Realistic Pumpkin Drawing: Rib Shading, Stem Texture, and Cast Shadow

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A pumpkin oval is 10 cm wide and 6 cm tall. The light is from the upper right. On a left-side rib, where should the light value and dark value go? Where should the cast shadow fall?

Answer: Light value on the upper-right edge of the left-side rib; dark value on the lower-left edge and crease. Cast shadow falls to the lower left, touching the base.

Reason: Light from upper right means surfaces facing upper right are lighter. A left-side rib faces away on its lower-left side, so that side is darker. The cast shadow is opposite the light, to the lower left.

Check: Squint: the left-side rib should be lightest at upper right and darkest at lower left; the cast shadow should touch the base on the lower left.

Task 2

A student draws eight rib lines on a pumpkin but two lines cross near the top pole. Describe how to fix the construction and what to check at the poles.

Answer: Erase the crossing lines and redraw each rib from the top pole to the bottom pole so lines converge without crossing. Check that every rib meets both poles and that spacing at the equator is even.

Reason: Rib lines represent ridges that run from pole to pole. Crossing lines break the form and confuse the shading. Converging at the poles keeps the flattened-sphere structure readable.

Check: Trace each rib line with a finger: it should start at the top pole, bow outward at the equator, and end at the bottom pole without touching another line except at the poles.

Task 3

A pumpkin is lit from the upper left. The cast shadow is drawn as a small circle directly under the pumpkin, not touching the base. Identify the mistake and describe the corrected cast shadow.

Answer: The cast shadow is misplaced and detached. It should touch the pumpkin's base and extend to the lower right, darkest near the base and fading outward.

Reason: A cast shadow falls opposite the light and is anchored where the object meets the ground. A detached circle under the pumpkin contradicts the light direction and floats the object.

Check: Check that the cast shadow touches the base and lies on the side opposite the light. Squint: the pumpkin should look grounded, not floating.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A stem is drawn with horizontal strokes across its width. The light is from the upper left. Describe how to change the strokes and where to keep the stem lighter and darker.

Answer: Change strokes to run along the stem's length, varying length and pressure. Keep the upper-left side of the stem lighter and add denser strokes on the lower-right side and near the base recess.

Reason: Stem texture should follow the stem's vertical ridges. Strokes along the length suggest those ridges. The light direction determines which side stays lighter.

Check: Look at the stem: strokes should run roughly top to bottom, and the upper-left side should be visibly lighter than the lower-right side.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pumpkin body reads as a flattened sphere with ribs that converge at top and bottom poles.
- [ ] Rib shading uses at least three values per rib and shows a consistent light direction.
- [ ] Crease shadows separate ribs without hard outlines on every rib.
- [ ] Stem texture strokes follow the stem's length and respect the light direction.
- [ ] Cast shadow touches the pumpkin base and falls opposite the light direction.
- [ ] Overall drawing reads as a realistic single pumpkin, not a cartoon or a scene.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: rib count from six to sixteen, any consistent light direction, and varied stem shapes are acceptable if the form and shading logic hold.

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