



Large
Print

Second Nature

The Art of Charles Tunnicliffe RA

Information for
younger visitors
– blue labels

Do not remove from gallery

Who was Charles Tunncliffe?

Charles Tunncliffe was an artist who grew up on a farm. When he was a boy he helped on the farm as well as going to art school to learn to draw and paint.

He always loved nature and most of his pictures are of birds and animals in the countryside.

Nearby you can look at the books he illustrated and take an activity sheet.

The artist used the patterns he found in nature to make his pictures eye-catching. The patterns are in the birds' feathers but also in the landscape around them.

Can you tell where the birds are in each of these paintings? How has the artist changed the patterns to look like different textures?

Most of these pictures show life on a farm. When the artist was growing up, horses were still used for tasks like ploughing and pulling carts.

What other animals can you find in these pictures?

How many owls can you find in the gallery?

Tunnickliffe loved to draw birds. He remembered going on walks in the countryside at night when he was a boy. He would see the dark outlines of owls perched on the branches of trees and hear their calls.

Can you make an owl sound?

Would each of the owls sound the same or different?

These drawings were made for a Ladybird book called 'What to Look for in Summer'.

Top left

What is the man on the tractor doing?

What are the birds doing?

Top right

The birds on the sand are called "waders" because they stand in water.

Why do you think they have long beaks?

Bottom left

This picture shows sparrows in a corn field.

Imagine you are standing in a field.

What can you hear? What can you see?

Bottom right

This picture shows a mother moorhen with her chicks.

How many does she have?

What is different about the chicks compared to the Mum?