Pencil Sketch Cat: Fur Strokes and Tonal Layering

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

On scrap paper, create a five-step value strip. Label steps 1 to 5. Then draw a small oval and fill it with step 1 strokes only, following the outward convention.

Answer: A labeled strip with five distinct values and an oval filled with light, directional strokes.

Reason: This builds control of pressure and establishes the lightest layer before darker tones.

Check: Compare strip steps for clear difference; check oval strokes flow outward consistently.

Task 2

Draw a cat head outline with ears. Add step 1 strokes over the whole head, then step 3 strokes inside both ears and under the chin. Do not use step 5.

Answer: Head outline with light overall strokes and darker step 3 in ears and under chin.

Reason: Practices layering and shadow placement without over-darkening.

Check: Verify step 3 areas match the strip's middle value and no step 5 appears.

Task 3

Sketch a shoulder slope below a head outline. Apply step 1 strokes downward and outward, then add step 3 along the lower edge. Taper stroke ends at the boundary.

Answer: Shoulder slope with directional strokes and tapered edges, step 3 at lower edge.

Reason: Trains fur direction on the body and edge control.

Check: Check strokes follow downward-outward convention and edges taper without harsh lines.

Task 4

Complete a small cat head and shoulders using all five steps. Use step 5 only in the deepest crevices. Compare to your value strip and adjust with a kneaded eraser if needed.

Answer: A layered sketch with five values, darkest only in crevices, and adjusted values.

Reason: Integrates direction, layering, and value control in a complete study.

Check: Compare each zone to the strip; confirm step 5 is limited to crevices and edges are soft.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Value strip has five distinct labeled steps.
- [ ] Fur strokes follow the defined direction convention or a documented valid alternative.
- [ ] Tonal layers progress from light to dark without premature dark strokes.
- [ ] Shadow zones under chin and inside ears show step 3 or darker.
- [ ] Edges are tapered and outline is faint.
- [ ] Drawing remains clean without smudging.

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