

Overlapping

When things overlap in your artwork, the viewer instantly knows what's in front and what's behind. Just place one element slightly over another, like shapes, photos, or washi tape and your page will feel more three-dimensional. It's an easy trick that adds instant depth!

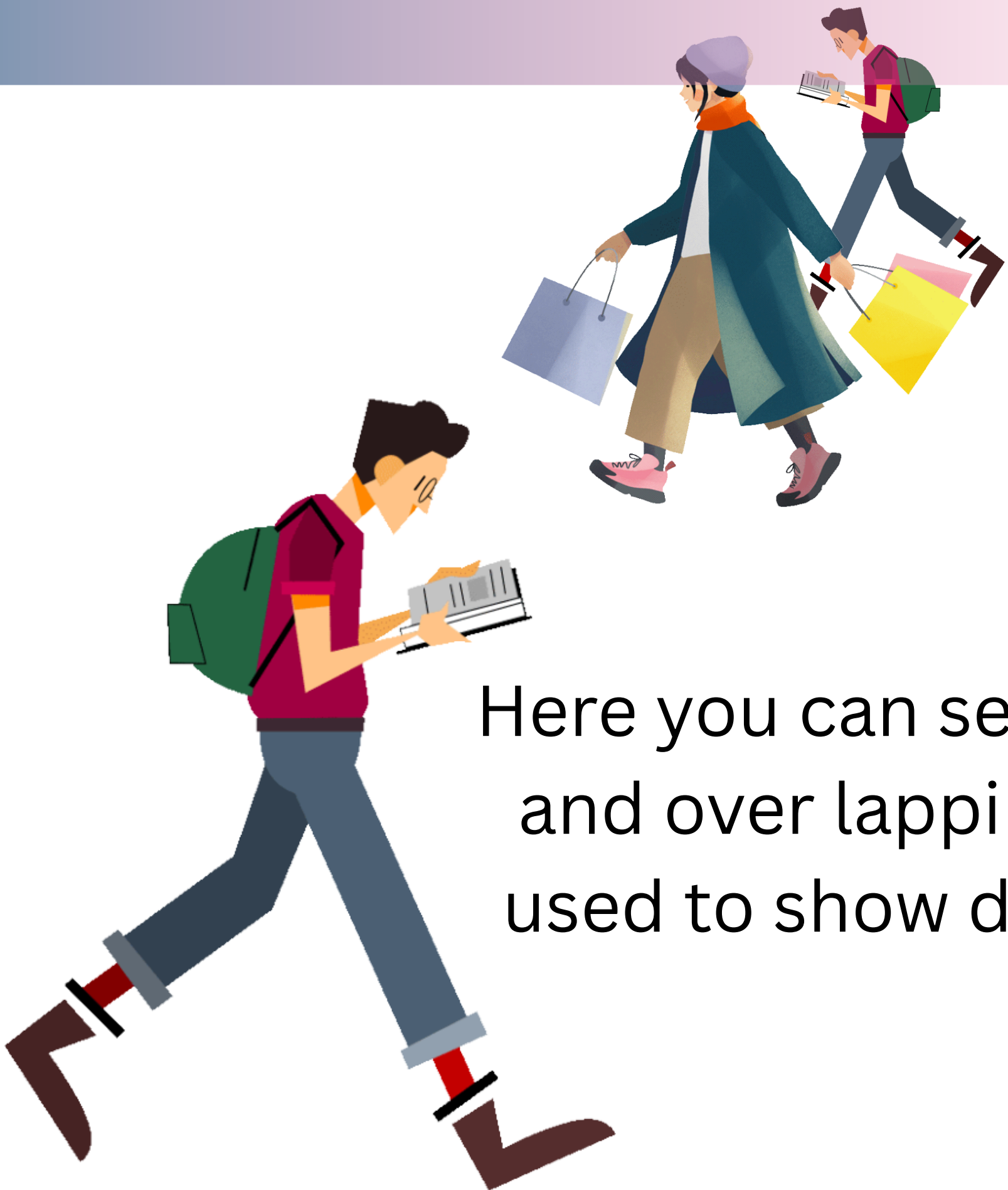


Size

Size creates depth. Bigger objects look closer, smaller objects look farther away. Just change the size, and suddenly your drawing feels 3D. ✨



Size and overlapping



Here you can see size
and overlapping is
used to show depth

Placement On The Page: Higher = Farther

Placement for Depth

Where you place things on your page affects how deep your artwork feels. Items that are lower on the page look closer, while objects placed higher appear farther away.

