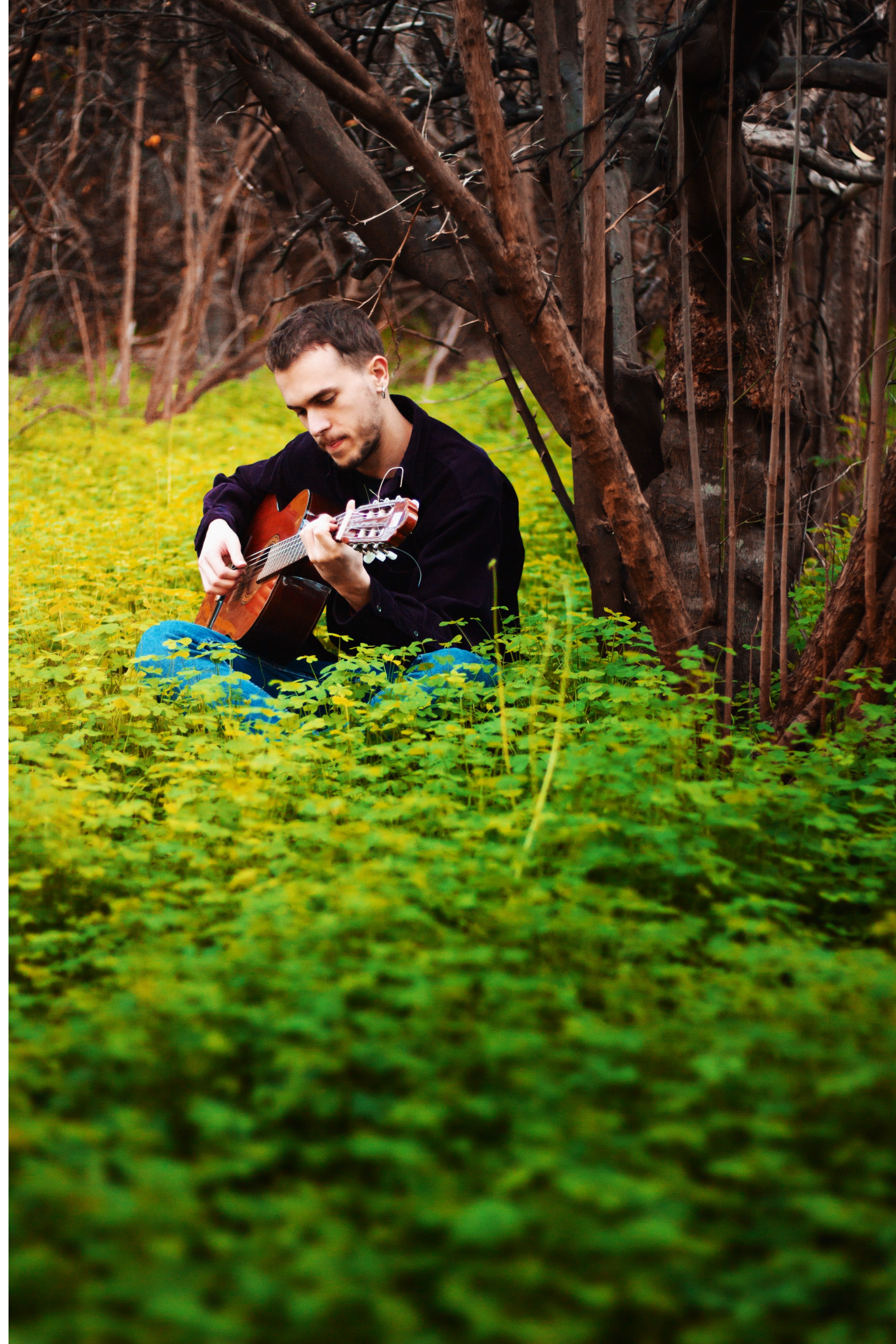




AVOID THE MIDDLE

If you look around photo sharing sites, most photo sharing sites, you will quickly notice many photographers place their subject directly in the middle of the frame. I hope you'll notice these images are somewhat boring, but not always.

When the subject is directly in the middle of an image the eye goes directly there and moves no where else. Why is this an issue? Well, if there is anything else of interest in the photo it gets missed and all the hard work of capturing the image is all for naught.





This image of the single white rose amongst the black background is nice. The lighting in particular is beautiful. The eye, however, goes directly to the middle of the flower and the nice shadows on the outer petals is lost. The eye doesn't see the most interesting bit.



I intentionally cropped the left part of the photo so now the flower is situated in the left of the frame. Do you notice how now your eye goes to the outer edges of the rose? By moving the subject off-centre the composition is now much stronger and the eye naturally moves to the important parts of the subject.



The lines from the railroad tracks save this image but only slightly. Had the photographer simply shifted his or her position and captured this scene at an angle with the person off-centre the composition would be a winner and the photo would be far more interesting.



Simply moving the subject off centre - left or right, photo composition becomes stronger. You don't have to move the subject right to the edge of your frame for this technique to be effective. Please do make note of this. Off-centre is key to achieving a strong photo composition.



There are several elements that are right about this image. The light pink of the flowering tree against the pale blue sky work beautifully together. The suggested sun behind the tree is perfect and adds a feeling of spring and warmth. More than this the blowing flower petals into the right of the frame are fantastic. The photographer who captured this has a great eye to see this scene. Everything in this photo works, especially the blowing flower petals because the main subject is situated in the left of the frame and off-centre. Had the photographer put the tree branch in the middle the more interesting elements would be lost entirely.



I love this image of the derelict car. The muted colors add to the sense that the car is old. The prominent steering wheel on the left is big and bold and the eye naturally moves to the empty space to the right. Was someone there? Or, what happened? Did something happen in that seat one might ask? This is a great story telling photo and being off-centre helps tremendously to achieve a nice composition.



Have a look at the Icelandic horse in the left part of the frame. Why does this work? Yes, it works because the subject is not in the middle but the way the horses hair is positioned suggests the wind is blowing from the right. By placing the horse in the left of the frame we can conclude the way the wind is blowing. This makes for an effective photo composition. If you've not been to Iceland, stop reading now and go. Iceland is one of the most wonderful countries you could ever visit.



This perspective of the Golden Gate Bridge is stunning. The photo works because the tallest part of the bridge is toward the left part of the frame. Do you notice it is not all the way to the left and the placement works well. When you look at the photo your eye goes right down onto the road and this is quite nice. Had the tallest part of the bridge been situated directly in the middle, it would stop the eye from moving anywhere but there. Always remember to keep the subject of your photograph off-centre for a strong photo composition.

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