Realistic Cherry Blossom Drawing: Petal Shading Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single five-petal bloom with light from the upper right. Shade only with values 1, 2, and 3. Describe where each value goes on the petal that faces away from the light.

Answer: The petal facing away from the light has value 2 on its upper edge and value 3 on its lower, more turned-away side; the lit side of the bloom stays at value 1.

Reason: A cupped petal darkens gradually as its surface turns from the light, so the shadow side moves from 2 to 3 without needing value 4 or 5.

Check: Compare the shaded petal to a five-step value scale and confirm that no area is darker than value 3 and that the light direction is consistent.

Task 2

Two petals overlap at the lower left of a bloom. Describe how to shade the overlap so the front petal reads clearly without a heavy outline.

Answer: Give the front petal a slightly firmer edge and place a narrow value 3 shadow on the petal behind it, following the front petal's curve.

Reason: The shadow under an overlap shows depth, while a firm but not dark edge separates the petals without an outline.

Check: Check that the shadow is narrow, follows the front petal's shape, and stays at value 3 or lighter; the edge should not be a uniform dark line.

Task 3

A bloom center is drawn as a dark circle. Revise the plan using values 1 to 3 and thin stamens. State what changes.

Answer: Replace the dark circle with a small center at value 2, add short value 2 or 3 marks for texture, and draw thin stamens radiating outward without heavy shading.

Reason: Cherry blossom centers are small and light; dark solid shading makes the bloom look heavy and hides the stamens.

Check: Confirm the center is small, no darker than value 3, and that stamens are thin lines rather than shaded shapes.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You have shaded a bloom but the lit side and shadow side look almost the same. Using the value scale, describe two adjustments that restore readable form.

Answer: Lighten the lit side to value 1 or a very light 2, and deepen the shadow side gradually to value 3 where the petals turn away; keep value 4 only for a small crease if needed.

Reason: Readable form depends on a clear difference between lit and shadow sides, not on adding more layers everywhere.

Check: Squint at the drawing and check that one side reads lighter; then compare both sides to the value scale to confirm the range is 1 to 3 with only small darker accents.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Bloom form: five petals with notched tips and a small center are clearly readable.
- [ ] Shading logic: values follow one consistent light direction and the cup of each petal.
- [ ] Value range: most of the bloom sits between values 1 and 3, with value 4 only in small creases or overlaps.
- [ ] Edge control: petal edges are soft except at overlaps, where separation is clear but not harsh.
- [ ] Center treatment: the center is small, light, and textured rather than a dark blob.
- [ ] Alternative styles: valid variations in petal shape, stroke direction, and blending are accepted if the shading logic and value range remain checkable.

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