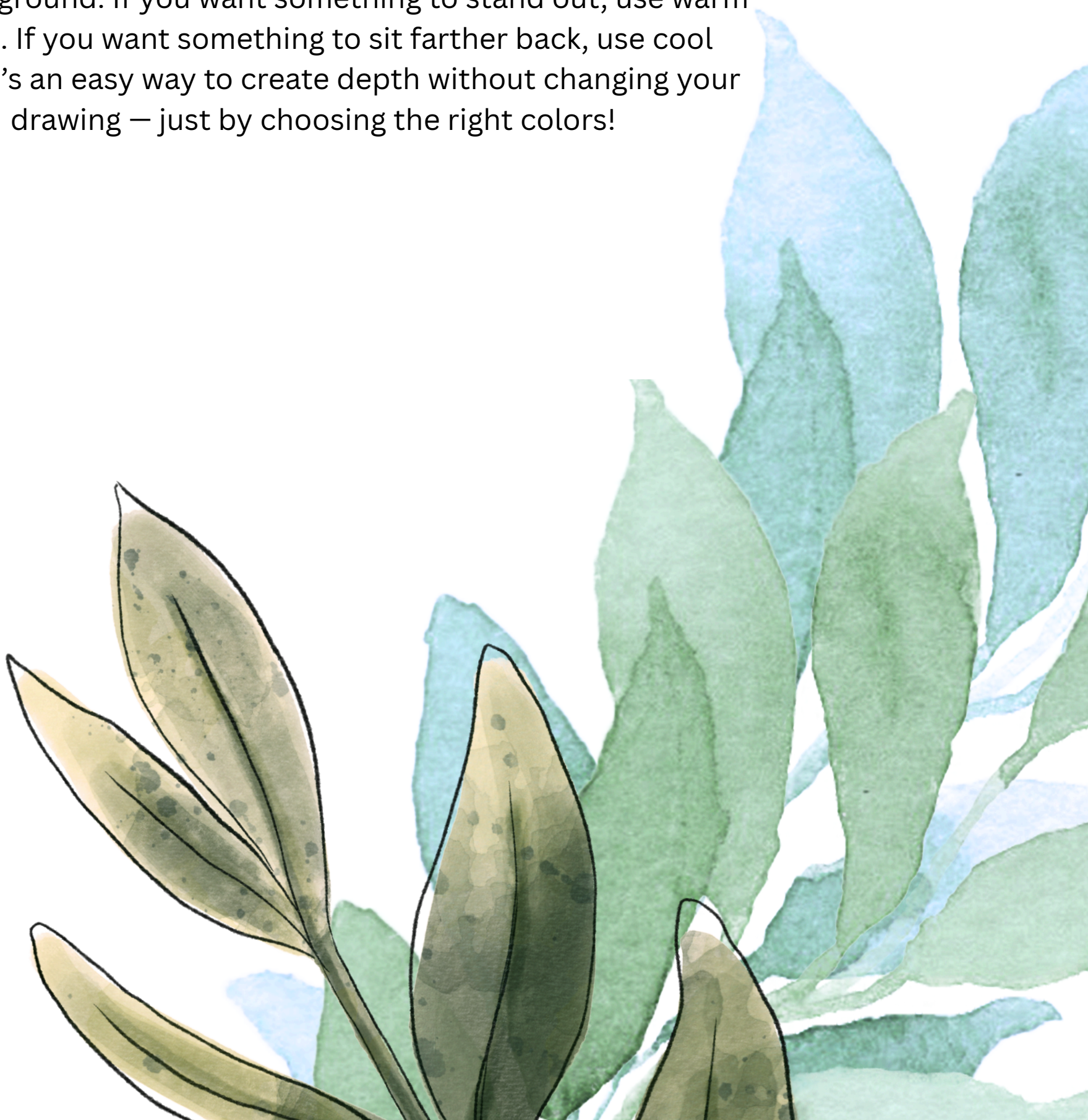
Try putting the “important” elements lower and the background details higher this instantly creates depth and makes your page feel more like a real space.



Color Temperature: Warm Forward, Cool Back

Color Temperature for Depth

Warm colors (reds, oranges, yellows) feel like they move toward you, while cool colors (blues, greens, purples) gently fade into the background. If you want something to stand out, use warm colors. If you want something to sit farther back, use cool tones. It's an easy way to create depth without changing your drawing — just by choosing the right colors!



Dark Vs. Light Creates Distance

Dark vs. Light for Depth

Darker values feel closer, while lighter values look like they're farther away. If you darken the objects you want in the front and keep the background lighter, your page immediately gains depth.

It's a quick trick. Try just to play with shading or contrast, and watch your artwork become more dimensional!



