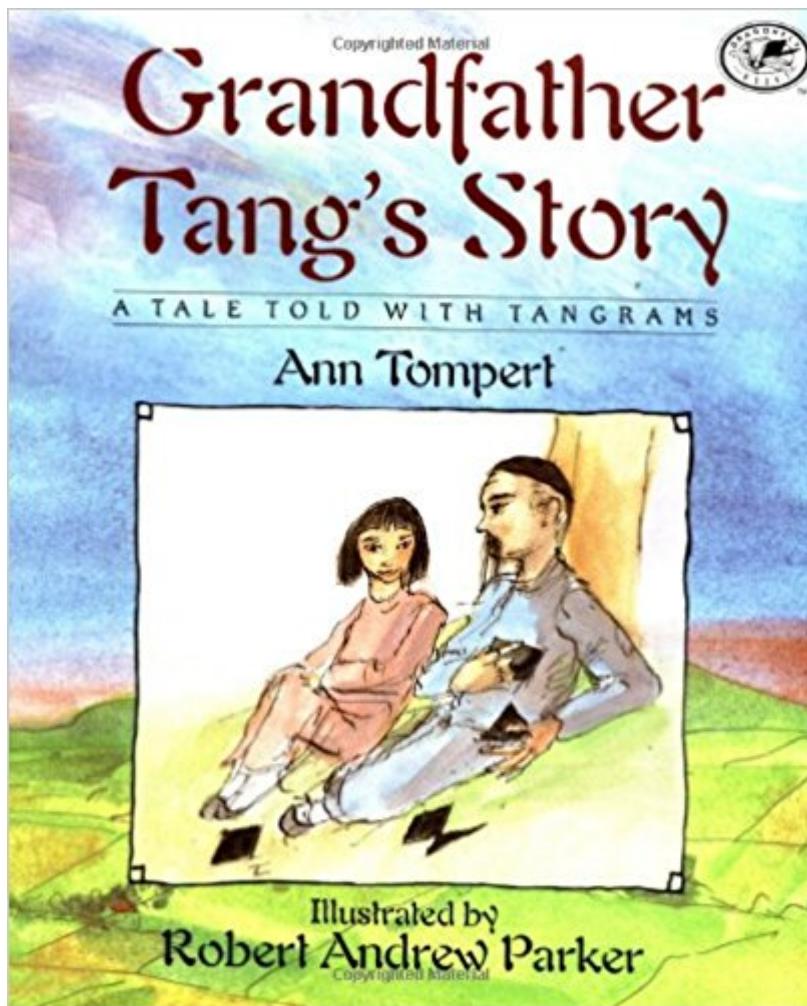


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# Grandfather Tang's Story (Dragonfly Books)



## Synopsis

This folktale told using ancient Chinese puzzles and watercolor illustrations has been beloved for over twenty-five years and is the perfect addition to your Father's Day reading list! When Little Soo asks for a story, Grandfather Tang arranges the tangram pieces and two magic fox fairies spring to life. The foxes change shapes as quick as a wink, from rabbits to dogs to squirrels and geese. But their game turns dangerous when a hunter raises his bow. . . . Originally published in 1990, Grandfather Tang's Story will continue to delight new readers as the wonder of the tangram puzzle—and an endearing game between a grandfather and his granddaughter—reveals a story of magic, clever animals, and, ultimately, true friendship. An NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies An NCTE Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts "Ingenious." • The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0660 (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (August 12, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0517885581

