Practice Realistic Comic Book Faces: Proportions, Features, and Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

An oval is 12 cm tall. Using the halfway convention, calculate the eye line, nose line, and mouth line distances from the top.

Answer: Eye line 6 cm; nose line 9 cm; mouth line 10.5 cm.

Reason: Eye line is half of 12. Nose line is halfway between 6 and 12, which is 9. Mouth line is halfway between 9 and 12, which is 10.5.

Check: Measure each distance with a ruler; each should match the calculated value within 5 mm.

Task 2

A face oval is 8 cm wide at the eye line. Using five equal eye-widths, what is one eye-width, and where do the two eyes sit?

Answer: One eye-width is 1.6 cm. Eyes sit in the second and fourth widths, from 1.6 to 3.2 cm and from 4.8 to 6.4 cm.

Reason: 8 divided by 5 equals 1.6. The second width spans 1.6 to 3.2; the fourth spans 4.8 to 6.4.

Check: Measure the eye widths and gaps; each should be about 1.6 cm within 3 mm.

Task 3

A drawing has the eye line at 4.8 cm from the top of a 10 cm oval. Is this within the 5 mm tolerance? What adjustment is needed?

Answer: Yes, it is within tolerance because the midpoint is 5 cm and the difference is 0.2 cm. No adjustment is needed.

Reason: The midpoint of 10 cm is 5 cm. The difference is 5 minus 4.8 equals 0.2 cm, which is less than 0.5 cm.

Check: Subtract the measured eye line from the midpoint; confirm the result is 0.5 cm or less.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A face is shaded with light from the upper left. Which areas should receive medium tone, and how do you check consistency?

Answer: Medium tone goes under the brow ridge and under the jaw line on the shadow side. Check by squinting to confirm one light side and one shadow side.

Reason: The brow and jaw planes face away from an upper-left light, so they receive medium tone. A single light direction keeps shadows on the opposite side.

Check: Squint at the drawing; the light side should stay light and the shadow side should show the three plane tones without contradiction.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Eye line is within 5 mm of the oval midpoint.
- [ ] Nose line is within 5 mm of halfway between eye line and bottom.
- [ ] Mouth line is within 5 mm of halfway between nose line and bottom.
- [ ] Eyes sit on the eye line with about five eye-widths across the face.
- [ ] Nose base sits on the nose line and mouth sits on the mouth line.
- [ ] Shading uses cheek, jaw, and brow planes with one light direction.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in feature shape and letter style are accepted if proportions and plane logic hold.

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