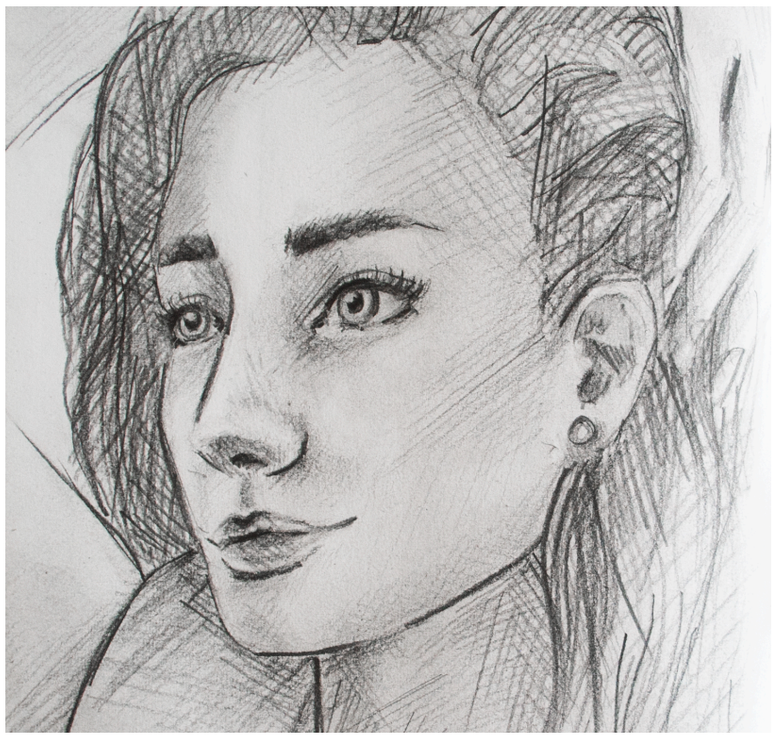


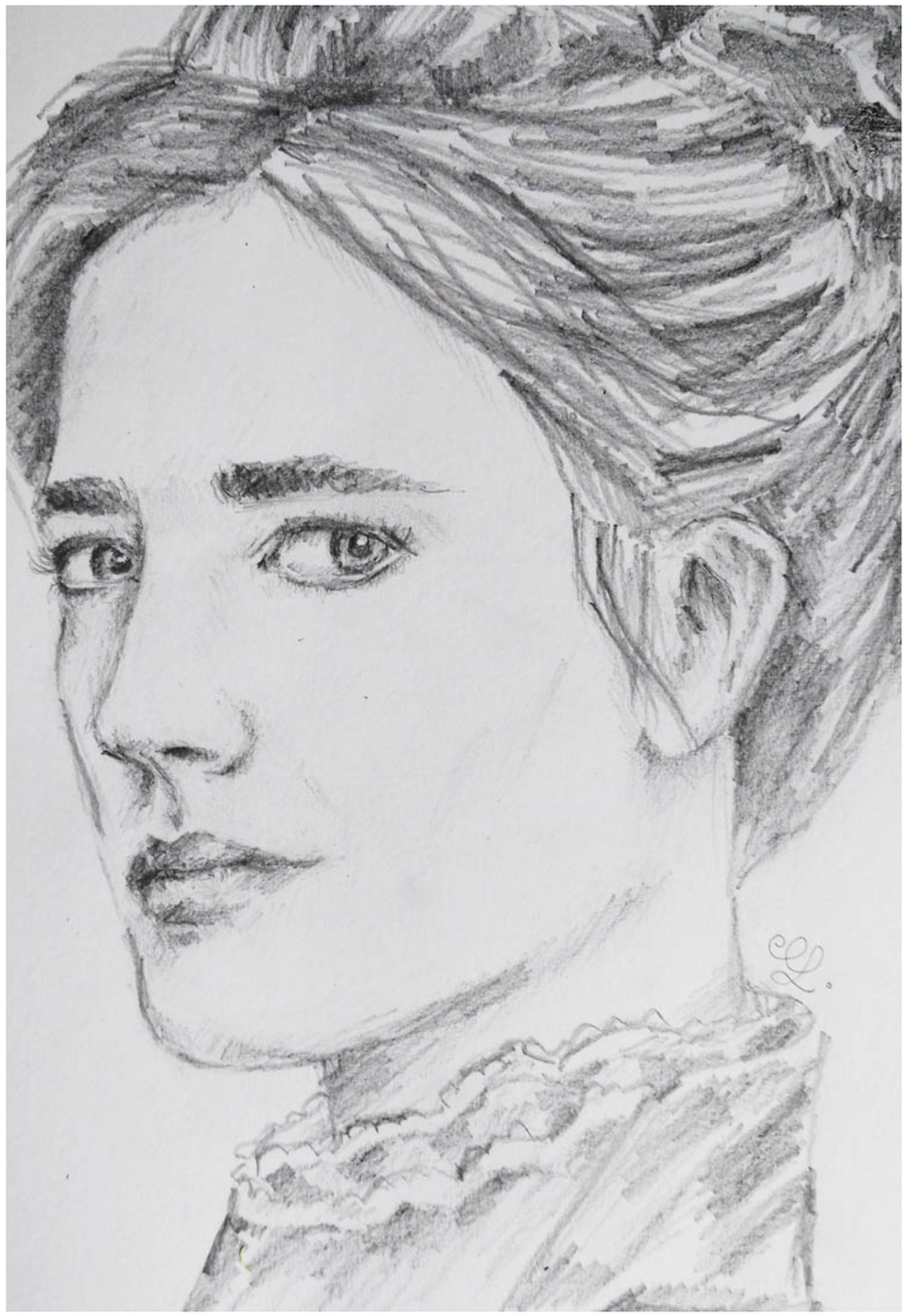
ART ASSIGNMENT #16

Drawing Heads at Profile and 3/4's Angles

Johannes Vermeer, *Girl with a Pearl Earring,* 1665.





