

Girl in Garden Step by Step – Simple with Shading

The easiest and best watercolor figures are SIMPLE but have SHADING – meaning their hair, skin and clothes show lighter areas where the sun is shining to darker areas in the shadows.

Step 1 – Draw or trace the outlines onto your watercolor paper.

Step 2 – Skin tones – mix a light and a dark. Test on scrap paper until you're happy with what you have.

Paint the head very light on the left and darker on the right side – be careful with the tiny nose!

The arm is lighter on the left and darker on the right. The legs are dark under the skirt where they're in shadow, then light on right and darker on left.

Step 3 – Paint the watering can and sandals pink.



Step 4 – Dark lines

- Between the legs
- Under the chin
- Top of the arm
- Tiny line for eye

Step 5 – Hair – Blonde color, leaving a few lines. Dry. Paint medium brown with curly lines. Dry Add some very dark brown curls.

Step 6 – Darken under the sandals and right side of teapot.

Step 7 – Dress – paint the dress lighter on the right and darker in the middle. Paint the pleats and add dark lines.

Step 8 – Background

- **Foreground** – light yellowish green on dry paper with big wash brush. Dry.
- **Yellow Flower area** – thick yellow on top, darker green on bottom. Use a **small brush** to work in the darker green up into the flowers a bit. Dry!
- **Purple Flower area** – small brush Light purple - darker purple scrubbed or sponged in. Dry.
- **Sky** – wet the sky, being careful around the figure. Use your big brush for the big areas and a small brush around the figure. Paint blue, darker at the top and lighter as you go down.
- **Far away flowers** – while still wet work in green, for tall spikey flowers. Keep it light at the top. Then dab in some light pink.

Step 9 – Finishing touches/white.

- Shadow – under the feet with darker green.
- White highlights - sides of dress, left side of upper arm, neck, hair if needed.
- White flowers – scrub in big masses of white flowers with a few dots of light brown for centers.
- Make white water coming out of the watering can (you can outline it with blue also).
- Grasses – add a few darker grasses and a few white grasses.

