Sketchbook Drawings: Open-Ended Thumbnail Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Theme: quiet. Constraint: one continuous line. Draw two thumbnail boxes of equal size and choose the one that better shows quiet. Describe your boxes in words if you are not drawing.

Answer: A valid answer describes two boxes with equal dimensions, each using a single unbroken line, and chooses the box with more open space and slower curves as the better expression of quiet.

Reason: Quiet is open-ended, so many solutions are valid. The continuous-line constraint is checkable by tracing, and equal box sizes make comparison fair.

Check: Trace each line from start to end without lifting your finger; confirm both boxes share the same measured dimensions.

Task 2

Theme: small and large. Constraint: three values. Draw three thumbnail boxes and label the lightest, middle, and darkest areas. Choose the box with the clearest size contrast.

Answer: A valid answer shows three equal boxes, each with exactly three labeled values, and selects the box where the smallest shape and largest shape are most distinct in size.

Reason: The constraint limits values to three, which is countable. Size contrast is judged by comparing the smallest and largest shapes within each box.

Check: Count the values in each box; measure the smallest and largest shapes with a ruler or by eye and record the difference.

Task 3

Theme: waiting. Constraint: shapes must touch the box edge. Draw two thumbnail boxes and note which shapes touch the border. Choose the box that better suggests waiting.

Answer: A valid answer describes two equal boxes where at least one shape touches an edge in each, and chooses the box with a shape that touches the edge nearest the viewer as the stronger suggestion of waiting.

Reason: Edge contact is easy to check, and waiting can be expressed through placement and tension rather than a specific object.

Check: Mark each shape that touches a border; confirm the box dimensions match and that the chosen box has at least one edge contact.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Theme: rhythm. Constraint: repeated shape. Draw three thumbnail boxes using one repeated shape, then choose the box with the clearest rhythm. Write one sentence explaining your choice.

Answer: A valid answer shows three equal boxes with a repeated shape and selects the box where spacing or size changes create a readable pattern, supported by a one-sentence explanation.

Reason: Rhythm is open-ended, and repetition is checkable by counting the repeated shape. The explanation connects the choice to the theme.

Check: Count the repeated shape in each box; confirm equal box sizes; read the sentence and check that it names spacing or size as the reason.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Theme is visible without a written explanation.
- [ ] Thumbnail boxes are consistent in size and proportion.
- [ ] Value pattern uses a countable number of values when a constraint is set.
- [ ] Line intention is clear, whether bold or delicate.
- [ ] At least one alternative solution is sketched before choosing.
- [ ] Notes identify one specific change for the larger sketch.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?