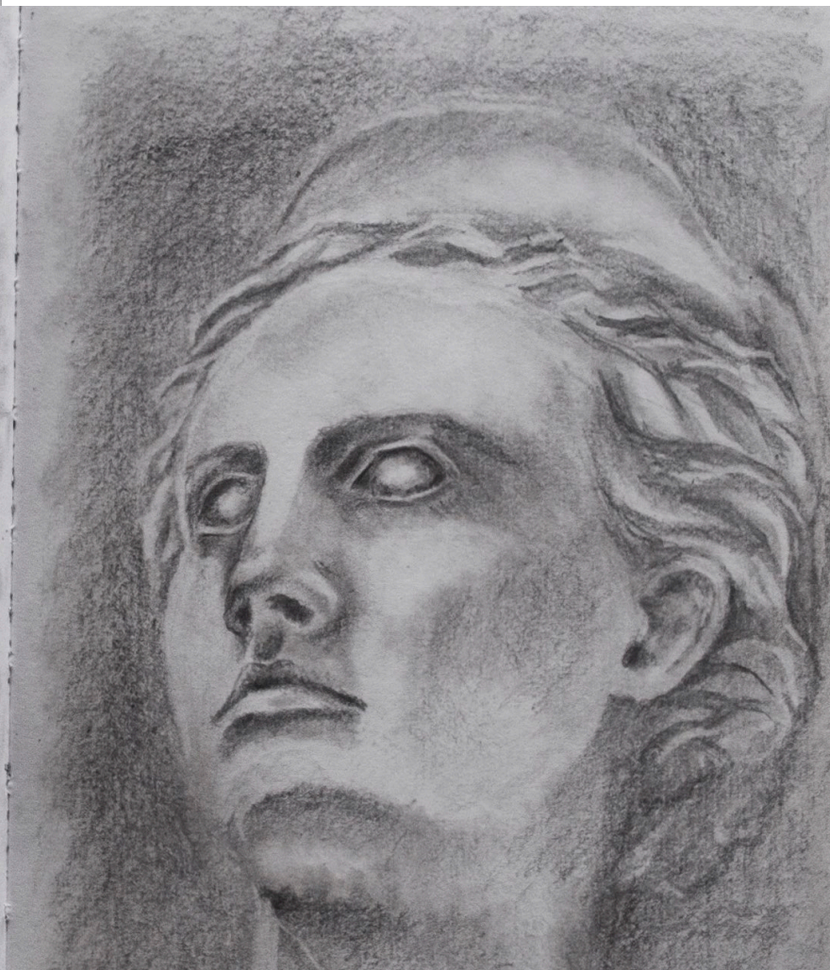


- Portrait sketches of heads at 3/4's angle started with Loomis's method.

- **Always start with drawing forwards-facing portraits and then move on to different angles.**