Observing Light & Shadow

Observing Light & Shadow

Look at where the light hits your subject and where the shadows fall — that's your roadmap for depth. Light areas pop forward and shadows push things back, making your drawing look more three-dimensional. Simply notice which side is brighter and which side is darker, and lightly shade the shadowed areas. It's an easy way to make your art feel real and full of depth!



Dark Vs. Light Creates Distance

VS

Observing Light & Shadow

Difference Between “Light & Shadow” vs. “Dark & Light”

Light & Shadow

This refers to where the actual light source hits your subject. Wherever the light touches, you get highlights. Wherever the light doesn't reach, you get shadows.

It's about direction of light and how it affects form.

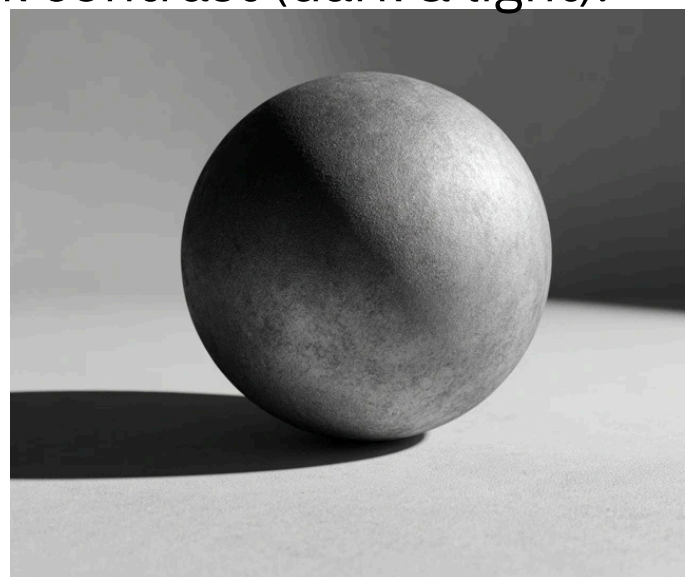
Dark & Light (Value contrast)

This refers to how dark or light a color is, no matter where the light source is. It's about using contrast — darker areas vs. lighter areas — to show depth and make certain elements stand out.

It's about value, not the light source.

Easy example:

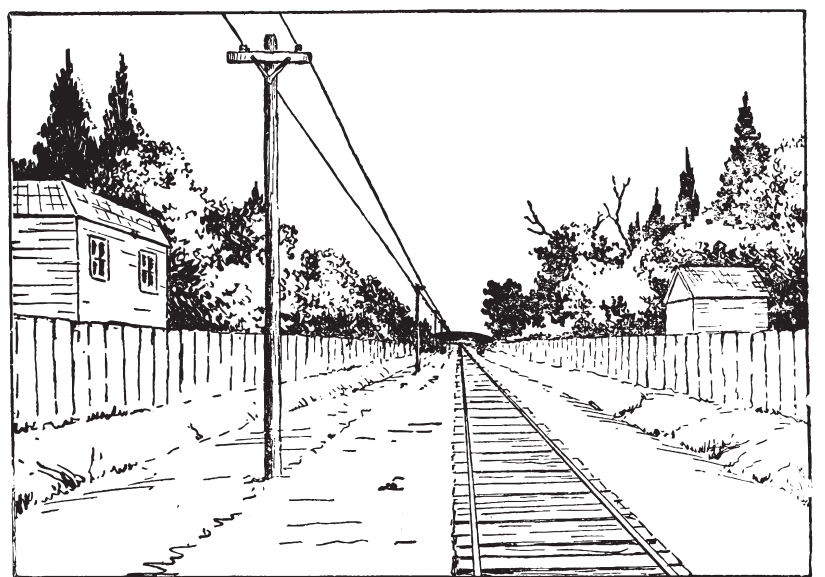
- A ball on the table has light on one side and shadow on the other (light & shadow).
- If you draw a mountain far away and make it lighter, while drawing a closer tree darker, you're using light vs. dark contrast (dark & light).



Linear Perspective: The Classic Depth Creator

Linear Perspective

Lines that lead toward a single point (like roads or buildings getting smaller as they go back) instantly create depth. Just draw your lines so they angle toward the same spot in the distance, and objects will naturally look farther away. It's an easy way to make flat pages look like real spaces!



Detail Creates Depth

Detail Creates Depth

Objects with more detail feel closer to us, while things with fewer details fade into the distance.

Add texture, patterns, or sharper lines to the things you want in front, and keep distant areas softer or simpler. A little detail in the right place makes your art instantly feel more dimensional!

