

Princess Ariaiah and Perimeter in Polygonland

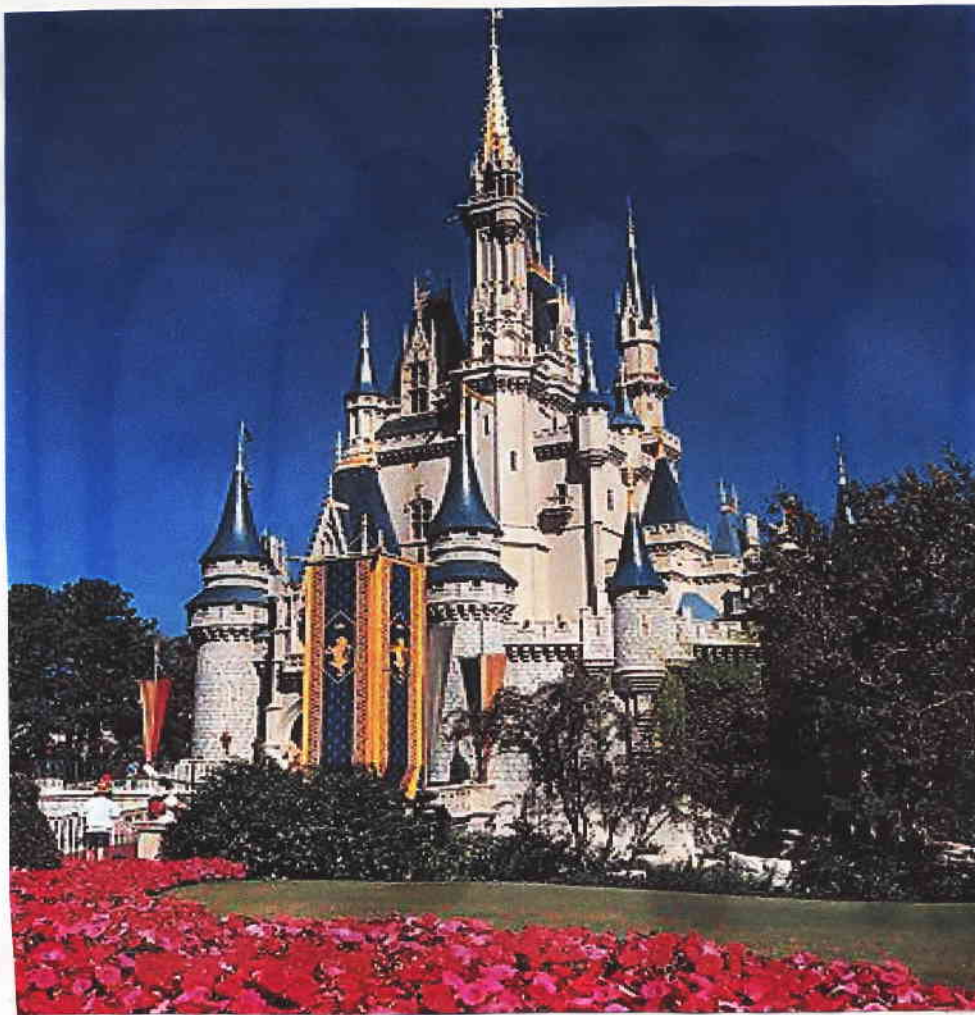


Written and Illustrated by:

Jane Ladage and Lauren Seyller



Once upon a fairytale dream, on the faraway square-shaped island of Polygonland, there lived a beautiful Princess named Ariaah and a peasant boy named Per Imeter. Ariaah loved to pick wildflowers and play with her animal friends in the jungle.



Ariah's father, King Quad of Lateral, believed that Ariah deserved someone of noble blood to marry. However, Ariah's mother, Queen Diagonal, wanted Ariah to marry a man who would love her and who would do anything for her.

