Halloween Art Project: Compose Pumpkin, Bat, and Haunted House

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A scene box is 20 cm wide and 14 cm tall. The sky line is 5 cm from the top. A haunted house is 8 cm tall and sits on the sky line. A pumpkin is 5 cm tall and overlaps the house base by 2 cm. Does the house top stay inside the box? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Yes. The house base is 5 cm from the top, so the house top is 5 + 8 = 13 cm from the top. The box is 14 cm tall, so 13 cm is inside the box with 1 cm to spare.

Reason: Add the sky-line distance to the house height to find the top position, then compare with the box height.

Check: Measure the sky line and house height on your drawing; the sum must be less than or equal to the box height.

Task 2

In a scene, the pumpkin is drawn after the house and covers part of the house base. The student leaves the house base line visible through the pumpkin. Describe the layering error and the fix.

Answer: The error is that the house line shows through the foreground pumpkin, so the pumpkin does not read as being in front. The fix is to erase the house line where the pumpkin overlaps and redraw the pumpkin outline clearly.

Reason: Foreground objects hide background lines. A visible background line through a foreground object breaks the depth cue.

Check: Trace the pumpkin outline with your finger; no house line should cross inside it.

Task 3

A bat is 3 cm wide and placed 1 cm above the roof. The roof peak is 10 cm from the top of a 14 cm box. Does the bat fit above the roof without touching the top edge? Use a hypothetical bat height of 2 cm.

Answer: The bat bottom is 10 + 1 = 11 cm from the top. The bat top is 11 + 2 = 13 cm from the top. The box is 14 cm tall, so the bat fits with 1 cm to spare and does not touch the top edge.

Reason: Add the gap and bat height to the roof peak position, then compare with the box height.

Check: Measure the gap and bat height on your drawing; the total must be less than the box height.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws the house, pumpkin, and bat all at 6 cm tall in a row. Explain why this weakens the scene and give one specific change using sizes and placement.

Answer: Equal sizes and a single row flatten the scene and make it hard to tell foreground from background. Change the house to 9 cm tall in the background, the pumpkin to 5 cm tall in the foreground overlapping the house base, and the bat to 2 cm wide in the sky above the roof.

Reason: Different sizes and heights create depth cues. The largest object reads as background architecture, the medium object as foreground, and the small object as distant sky.

Check: Check that the three objects have different sizes and occupy different vertical zones: sky, sky line, and lower foreground.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Scene boundary is drawn and all three required objects are inside it.
- [ ] Haunted house is recognizable and placed in the background.
- [ ] Pumpkin is recognizable and placed in the foreground, overlapping the house if needed.
- [ ] Bat is recognizable and placed in the sky or mid-ground with a clear gap from the house.
- [ ] Layering is clear: hidden lines are erased and foreground lines are heavier.
- [ ] Contrast is used so each object stands out; valid alternative styles are accepted.

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