ISBN-13: 978-0517885581

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.1 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #58,664 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #56 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #172 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Here's a folktale with a twist: Tompert uses tangrams, a traditional "visual aid" employed by Chinese storytellers, to spin a tale about two shape-changing fox fairies. Seven "tans" (standard-sized pieces

of a square) are arranged and rearranged to represent various characters in the story. The fox fairies vie to outdo each other--the first one becomes a rabbit, the other a dog who chases him, and so on--but when the two chase each other right into danger, they finally have to set their competition aside and pull together. Parker's graceful, impressionistic illustrations have a gentle Oriental flavor, and the constantly changing tangram configurations add a novel touch. A traceable tangram is provided at the end for do-it-yourselfers. Ages 3-7. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 4-- Two competitive fox fairies go through rapid physical transformations until a hunter's arrow reminds them of their true friendship. This original tangram tale is framed by the loving relationship between a grandfather and granddaughter as they share the story under the shade of an old tree, and culminates in a tangram of an old man and a girl likewise resting. Tangrams, ancient Chinese puzzles in which a square is cut into seven traditional pieces (each called a tan), are arranged into patterns used to help tell the story. Parker's watercolor washes complement the text, adding energy and tension, as well as evoking oriental brushwork technique. However, the text is strong enough to stand on its own, and will be valued by storytellers and listeners alike. --Carolyn Noah, Worcester Public Library, MACopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grandfather Tang's Story: A Tale Told in Tangrams by Ann Tompert and illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker is a unique book which uses tangrams—the traditional Chinese art form—to expand the lovely pastel illustrations. The plot line features a sweet moment between granddaughter and her grandfather. The little girl requests her grandfather to tell a story so that they can both bring it to life with their tangrams. Readers can easily duplicate the tangram shapes and then mimic each illustration themselves which offers a unique interactive element to the story. Or, they can simply enjoy the illustrations without taking on the challenge—and fun—of manipulating the tangram pieces. This story offers a good example of families connecting across generations, creating fun from their imaginations • without depending on elaborate tech. It highlights a subtle message of loyalty, friendship and learning from mistakes. AQ\* Lens This tale can easily digress into a conversation about the many ways we try to change ourselves, something many adoptees struggle with as they try to figure out how to fit in. Readers can discuss how each transformation brought risks and rewards; most importantly the foxes recognize they must be true to themselves. This is

such an important lesson for all of us but especially for many adoptees who are tempted to reshape themselves to fit their idea of what they believe their parents ÂƒÂ¢Â â ¬Â Å“wishÂƒÂ¢Â â ¬Â Â• them to be. The story also shows how the little girl ÂƒÂ¢Â â ¬Â Å“readÂƒÂ¢Â â ¬Â Â• the cues her grandfather gave so she recognized when he needed to end their game and rest. This plot points can lead to talking about reading social cues which is an important skill that all kids need.

--Gayle H. Swift, "ABC Adoption & Me: A Multicultural Picture Book"

Great story for teaching tangrams to students in class. The story is fun for kids to listen to and when doing a 2nd read, it is fun to stop and have students try to make the shapes. There is a page to copy the shapes on tag board if you don't have the hard plastic ones. Also found a youtube of kids making the shapes too, so when you have kids that aren't as spatially aware, you can encourage them by showing other students at work and to persevere.

Great story to introduce tangrams! Reading it to my 2nd graders for composing and decomposing 2D shapes

My students loved this story and making the shapes with tangrams as we read.

a great story to use during introduction of tangrams in the classroom

As a teacher librarian I bought my own copy of this book for use with my reading classes. In addition to being a great story, it is a terrific teaching tool for a number of reasons. I collaborated with a math teacher to introduce tangrams having students identify the geometric shapes--as a manipulative as students recreated each animal in the story with their own tangram puzzle--as a lesson in sequencing as they create each animal in the order in which it appears in the story--as a lesson in folklore and the Chinese culture. The children eagerly accepted the tangram challenge built around this great book.

Santa brought my 5 year olds this book and a tangram set for each of them. We've had lots of fun reading the story and making the animals. My kids also like to now make their own designs and make everyone else guess what they have made. Tangrams are a wonderful activity to strengthen spatial skills.

I wanted this book because our church is writing a lesson plan for our Religious Education kids to use Tangrams to write a story to share with our Honduras partner schools. The book came at the right time in perfect condition.

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