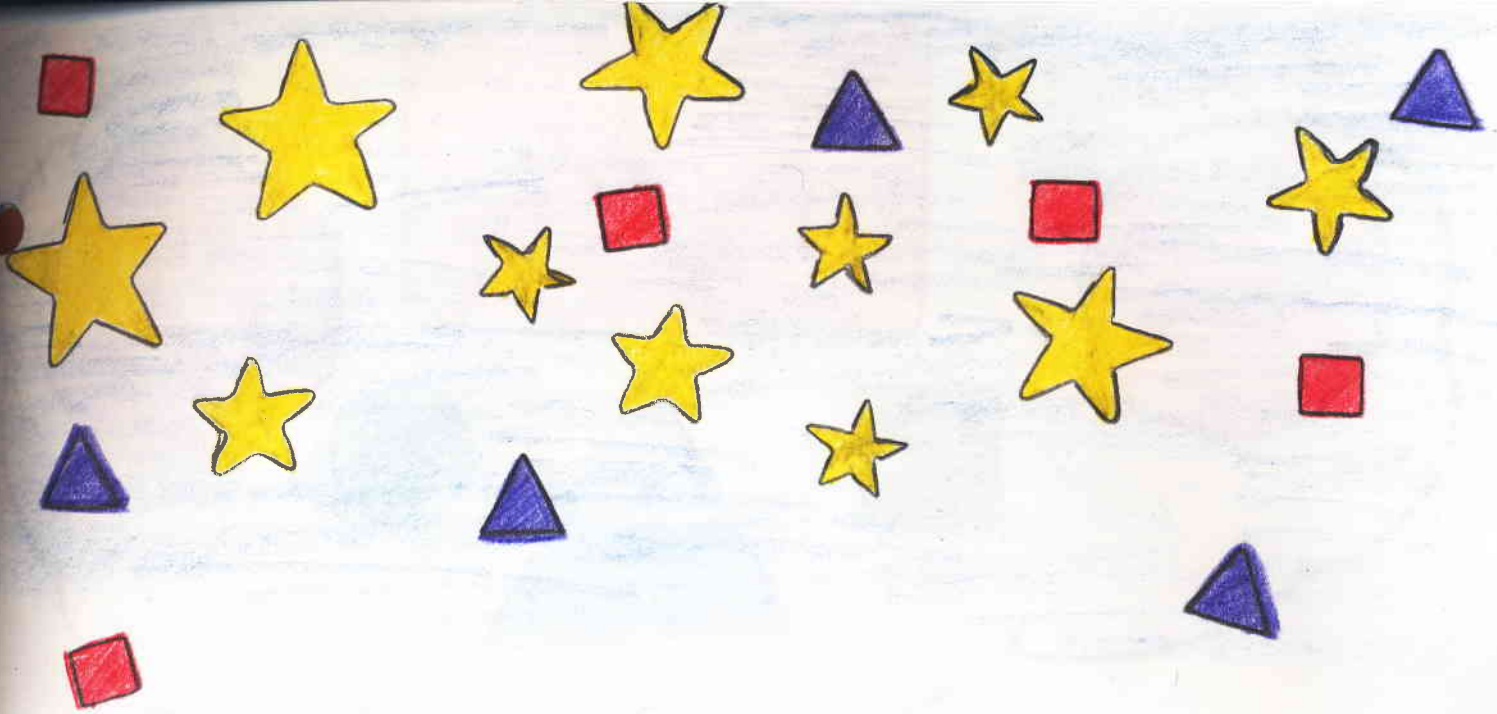


One peaceful night, Ariaah was laying on her favorite rock gazing at the stars as she always did at night. All of a sudden, a man stepped into her view.

“Who are you?” Ariaah asked.

“My name is Per Imeter”, answered the handsome man. “May I join you? I love to look at the stars too”, he said.

“Of course you may”, replied Ariaah.



"Wow!"

