

L. S. LOWRY

Read this information about the British painter, Laurence Stephen Lowry. To answer the questions that follow, you'll have to use the clues in the text.

Artist – L. S. Lowry

Laurence was born in 1887. As a child, he did not have many friends. His mother had dreamt of becoming a famous pianist, but her health was bad after he was born.

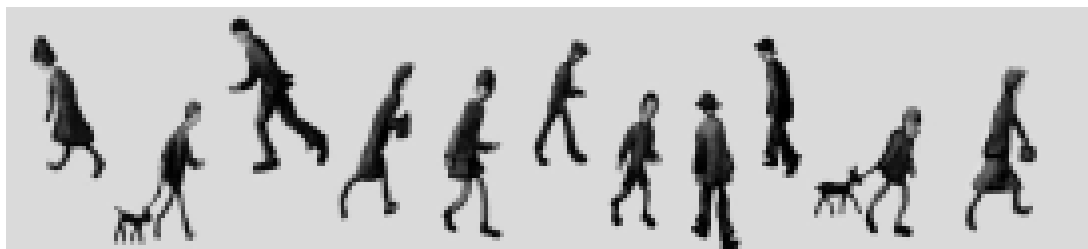


As a young boy, he lived on the edge of Manchester surrounded by trees. This became too expensive. The family had to move house. Then Laurence had to get used to seeing the smoke from factory chimneys rather than trees. Later, this was to become part of his art.

After leaving school, he studied art. He was interested in painting the landscape of factories, football crowds and working people that surrounded him. He is often described as painting 'matchstick men'.

His mother, who was ill for some time, died in 1939, before she could see how successful he had become.

He died in 1976. By then, he had done over 1000 paintings and 8000 drawings. Thirty-five years later, in 2011, one of his paintings sold for five million pounds.



1. Do you think Laurence had a happy childhood?

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2. Why do you think that?

3. What words tell you that Laurence's mother was longing to be a great pianist?

4. How do you know the family was not rich?

5. How did Laurence make use of the factories he saw around him?

6. Laurence's mother never saw what a famous artist he became. Why was that?

7. How do we know he spent a lot of time painting?

