

# **Grandfather Tang's Story (Dragonfly Books)**

By Ann Tompert



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This folktale told using ancient Chinese puzzles and watercolor illustrations has been beloved for over twenty-five years!

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



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## Grandfather Tang's Story (Dragonfly Books) By Ann Tompert Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

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.

### From School Library Journal

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, MA Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From the Inside Flap

"Drawing on a Chinese form of storytelling with seven shapes cut from a square of paper, Tompert recounts the tale of two fox fairies. Parker's pen-and-watercolor art adds drama, while the tangram insets will motivate children to try their own versions."--The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books.

## **Users Review**

## From reader reviews:

#### **Dawn Williams:**

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#### Tony You:

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#### **Michael Nunn:**

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#### **Gregory Kile:**

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