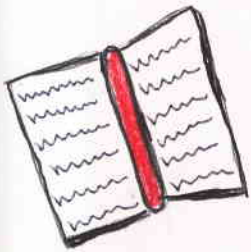
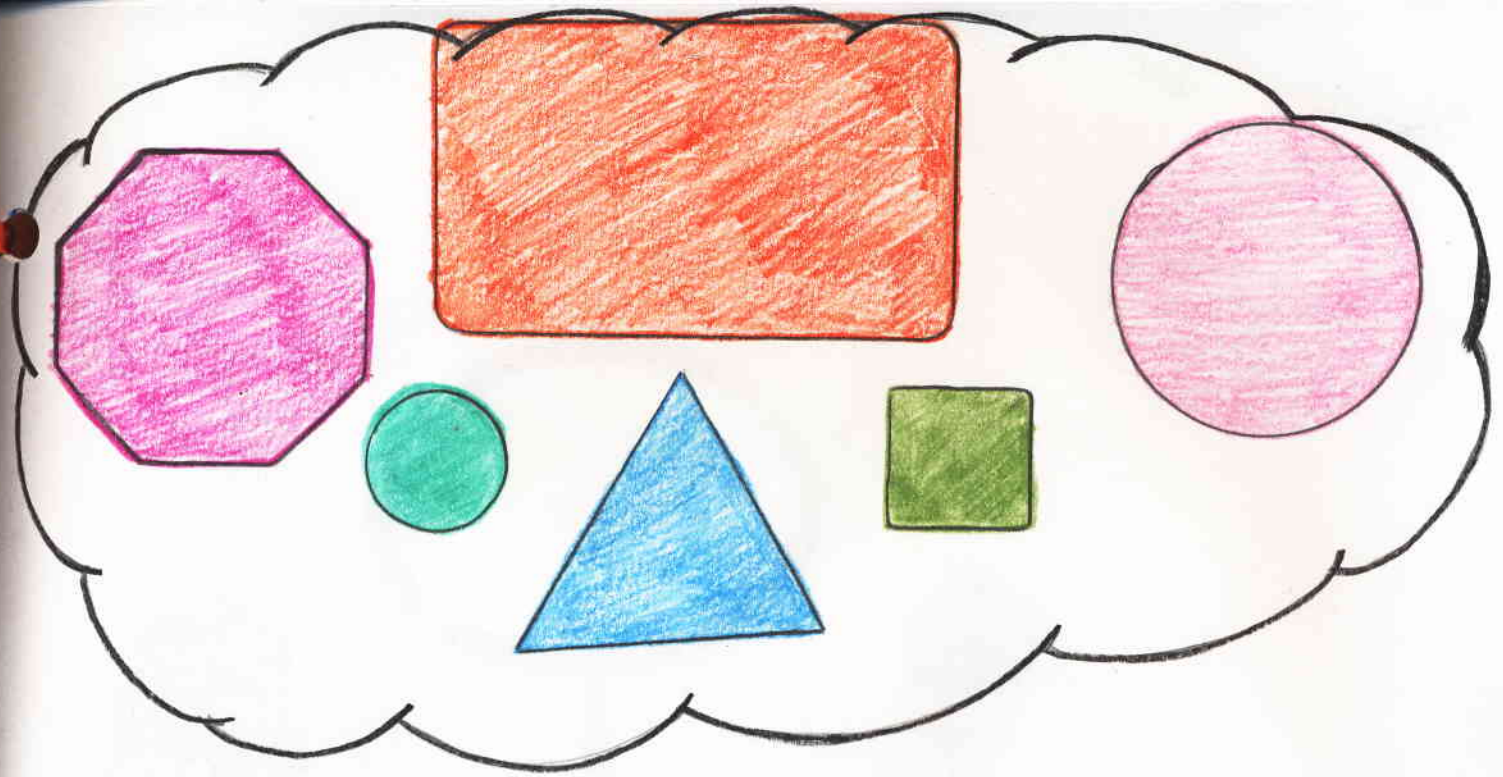


"There's so many shapes!"

As they were gazing at the stars, Per Imeter was teaching Ariaah about the shapes the stars can make. He said, "The perimeter may be the distance around an object, but it isn't always the quickest way across a shape or an object. The diagonal is a line that goes from one vertex (or corner) to another nonconsecutive vertex of the shape. This means that the diagonal cannot touch the sides of the shape or object. Can you guess which shape doesn't have a diagonal?"

"A triangle!" she answered, "because there are only three vertices to that shape."

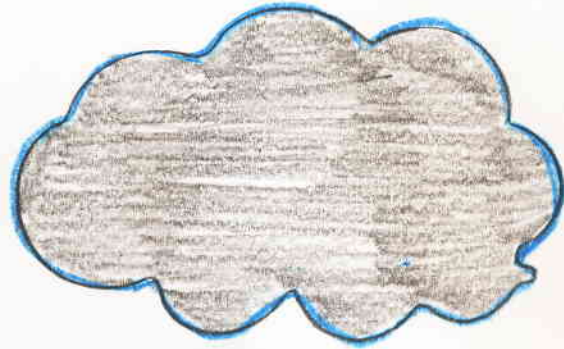
"Exactly!" exclaimed Per Imeter.