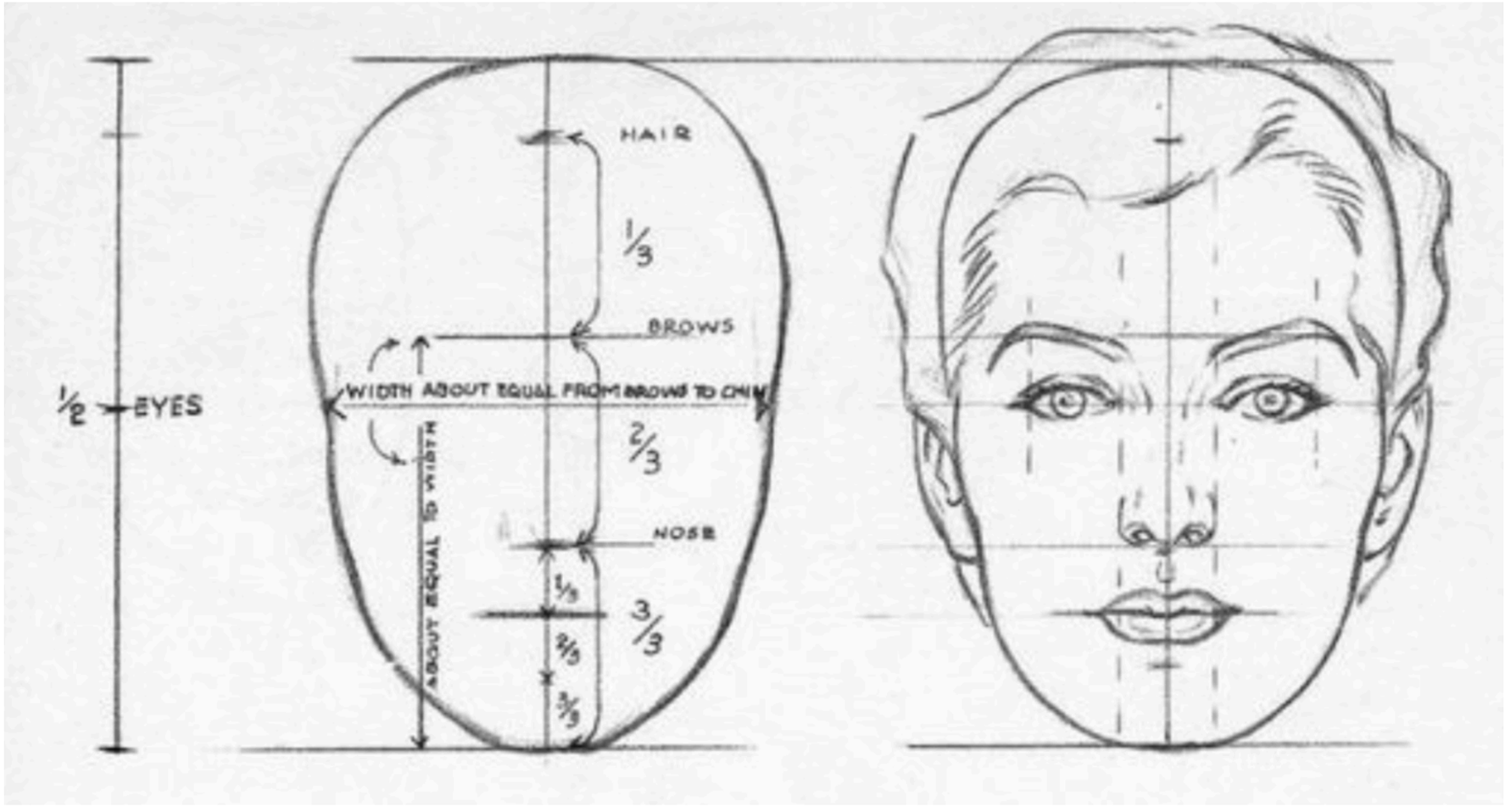






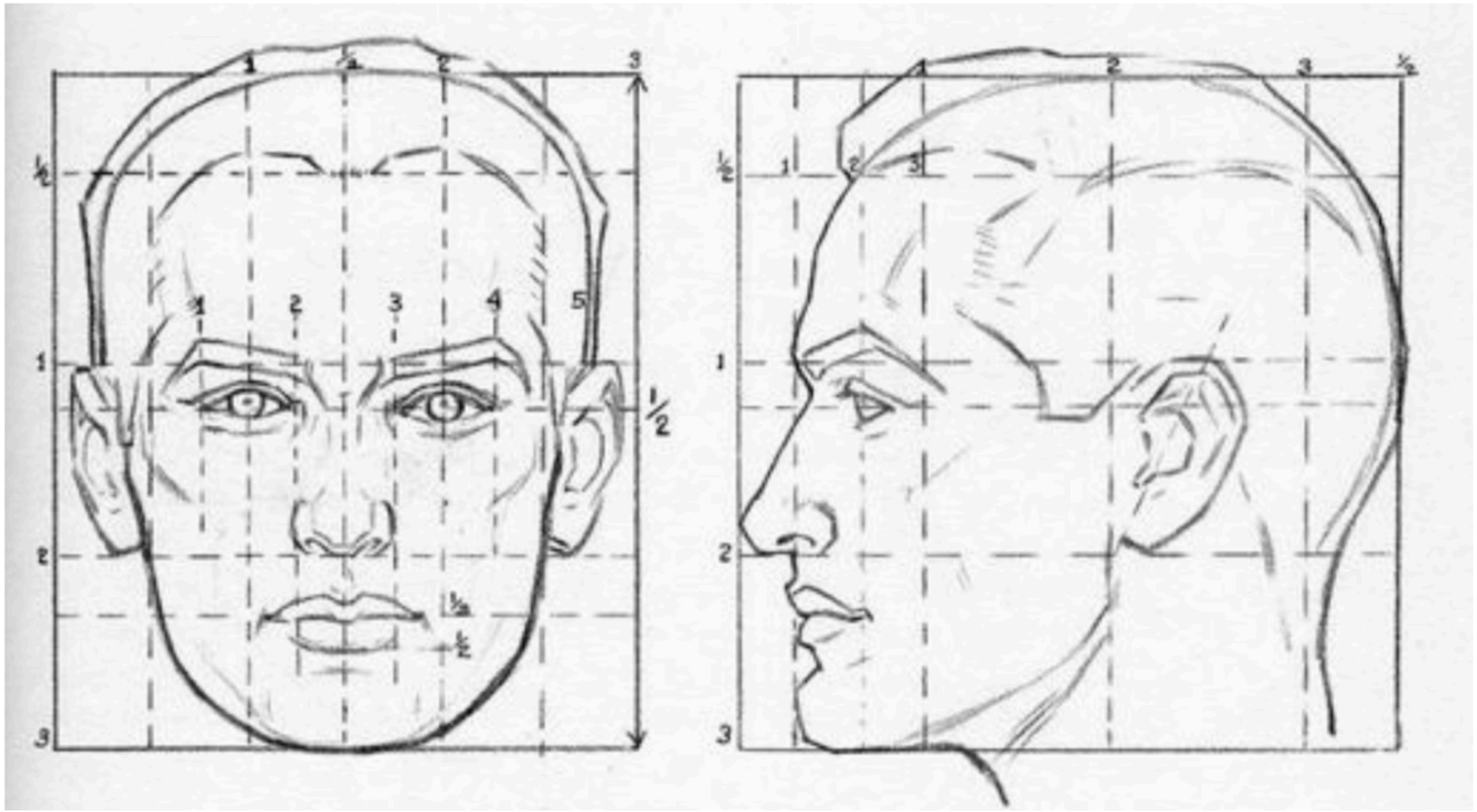
- **Greek statue studies**
- **See my process on YouTube!**

