Pencil Owl Drawing: Graphite Layering and Feather Stroke Practice

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Draw a perched owl with a pale face, mid-tone body, dark wing edges, and a shadowed perch. Use four graphite passes and feather strokes that follow the body and wing direction. Measure your x-height and use it to set stroke spacing.

Answer: Block the owl with 2H guides. Measure x-height at 4 mm. Apply a 2H pass over the body with strokes 4 mm apart. Add HB to wing edges and head shadow with strokes 2 mm apart. Add 2B to feather gaps and perch shadow with strokes 1 mm apart. Add 4B only at the pupil edge and under-wing crease. Keep the face pale by leaving paper white. Check with a squint test: the wing edges should read darker than the body, and the face should read lightest. Erase guides and refine the eye with a catchlight.