

Notes and Illustrative Material from the New Stanley Spencer Children's Activity and Project Book

Notes for Parents or Teachers

This new Children's Activity and Project Book is filled with fun tasks that will give children a real insight into the work of a very great artist. It may easily help create enduring new understandings, interests and skills in your young ones.

Here are 5 ways your youngsters can happily stretch themselves whilst enjoying their successful achievement.

- 1 ***Having fun*** looking round the Gallery (if they are there), finding out 'what's what' and matching stickers to pictures.
- 2 ***Learning the importance*** of 'What's going on in the head of a great artist'. In Spencer's case, it was in part ***how he saw things*** and ***how he thought about things*** that made his work so astonishingly different from that of his contemporaries.

- 3 ***Discovering very special things*** about the way Stanley Spencer applied his genius in terms of form and colour.
- 4 ***Having a go*** Sticking the stickers, writing little thoughts here and there, making patterns and sketches, and '***colouring the Stanley Spencer way***'.
- 5 ***Making a 'Picture of people I love'***, 'borrowing' some precious ways of doing things from Stanley Spencer.

Have fun with your youngsters and do encourage them to enter the two lovely Competitions that are explained inside the Activity Book.

Shez Courtenay-Smith
Editor

Absolute best value may be gained from these booklets if your youngsters can visit the Gallery to see these astonishing paintings for real.

But if a visit is not possible, the booklets will still be rewarding, 'stretching' and memorable for your youngsters to complete.

A wonderful present for the little ones in your life!

Core age group 8 - 11

With material to suit younger and older children

This new publication for the Stanley Spencer Gallery has been tested on boys and girls aged 7-12, who have all found it engaging and fun.

All children enjoyed the sticker tasks and the drawing and colouring. Older children were able to reflect surprisingly deeply on the questions posed, whilst younger children sometimes needed a little help from adults. Parents commented on how their children had loved the booklet and gained understanding.

Parents please note that there is plenty of free material for younger brothers and sisters at the Gallery.

It's a lovely family outing, especially for a rainy day!

We know children adore stickers
so we included a lovely sticker sheet!

... And here are some samples
of the activity pages.

STICKER SET 1

Patricia at Cockmarsh Hill 1935. Stanley Spencer wanted the lady and the scenery in this painting to seem like part of each other. The lady's purple necklace is the same colour as the 'thistles'. It looks a lot like the purplish pathway, too. The lady's hair is a bit straggly like the small trees.

The Garage 1929 Here Stanley Spencer has painted a busy car repair workshop. Cars of that time looked different from those today, as you can see. The patterns on the tyres are also different.

At the Chest of Drawers, 1936. Stanley Spencer's wife reaches the top and bottom drawers at the same time. It's not easy! YOU try getting into this position!

Sarah Tubb and the Heavenly Visitors, 1933 In this painting, Sarah Tubb, sitting on the pavement at the centre, is feeling frightened, but angels calm her down and give her presents of things that she loves.

The Last Supper 1920. This famous painting by Stanley Spencer shows the well-known bible story where Jesus breaks bread and gives it to his disciples.

Portrait of Mr and Mrs Baggett, 1956-7 Stanley Spencer was asked to paint Mr and Mrs Baggett in separate paintings, but he decided to paint them together.

Girls Returning from a Bath 1936 These girls used the inner tubes of car tyres to help them float. Stanley Spencer thought that the tubes, all wrapped round the girls, made a very memorable scene.

Crossing the Road, 1936. The old man crossed the road every day to give a bone to a dog. Stanley Spencer liked to think that the old man was arriving at the gates of Heaven.

Separating Fighting Swans 1933 Sometimes male swans fight. Stanley Spencer wanted to show how angels watch over to protect us when we hold the swans' wings tightly to stop their fierce battle.

STICKER SET 2

JESUS

SHIRIN, Stanley Spencer's daughter

SYDNEY, Stanley Spencer's brother

Stanley Spencer's SISTER

PATRICIA, Stanley Spencer's second wife

Here is Stanley, walking with Hilda

Here is Stanley, reaching out to protect Hilda.

Here is Stanley with his paints.

Here is Stanley, watching Patricia dancing.

Here is Stanley, shopping with Patricia.

Here is Stanley, behind Hilda.