BASIC FACIAL PROPORTIONS REVIEW: AVERAGE ADULTS



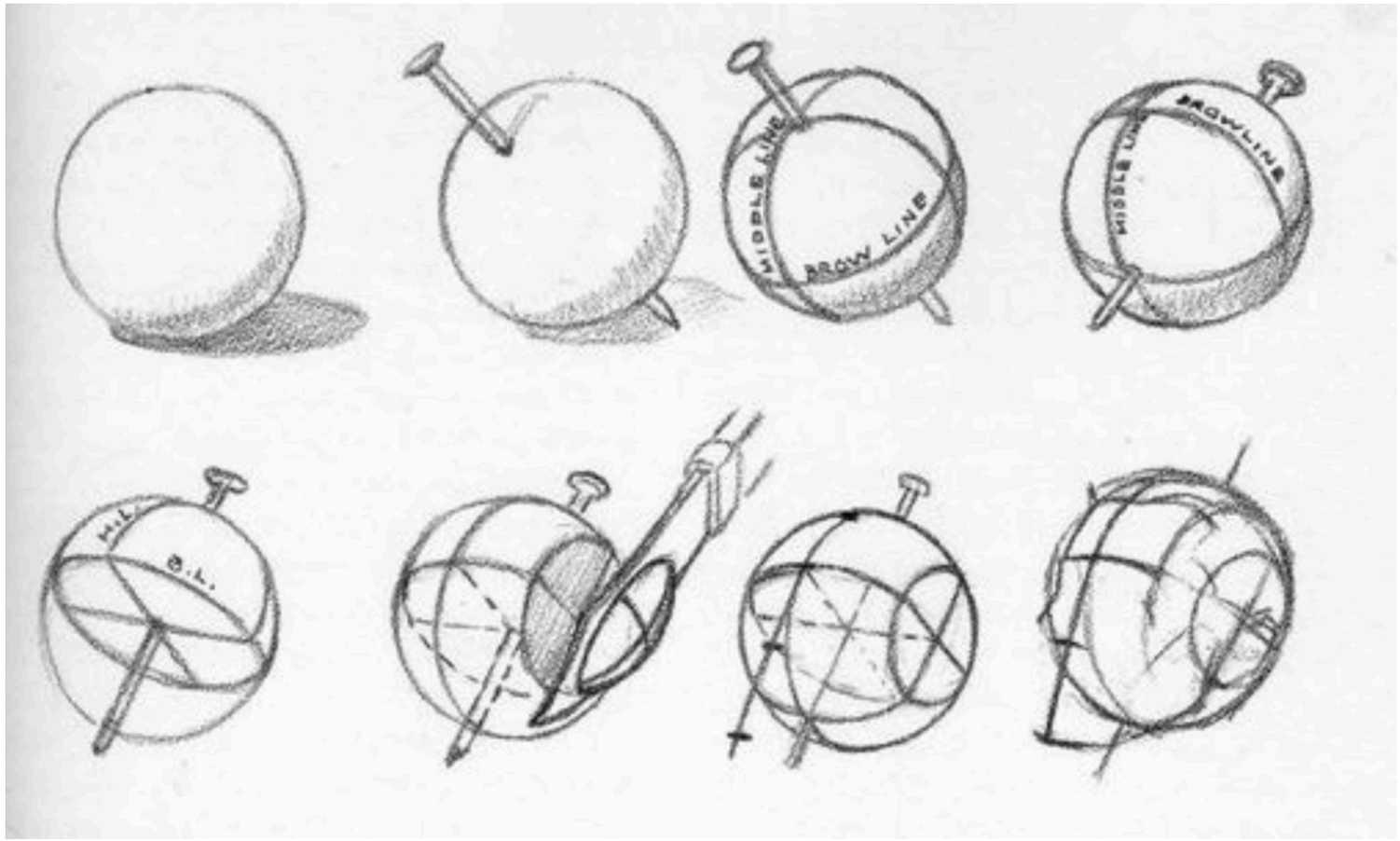
- **Eyes sit halfway down the length of the head**
- The width of five eyes fit along the horizontal line dividing top and lower halves of the head
- **Length from hairline to the tip of the chin is divided into three equal sections (1st line tell us location of eyebrows, 2nd line tells us location of tip of the nose)**
- Bottom third then gets divided into three again (1st line tells us where the opening of the mouth is)

BASIC FACIAL PROPORTIONS REVIEW: AVERAGE ADULTS



- **Once we understand facial proportions and the basic three-dimensional structure of the head, we’re able to visualize where guidelines would sit at different angles and perspectives.**
- The proportions of the face/head *don’t change in a person*, but what we're able to see of the face changes and shapes get distorted depending on the perspective and angle we’re viewing the head from. **Foreshortening*