For the next few weeks, Ariaah and Per Imeter met secretly to talk about anything they wanted. But, their favorite thing to do was to read books together about shapes such as rectangles, squares, and triangles. Also, they loved learning about angles and what shapes they could make. Soon enough, their friendship turned into love.



On a dark, cold and rainy day on the island, an evil robber named Righ Tangle broke into the castle on the corner of the island to steal Queen Diagonal's lovely jewelry. All of a sudden, he came across Ariaah and kidnapped her to keep her from telling anyone about the robbery.



Righ Tangle took Ariaah to a corner of the island and did not let her out of his sight.

“No one will be able to save you now”, Righ Tangle said. “I have left a message at your castle with a clue that absolutely no one will be able to figure out.”

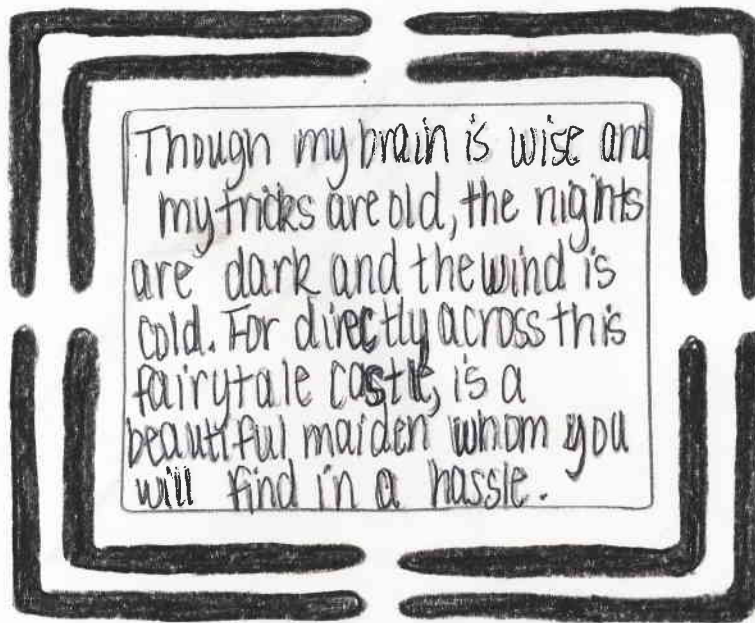
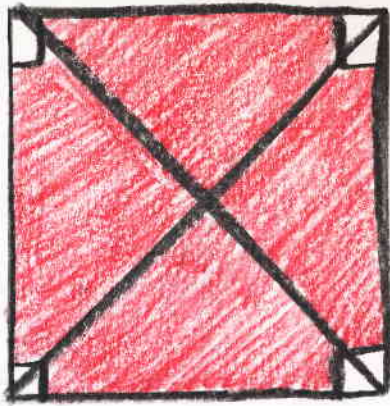


Meanwhile at the castle, Ariaah's parents, the King and Queen, were going crazy sending out troops to find their daughter. When Per Imeter heard the news, he showed up to solve the clue because he wanted to save Ariaah.

"You are a peasant boy", said the King. "You have nothing to offer my daughter."

"Not so fast!" protested the Queen. "If this young man is willing to risk his life for my daughter, let them be together."

With the King and the Queen's blessing, Per Imeter set out to solve the clue.



