Lowry holds the record for turning down awards. He refused an OBE, a CBE, and a Knighthood, but he was happy to be made a doctor by 3 different universities.

Lowry's life

Laurence Stephen Lowry was born in Manchester. He lived there all his life.

Lowry began painting when he was 15 and he learned to paint in his spare time. He went to evening classes at art college for many years, so he was always surprised when people said he was 'untrained'.

When he left school Lowry went to work for a company which owned houses. One of his jobs was to collect rent from the people who lived in the houses (the tenants.) Lowry said that he enjoyed being out and about in the city and that he wanted to paint the things he saw.

"I'll always be grateful to rent collecting.

I've put many of the tenants in my pictures."

When Lowry was 65 he retired from the housing company and spent every day painting. By this time he was already a famous artist.

What makes Lowry special?

Usually people think of landscape paintings as being pictures of the countryside. Lowry chose to paint the city; the factories and the streets. He did not often paint the scene as he saw it in front of him. He would put different views together and paint from his imagination.

People loved Lowry's artwork because they enjoyed seeing everyday life in a painting.

Lowry did not always paint with a brush. Sometimes he used his fingers, pieces of card and sticks. To paint his pictures Lowry used only five colours:

"I am a simple man, and I use simple materials: Ivory Black, Vermilion (red), Prussian Blue, Yellow Ochre, Flake White... That's all I've ever used in my paintings."

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

- Can you find a painting by LS Lowry on display?
- What do you think the people in the painting are doing?
- How would you describe the weather?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Choose a building or place you would like to paint, what people will you include?

Prepare a board with thick white paint. Use just 5 colours to paint your scene. Try putting the paint on with your fingers, with a piece of card or with the handle of your paintbrush.