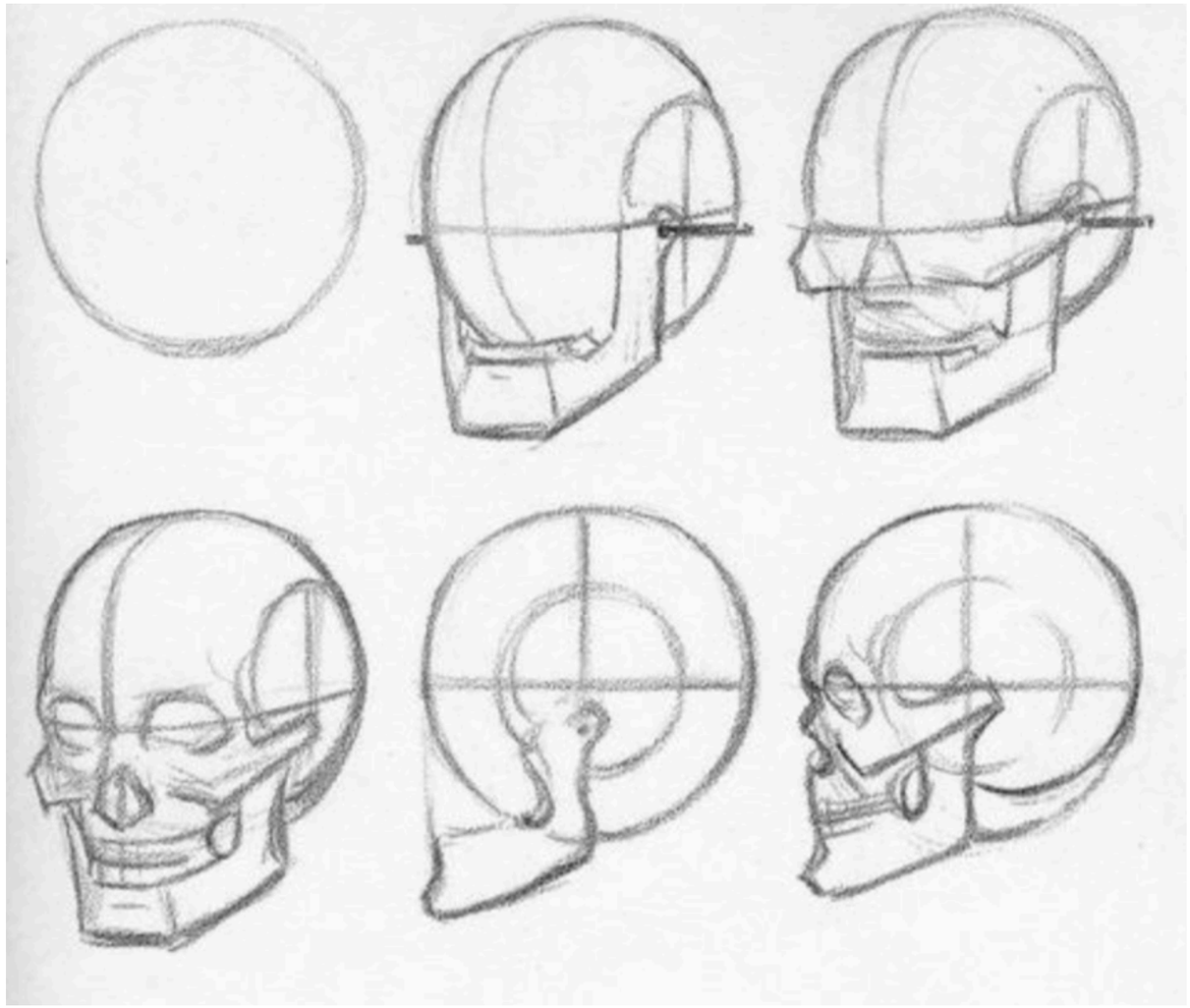
MORE ON LOOMIS'S METHOD



- **It helps us visualize a *very* complex structure as simple shapes. Simplifying complex structures into shapes we can easily understand, and making our way from general/ largest towards specifics in *any* kind of drawing is very important!**

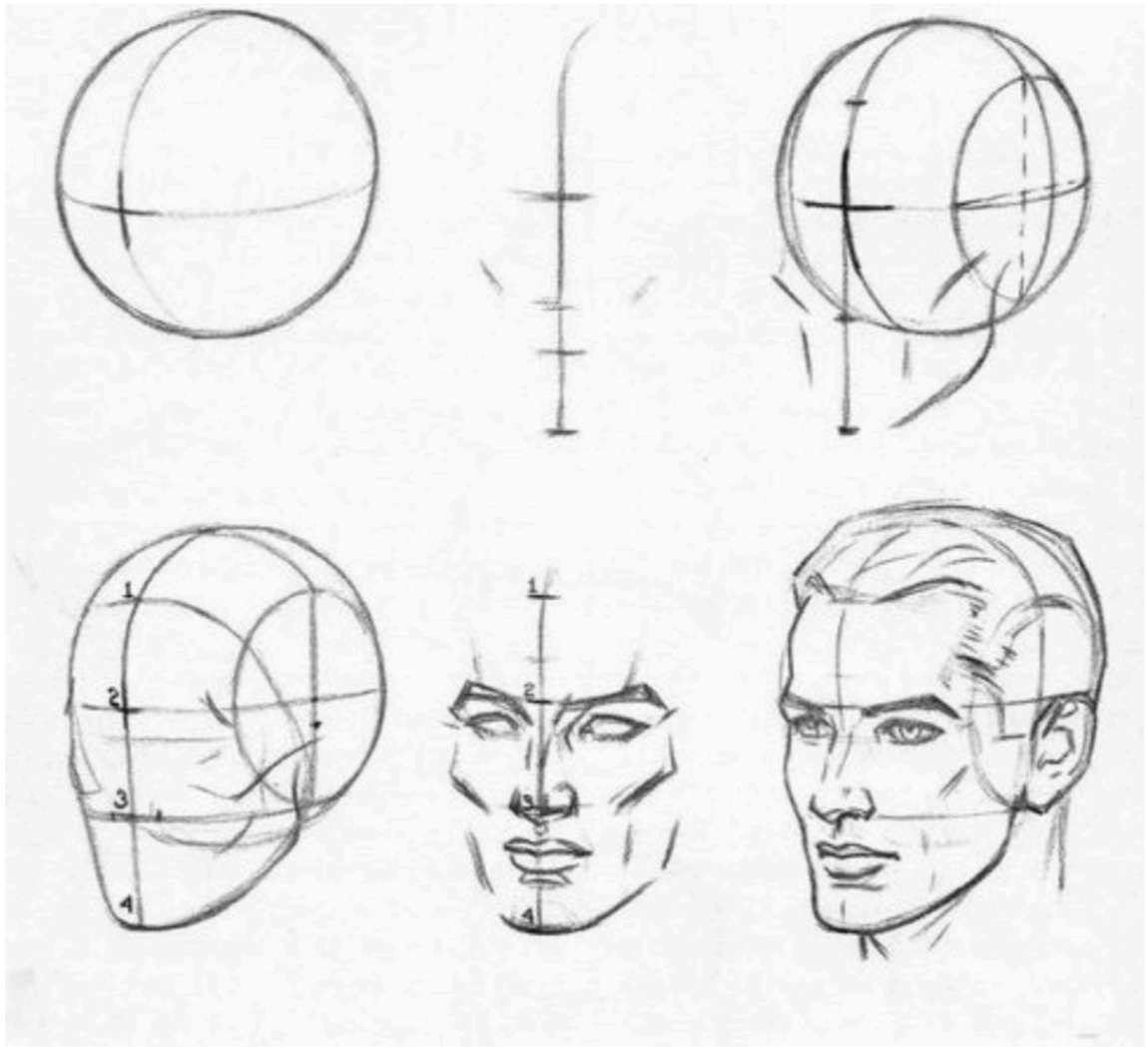
- **It tells us where to lay down guidelines for our facial features, so that we can be sure we're drawing them in the right places within the head shape and we waste less time making mistakes.**
- It provides a solid place to start and likeness is achieved via shifting guidelines and refinement of shapes if this is what we're looking to achieve.

