Drawing shojo

The shojo is a category of manga that usually appeals to a female audience. The main character of the story is generally a girl. She is often accompanied by a friend (sometimes a robot or an animal) to help her in her adventures.

Proportions of the body
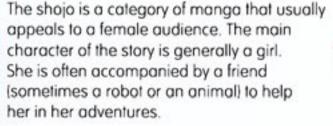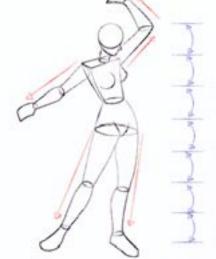
To draw a character, you will need to learn some basic rules. The hero's head is used to determine the proportions of the rest of the body. The body is quite muscular in the chest, arms and legs. The chest is the shape of a trapezium, with broad shoulders that taper down to the legs. The hair is short, and the eyebrows are thick.

Front-on face and profile

To draw a character facing forward, first draw the vertical and horizontal lines, then the oval for the head. On the horizontal axis add the eyes. The distance between the two eyes should be approximately an eye's width. On the vertical axis, draw the nose and mouth. The ears start from the eyebrows down to the base of the nose. Following these reference marks makes it possible to draw the head in various positions.

Profile

Facing forward

Three-quarter profile

Eyes

The eyes are an essential part of drawing manga: all the expressions of the heroine show through her eyes.
The iris can be any colour you like.
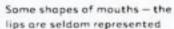
Large innocent eyes, illuminated by multiple reflections

Elongated eyes of adults or malicious girls

The mouth

Often mouths are drawn without any teeth, as sharp teeth in a mouth can suggest fierceness or greediness.

Some shapes of mouths — the lips are seldom represented

The hair

Start drawing the hair by defining the length and its form. Then draw the directing lines coming out of the roots. The hair can be curly, straight, braided and so on. Finally, add some locks and accessories: a headband, hair clips, hair bands or jewels.

You can change the personality of the heroine by modifying her hairstyle.

Facial expressions

The three elements that change the expression of a face are the eyebrows, eyes and mouth. To add other effects, you can add some smaller details: a bead of sweat, freckles or wrinkles of expression.

Hungry

Pleased

Worried

Dissatisfied

Sad

Angry

Hands

A woman's hands are delicate: the fingers are fine, the nails long. The length of the fingers is equal to the length of the palm, the length of the whole hand is equivalent to the height of a head. Use circles to outline the hand.

Holding a book

Holding a camera

Holding a gun

Head in hands

Open hand

Writing

Carrying a bag