Grayscale Shark Value Study: Tonal Drawing Guide

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: A shark is lit from the upper left. The back is value 3, the midline is value 5, and the belly is value 8. A pectoral fin projecting from the side casts a shadow onto the body just behind and below it. What value should the shadow under the fin be, and why?

Answer: The shadow under the fin should be value 8 or 9, darker than the surrounding back tone (value 3). A cast shadow is darker than the surface it falls on because the fin blocks additional light. Using value 8 or 9 creates a clear separation between the fin and the back, while staying consistent with the belly value of 8.