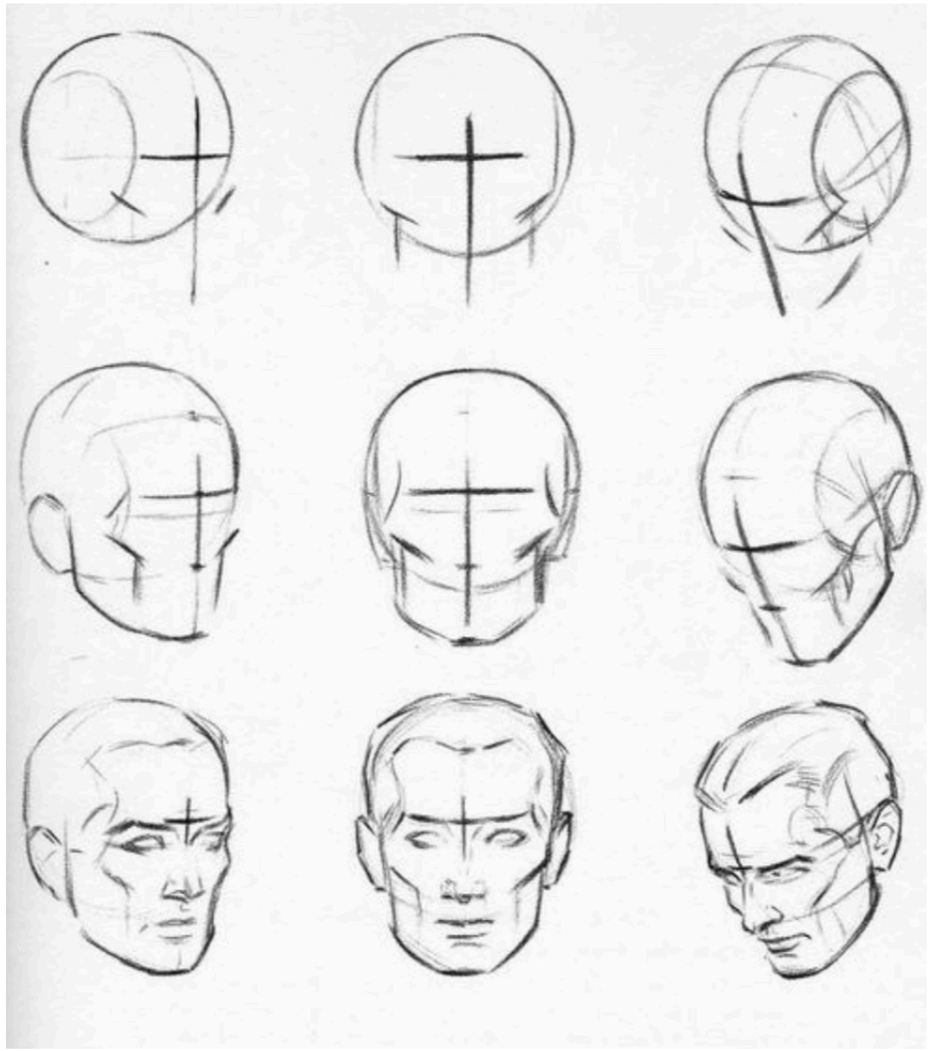
MORE ON LOOMIS'S METHOD



- **Loomis simplifies the head into two main parts: *the cranium* (a sphere shape with two slices cut off on either side) and *the mandible*.**
- **He starts by placing two main guidelines: a horizontal line, which divides the top and lower halves of the sphere and tells us where the eyes are going to be placed, and a vertical line dividing left and right halves and tells us where the bridge of the nose is going to be.**
- Notice how these lines *wrap* around the head and shift depending on its angle, but they will *always* tell us where the facial features should be placed.