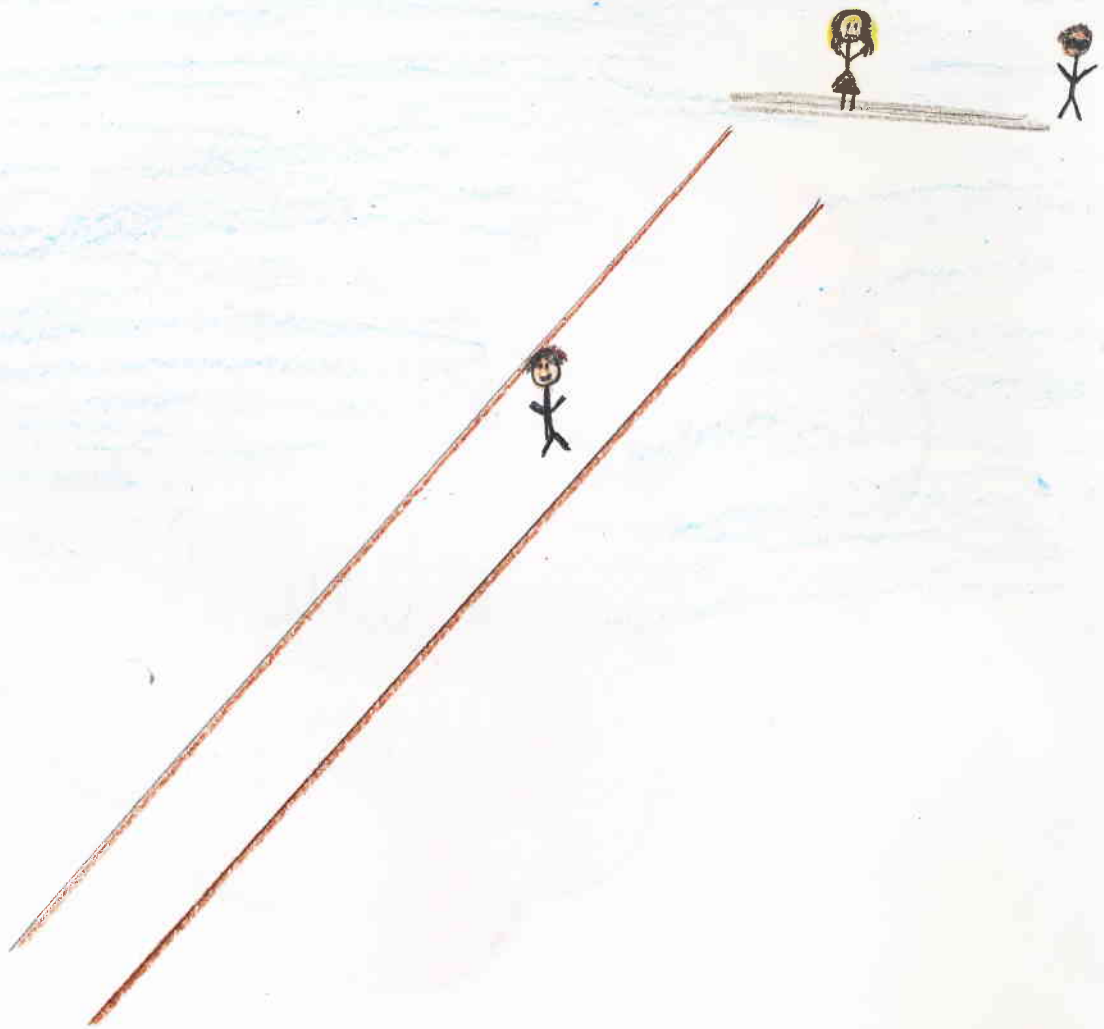
Though my brain is wise and
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are dark and the wind is
cold. For directly across this
fairytale castle, is a
beautiful maiden whom you
will find in a hassle.

Soon enough, Per Imeter had found the message, which read:

Though my brain is wise and my tricks are old,
The nights are dark and the wind is cold.
For directly across this fairytale castle,
Is a beautiful maiden whom you will find in a hassle.

Per Imeter began to think:

“Directly across the castle... Of course! The island is a square made of all right angles! The castle is on the vertex of the square, so directly across would be the opposite vertex! I must follow the diagonal path!”



As Per Imeter was on his way along the diagonal path, the Evil Righ Tangle was threatening to push Ariaah off of the edge of the cliff. Then, just in the nick of time, Per Imeter arrived. Righ Tangle was baffled that he had figured out the clue.



Per Imeter held Righ Tangle down, just as the King's troops came along to take him to the island jail. Ariaah was so happy that she had been rescued. More importantly, she was happy she had found her true love.

So, from then on, the mathematical terms area and perimeter were named in their honor.

Ariah and Per Imeter soon became King and Queen of the island where they fell in love, and they lived happily ever after in Polygonland for all of eternity.

THE END