Pencil Scary Scene: Doorway, Shadows, and Silhouette

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 10 cm by 14 cm rectangle, place a doorway 3 cm from the right edge, 5 cm tall and 3 cm wide. Put a silhouette just inside the doorway, overlapping its left edge. Mark a floor shadow band 2 cm deep. Describe the placement and the value order using hypothetical passes: doorway 4, silhouette 3, floor 2, wall 1.

Answer: Doorway off-center right, 5/14 of the height. Silhouette overlaps the left doorway edge and stands on the threshold. Floor band 2 cm deep toward the viewer. Values: wall 1, floor 2, silhouette 3, doorway 4. A lighter rim separates the silhouette from the doorway.

Reason: Off-center placement creates unease; overlapping the doorway ties the silhouette to the focal point; gradual values keep the silhouette readable.

Check: Measure the doorway distance from the right edge and its height against the rectangle. Squint to confirm the silhouette separates from the doorway and the floor band is visible.

Task 2

A scene has a doorway centered and a silhouette floating 2 cm above the floor line. The doorway and silhouette are both shaded with 5 passes. List two fixes and state the new value order using hypothetical passes: doorway 5, silhouette 4, floor 3, wall 1.

Answer: Fix 1: move the doorway off-center. Fix 2: ground the silhouette on the floor line. New order: wall 1, floor 3, silhouette 4, doorway 5, with a lighter rim where they overlap.

Reason: Centering is static; floating breaks the ground plane; equal values collapse the silhouette into the doorway.

Check: Confirm the doorway is not centered, the silhouette touches the floor line, and squinting still shows three distinct values.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Design a scene on a 12 cm by 18 cm rectangle. The doorway is 5 cm tall and 4 cm wide, placed 3 cm from the left edge. The silhouette stands inside the doorway, overlapping the right edge, and is 4 cm tall. The floor band is 3 cm deep. Assign hypothetical passes: doorway 5, silhouette 4, floor 2, wall 1. Describe one lighter area and where it sits.

Answer: Doorway off-center left, 5/18 of the height. Silhouette 4 cm tall inside the doorway, overlapping the right edge, grounded on the threshold. Floor band 3 cm deep. Values: wall 1, floor 2, silhouette 4, doorway 5. The lighter area is the wall near the top-left, kept at 1 pass.

Reason: The lighter wall area gives contrast; the silhouette is between floor and doorway in value; grounding and overlap tie the shapes together.

Check: Measure doorway height and silhouette height against the rectangle. Squint to confirm the top-left wall remains lighter and the silhouette separates from the doorway.

Task 4

A drawing has a doorway 6 cm tall on a 16 cm tall rectangle, a silhouette overlapping the doorway edge, and a floor band 4 cm deep. The doorway uses 5 passes, the silhouette 5 passes, the floor 3 passes, and the wall 1 pass. Identify the main problem and propose a corrected value order with a lighter rim.

Answer: Problem: doorway and silhouette share 5 passes, so the silhouette disappears. Corrected order: wall 1, floor 3, silhouette 4, doorway 5, plus a lighter rim at the overlap.

Reason: Equal values collapse the silhouette into the doorway; a stepped order and rim restore separation.

Check: Squint to see whether the silhouette reads against the doorway. If not, lighten the rim or adjust one value by one pass.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Doorway is off-center and occupies a plausible proportion of the scene.
- [ ] Three shadow zones are present and step gradually in value.
- [ ] Silhouette overlaps the doorway edge or stands just inside it.
- [ ] Silhouette is grounded on the floor line or threshold.
- [ ] At least one lighter area remains for contrast.
- [ ] Silhouette outline is simple and mostly flat.
- [ ] Doorway edge is crisper on the lit side and softer on the shadowed side.
- [ ] Scene reads when squinting: doorway, silhouette, and shadow band remain distinguishable.

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