MORE ON LOOMIS'S METHOD

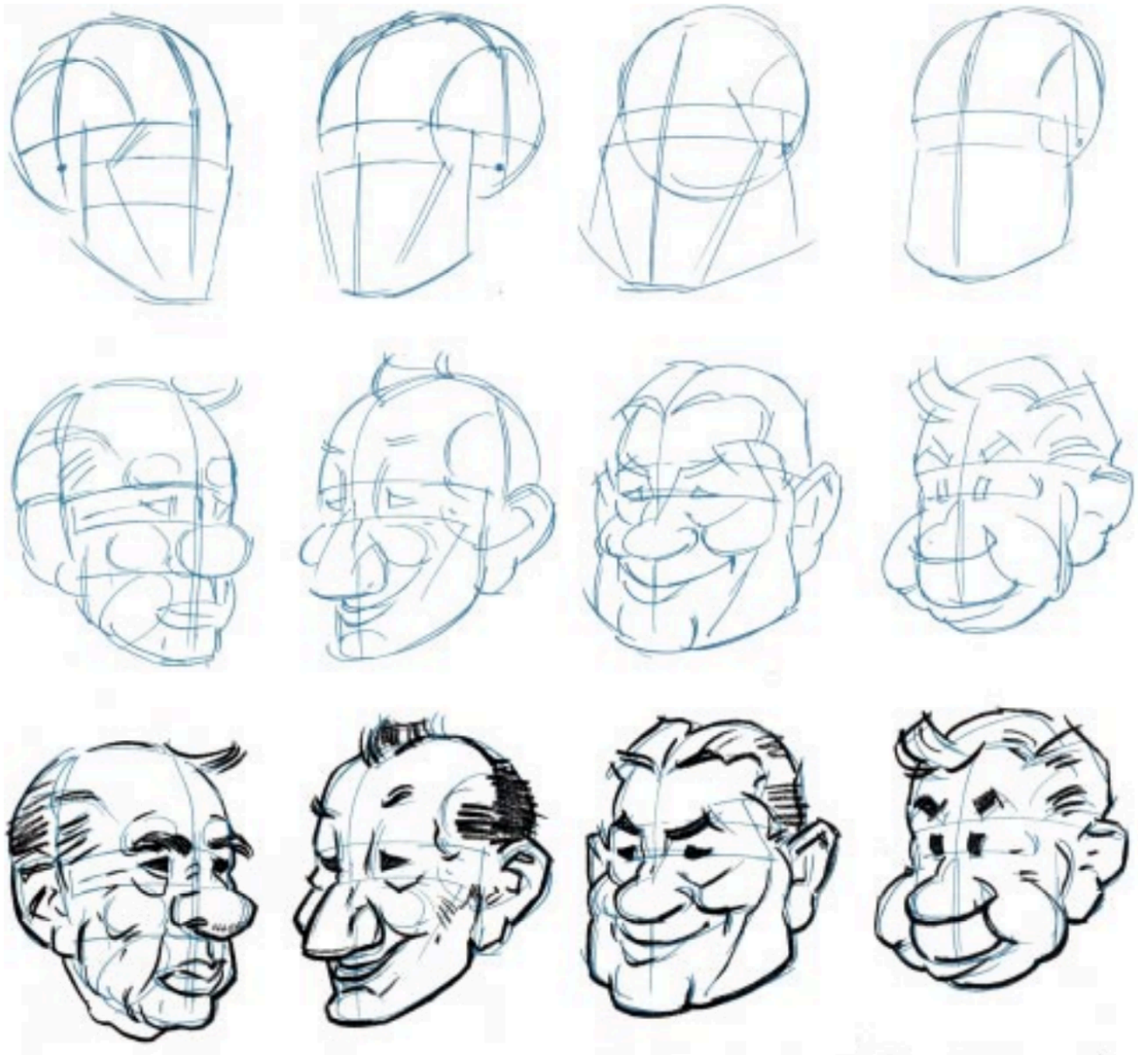




- **The cut-off sides of the sphere are the flattened sides of our cranium.**
- **Notice the lower right section within the circle representing the side of the head is where the ear is located and the top of the ear is alighted with the brow line.**

APPLYING LOOMIS'S METHOD TO DIFFERENT FACES/HEADS

- **Even though there is an *infinite* variety of face/head shapes and facial feature types, by learning about standard facial proportions, practicing placing guidelines and understanding the structure of the skull, you'll have a solid base to start with.**

