Draw a Fallen Angel: Wing Droop, Posture, and Shadow

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A figure axis is 32 mm tall with an x-height unit of 4 mm. Where do the shoulder line and hip midpoint fall?

Answer: The shoulder line falls 4 mm below the top, and the hip midpoint falls at 16 mm from the top.

Reason: Eight equal parts of 4 mm give 32 mm. The shoulder is one part below the top, and the hip is at the midpoint, four parts down.

Check: Add the parts: 4 mm for the shoulder and 16 mm for the hip. Confirm both values are within the 32 mm axis.

Task 2

Light comes from the upper right. A wing tip is low on the left side. In which direction should the cast shadow extend, and where should the darkest shading sit?

Answer: The cast shadow extends to the lower left, and the darkest shading sits on the left side and under the wings.

Reason: The shadow falls opposite the light, so upper-right light gives a lower-left shadow. The dark tone belongs on the side away from the light.

Check: Trace a line from the light source through the figure to the ground; the shadow should continue on the opposite side.

Task 3

A drawing shows both wings with identical 30-degree droop and a shadow directly beneath the feet. Name two fixes that improve the fallen angel reading.

Answer: Make one wing droop more steeply, and move the shadow to one side opposite a stated light direction.

Reason: Asymmetry suggests weight, and a side shadow agrees with a single light direction instead of a directly overhead source.

Check: View the silhouette from a distance: the wing tips should differ in height, and the shadow should touch the feet and extend to one side.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A figure is 40 mm tall with a 5 mm x-height unit. The planned wing span is one and a half figure-heights. What is the span in millimetres, and how does it compare to the shadow length of one figure-height?

Answer: The wing span is 60 mm, which is 20 mm longer than the 40 mm shadow length.

Reason: One and a half times 40 mm is 60 mm. The shadow is one figure-height, 40 mm, so the difference is 20 mm.

Check: Multiply 40 by 1.5 to get 60, then subtract 40 to confirm the 20 mm difference.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Figure axis is divided into eight equal parts using a stated x-height unit.
- [ ] Wing roots attach at the shoulder blades, not the neck or head.
- [ ] Wing tips sit lower than wing roots, with visible asymmetry between wings.
- [ ] Posture shows a forward lean and a bent knee, reading as grounded.
- [ ] One light direction is stated and the cast shadow falls opposite it.
- [ ] Shading uses at most two values and preserves a clear silhouette.
- [ ] No halo or standing angel pose; religious iconography stays within silhouette.

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