Draw on Black Paper

Reference | Visual reference | A4

Use this single subject to compare the dark ground, the lit areas and the strongest marks.



A single candle is shown on a dark ground. The lit body side is mid-tone; the opposite side remains bare black.

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Reference I Worked example I A4

Original prompt

Draw a single lit candle on black paper using the three-value method.



Answer

Leave the background and lower candle body as bare black paper; lay a soft mid-tone over the rounded body while keeping one side black; place the brightest mark on the flame and the lit edge. Squint to confirm the flame and lit edge are brightest, the body is mid-tone, and the shadow side stays black.

Reasoning

The method works because the black ground already supplies the darkest value, so the drawing is built by adding light in three ordered groups rather than shading down from white.

Check

Squint at the finished drawing: the brightest areas should be the flame and lit edge, the body a soft mid-tone, and the background and shadow side still black.