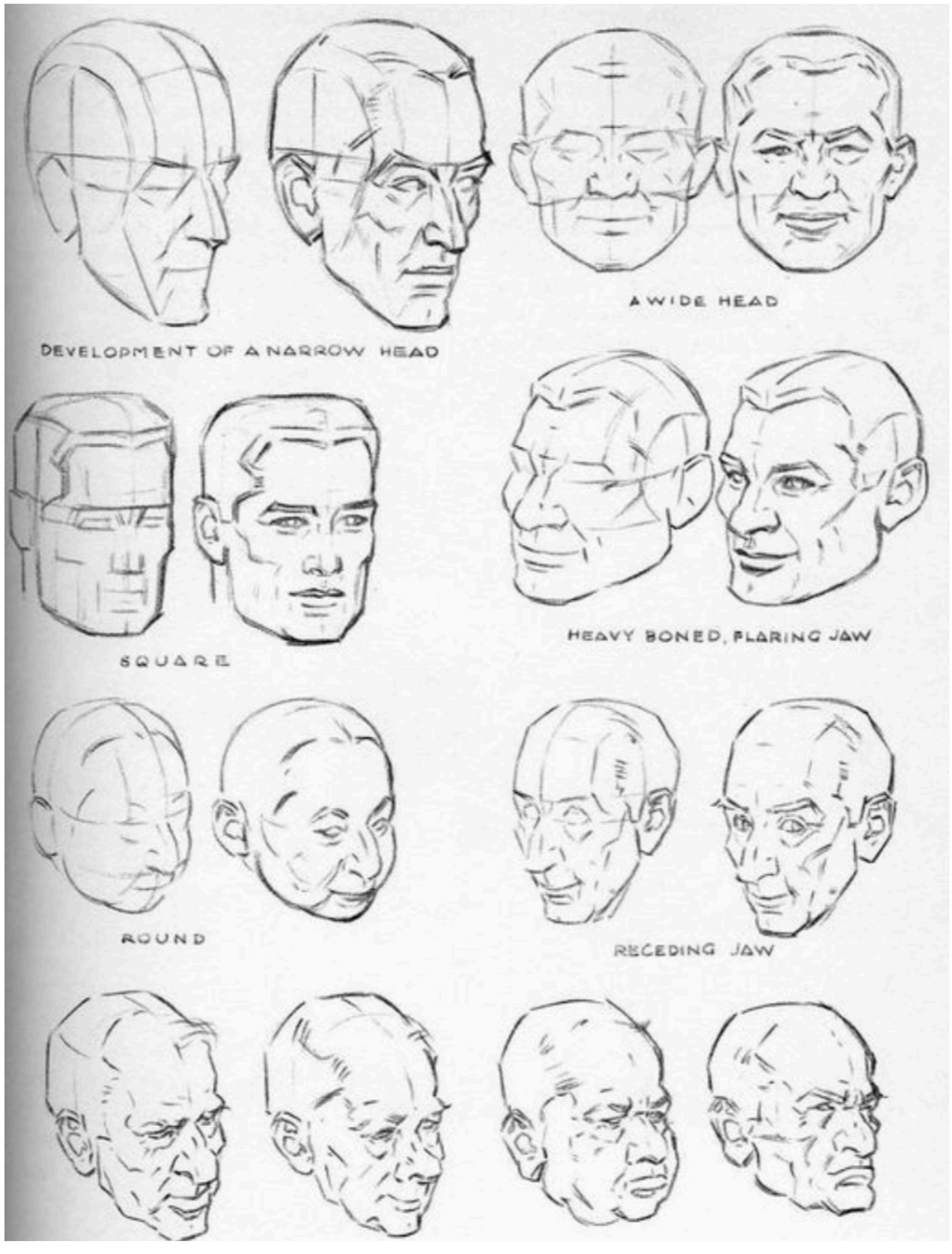


APPLYING LOOMIS'S METHOD TO DIFFERENT FACES/HEADS

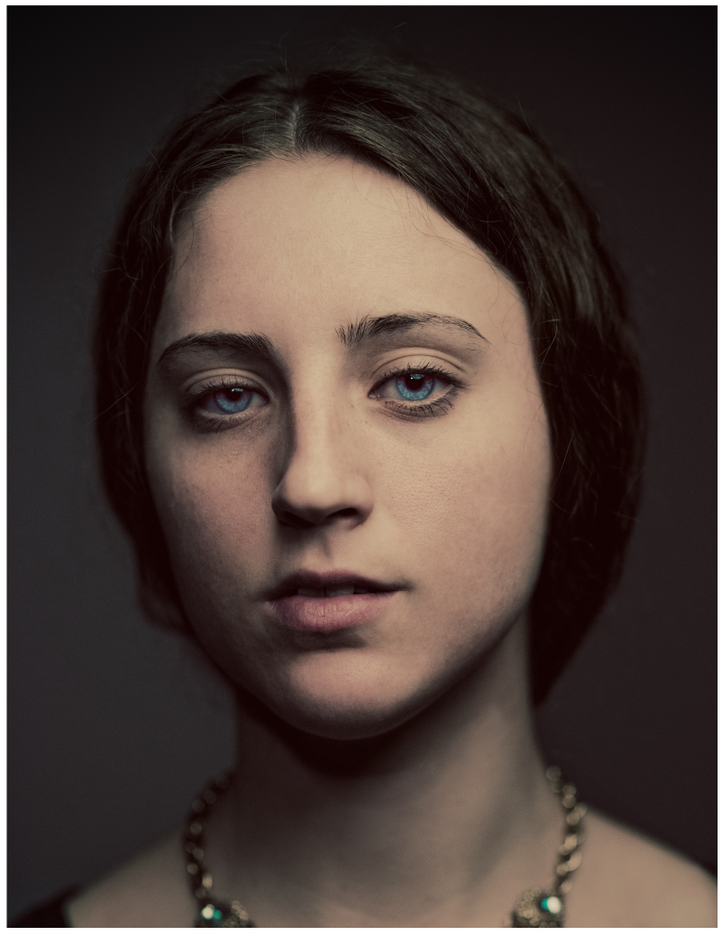
- **By *slightly* modifying the placement of your guidelines and your head/facial feature shapes, you'll end up with a face that looks *very* different.**

- **These are shifted and refined if we're looking for likeness.**

- **Two faces may look very different, but in reality, the shifts in those guidelines and shapes isn't so big.**



LET'S APPLY LOOMIS'S METHOD!







- **The demo at the end of the last class was a forward-facing face *drawn from the imagination*.**

- **In this one, let's try drawing very basic faces at different angles loosely based on reference photos!**

CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT #16:

- Create quick sketches of heads at, at least, 3 different angles following Loomis's method (no extreme angles).
- You can decide whether to use specific reference photos as loose inspiration, but focus on achieving effective shapes and proportions more than likeness.

Recommended Resources:

- Andrew Loomis- *Drawing the Head and Hands*
- Andrew Loomis- *Fun with a Pencil*
- **Link to free downloadable books will be left within this Patreon post.*