Fall Drawing: Pumpkin, Leaf, and Acorn Construction Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a leaf four units long and two units wide at its widest point. Add a central vein and three side veins on each side. State your light direction and shade with parallel strokes.

Answer: A leaf shape with length four units and width two units, central vein from base to tip, three side veins per side connecting to the central vein, and parallel shading consistent with a stated light direction.

Reason: The exercise checks unit measurement, vein connection, and shading convention. Any leaf outline that meets the proportions and vein rules is valid.

Check: Measure length and width in units. Confirm every side vein touches the central vein. Confirm shading strokes are parallel and darker on the side away from the stated light.

Task 2

Draw an acorn two units tall including the cap. The cap should be about half a unit tall and the nut body about one and a half units. Add a small stem on the cap. Use the line convention.

Answer: An acorn with total height two units, cap height about half a unit, nut body about one and a half units, a small stem on top, dark outline, lighter cap texture lines, and parallel shading.

Reason: The exercise checks vertical proportion and the cap-to-body relationship. The stem is a simple addition that does not change the main proportions.

Check: Measure total height and cap height in units. Confirm cap sits on top of body. Confirm outline is darker than texture lines and shading is parallel.

Task 3

Arrange a pumpkin, leaf, and acorn on one page with at least one unit of space between them. Use the proportions from the guide. Record your unit size and the measured width and height of each subject.

Answer: A page layout with three subjects spaced at least one unit apart, each meeting the guide proportions, with recorded unit size and measurements.

Reason: The exercise checks layout planning, consistent unit use, and measurement recording. Spacing and proportions are the key criteria.

Check: Confirm spacing is at least one unit between subjects. Confirm recorded measurements match the drawn sizes within one half unit. Confirm all subjects are inside the paper margins.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Redraw one of your subjects with a different light direction. Keep the same proportions and line convention. Explain in one sentence how the shading changed.

Answer: The same subject with identical proportions and outline, but shading strokes darker on the new side away from the light, with a one-sentence explanation of the change.

Reason: The exercise checks understanding of light direction and shading consistency while holding proportions constant.

Check: Compare proportions to the first drawing; they should match within one half unit. Confirm shading is darker on the side opposite the new light direction. Read the explanation to confirm it matches the shading.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Construction lines are light and present before final outline.
- [ ] Proportions match the planned unit counts within one half unit.
- [ ] Outline is continuous and darker than interior lines.
- [ ] Interior lines (ribs, veins, cap texture) are lighter and follow the form.
- [ ] Shading strokes are parallel and consistent with the stated light direction.
- [ ] Self-check measurements are recorded or explained.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if the convention is followed and proportions are checked.

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