STICKER SET 3

Match the sticker to the painting

This may be the first time that you have seen the work of Sir Stanley Spencer (1891-1959), who was born in Cookham, worked much of his life in the village, and became famous right across the world for his amazing paintings. As a very first step, do have a look at the pictures all round the Gallery if you are lucky enough actually to be there.

Now match the stickers in Set 1 to the paintings on the next few pages. Each sticker tells you the name of the picture, the year it was painted and a little bit about it. We have done one for you so you can see how.

You'll find special boxes on some pages, too, for you to write things down, or do some drawing or colouring of your own.



CHOOSE THE RIGHT STICKER FROM SET 1



Stanley Spencer's scarecrow is very lovable.

Have a try at drawing your own lovable scarecrow in this box.

The Scarecrow, Cookham, 1934
Stanley Spencer loved the way that this old and lonely scarecrow seemed every day to become more a real part of the fields where it stood.

The Scarecrow is not on display until the last two months of the Exhibition.



CHOOSE THE RIGHT STICKER FROM SET 1

Do you remember the story of the disciple, Judas, who got Jesus into terrible trouble? In the painting of *The Last Supper*, put an X by the disciple you think is Judas. Why have you chosen this disciple?

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CHOOSE THE RIGHT STICKER FROM SET 1

Look at 'The Garage' painting and think about what the people are doing.

If Stanley Spencer asked you to add one person to this painting, what would your extra person be doing?

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Put an X in the garage picture to show where you would add your person. Now see if you can draw your extra person in this box.

See next page for some more examples.

People we love

Stanley Spencer filled his pictures with people who were important in his life or in his thoughts. On these pages you can see people who were especially important to Stanley Spencer. Choose a sticker from Set 2 to point to the people who were important to Stanley Spencer. We have done one for you so you can see how.



FIND THE STICKER FROM SET 2

HILDA, Stanley Spencer's first wife.



Stanley Spencer loved his sister, shown on the right hand side of this painting. Pop on the correct sticker to point to Stanley Spencer's sister.

Stanley Spencer loved this lady, Hilda who was his first wife. Pop on the correct sticker to point to Hilda.

Look to the right at the lovely pattern that Stanley Spencer made for Hilda's skirt.

See if you can make a different lovely pattern for Hilda's skirt in the empty box.



The disciples of Jesus have faces, all arranged in a pattern. Copy his picture and write on the lines below about how the faces make you feel.

Stanley Spencer used all these colours in this painting of himself, though some of them you can hardly notice.

See if you can colour in the drawing below just a little bit like the way Stanley Spencer did it.



Both of these ladies by the hedge have very long fingers. Copy this picture and write on the lines below about how the long fingers make you feel.

The lady helping the man on the road has a very long finger. Copy this picture and write on the dotted lines below about how the lady makes you feel.

Can you see a picture in the Gallery (or in this book) that has very long fingers? What is the picture called?

Can you think of a reason why Stanley Spencer would paint such long fingers in this painting?

Your 'Picture of people I love'

The floating clouds on this page will remind you of the things you have discovered about the paintings of Stanley Spencer. Why not try making your own picture of people you love below, using some of the ideas you have learnt from Stanley Spencer?

Say what your picture is about. Put a tick in the circle in each cloud if you have used that idea. You don't have to use them all.

This is a picture of

- STANLEY SPENCER LIKED TO PAINT PEOPLE HE LOVED
- STANLEY SPENCER LOVED TO PAINT IN BROWN COLOURS, SOFT REDS, GREENS AND CREAMY SHADES.
- STANLEY SPENCER LIKED TO PUT HIMSELF INTO HIS PAINTINGS.
- STANLEY SPENCER LIKED TO MAKE LOVELY PATTERNS ON PEOPLE'S CLOTHES
- STANLEY SPENCER PAINTED NOT HOW PEOPLE EXACTLY LOOKED, BUT 'HOW THEY MADE THEM FEEL'. Sometimes he made people very round or with extra long arms or fingers, but he always painted them in a loving, soft way.
- STANLEY SPENCER SOMETIMES PAINTED PEOPLE WITH THEIR ARMS STRETCHED RIGHT OUT ON BOTH SIDES.



No problem if you want to have a 'second go' to make the nicest picture you can for the competition. Just stick your new picture inside the frame over the top of your old one.

Lots of activities to enjoy, both in the Gallery and at home - and two great competitions to round it all off. Certificates for everyone who enters.

Contact us at.

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