Colored Tree Drawing: Canopy Layering and Seasonal Palettes

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A spring-palette tree has a canopy with a dark yellow-green base, a mid yellow-green layer, and a pale yellow accent. The trunk has a warm mid brown, a darker warm brown shadow band, and a pale warm light band. State the canopy layer order from first applied to last and the trunk band order from shadow side to light side.

Answer: Canopy order: dark yellow-green base first, mid yellow-green second, pale yellow accent last. Trunk order from shadow side to light side: darker warm brown shadow band, warm mid brown, pale warm light band.

Reason: Spring palette groups fresh yellow-greens with a warm trunk family. Applying dark to light preserves value order, and ordering trunk bands from shadow to light keeps a consistent light direction.

Check: Confirm the first canopy layer is the darkest and the last is the lightest; confirm three trunk tones with the shadow band darkest.

Task 2

An autumn tree uses orange, red, and gold in the canopy and a warm dark brown trunk. A student places gold as the base layer, red in the middle, and orange at the upper outer edge. Identify the value-order problem and give a corrected order using the same three colors.

Answer: The problem is that gold, typically the lightest accent, is placed as the base and orange, typically mid or darker, is placed at the light edge, so value order is reversed. Corrected order: red or orange as the dark base in the lower interior, the other mid tone over the middle, and gold as the light accent at the upper outer edge.

Reason: Canopy layers should run dark to light from lower interior to upper outer edge. Gold reads as the light accent in this palette, so it belongs last, not first.

Check: Squint test: the lower interior should be darkest and the upper outer edge lightest after correction.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A summer tree trunk is 13 cm tall on a 25 cm sheet. The mid brown band is 6 cm wide, the shadow band is 4 cm wide, and the light band is 3 cm wide. State whether the three bands cover the full trunk width and whether the widths follow the suggested proportion of widest mid tone, narrower shadow, narrowest light.

Answer: The bands total 6 + 4 + 3 = 13 cm, so they cover the full trunk width. The widths follow the suggested proportion: mid tone widest at 6 cm, shadow narrower at 4 cm, light narrowest at 3 cm.

Reason: Simple addition confirms full coverage. The proportion check compares the three widths in order.

Check: Add the three widths and compare to trunk width; rank the widths from widest to narrowest.

Task 4

A student draws a canopy with a dark green base, a mid green layer, and a light blue accent, and a trunk with a cool gray shadow band and a warm brown mid tone. Using the seasonal palette rule, explain why this palette is incoherent and propose one coherent seasonal grouping.

Answer: The light blue accent is an unrelated hue to the green canopy and the cool gray shadow does not relate to the warm brown trunk, so the palette mixes seasonal groups. One coherent grouping is summer: dark green base, mid green, light yellow-green accent, and a trunk family of darker brown shadow, mid brown, and pale warm brown light band.

Reason: A coherent palette keeps the light accent a lighter version of the mid tone and keeps trunk tones in one related family. The proposed summer grouping satisfies both conditions.

Check: Confirm the light accent is a lighter version of the mid tone and all trunk tones belong to one family.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Canopy value order runs dark to light from lower interior to upper outer edge.
- [ ] Three to four canopy layers are distinguishable and overlap partially.
- [ ] Trunk shows three distinguishable tone bands with a consistent light direction.
- [ ] All canopy and trunk colors belong to one seasonal palette group.
- [ ] Light accent is visibly lighter than the mid tone.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as different stroke patterns or softened band edges are accepted if value order and palette coherence hold.

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