

Geometry: CLE 3108.4.1
SPI 3108.4.3

A Quadrilateral Fairy Tale
As told by Pat Wilder

Before the actual telling of the story, students should be familiar with these five characteristics of all parallelograms:

- *Opposite sides are parallel*
- *Opposite sides are congruent*
- *Opposite angles are congruent*
- *Consecutive angles are supplementary*
- *Diagonals bisect each other*

During the telling of the story, every time the storyteller says the word “parallelogramville,” the students must recite the five characteristics listed above. While I have used the word parallelogramville multiple times in the writing of the story, the storyteller may use an expression such as “this city” on occasion to lessen the interruption of the flow of the story.

Now for the story.....

Once upon a time in a land far, far away, there was a country named Quadrilaterals. Every citizen in that country had 4 sides. In fact, no one could even visit the country of Quadrilaterals unless they, too, had 4 sides. Also, in that country was a village called Parallelogramville. Parallelogramville was a very special place where all the citizens had five things in common. And I think you know what those are.

In the first scene of our story, we meet Ricky Rectangle. Ricky is in the city park and he is walking back and forth, wringing his hands, and muttering to himself. You see, Ricky Rectangle has a problem. He is very concerned about his looks. He thinks that his four right angles are so ugly. Mind you, no one else in Parallelogramville thought this. But poor Ricky just felt so alone and unwanted.

Ricky also had a secret...something he had never told anyone. You see, he was secretly in love with someone. But he just knew with his four right angles, she would never have anything to do with him. That’s why he is so sad. He thinks about her all the time. He can’t eat or sleep. He is just miserable. Her name is Rachel Rhombus and with her four congruent sides, Ricky thinks she has the best figure in all of Parallelogramville. Rachel is also very popular and Ricky just knows she wouldn’t have anything to do with him because of his four right angles.

Well, back to Ricky in the city park. He finally sits down on a park bench and just holds his head in his hands. He is just so sad. A few minutes later, he realizes that someone has sat on the other end of the park bench. He doesn’t bother to look and see who it is because he knows that whoever is there wouldn’t be interested in talking to him. He gives a big sigh.

Suddenly he hears a voice say, “Ricky, Ricky Rectangle, is that you?” Ricky looks up and suddenly his heart nearly stops. He feels himself going pale and thinks he might faint. The voice that spoke to him is none other than Rachel Rhombus! It suddenly dawns on him that she knows his name... Rachel Rhombus with her four congruent sides has spoken to Ricky Rectangle with his four right angles!

Finally, Ricky is able to squeak out a reply, “Yes, Rachel, it’s me, Ricky Rectangle. I didn’t think you knew who I was.” Rachel inched closer to Ricky’s side as she said, “Of course I know who you are. In fact I’ve wanted to talk to you for a long time.” “You wanted to talk with me?” said Ricky. “Yes,” she said, “In fact I think your four right angles are the sharpest in all of Parallelogramville.” Ricky nearly fainted as Rachel moved even closer. In fact, they were almost touching. Ricky said, “But Rachel, with your four congruent sides, you have the best figure in Parallelogramville.”

And with that conversation began one of the most famous romances in all of Parallelogramville. Ricky Rectangle and Rachel Rhombus were inseparable. And with his 4 right angles and her 4 congruent sides, everyone said they were a perfect match. They were so perfect for each other that soon an announcement was made about their upcoming marriage. And on that day everyone in Parallelogramville came to the wedding. It was the most beautiful wedding ever seen in the village.

Now we fast forward in our story to about a year after the wedding. We see Ricky once again pacing back and forth, wringing his hands, and muttering to himself. But this time there is something different. He’s not in the city park. He’s in the waiting room at the Parallelogramville General Hospital. He is waiting for his and Rachel’s first child to be born. What will he look like? Will he have 4 right angles like his father or 4 congruent sides like his mother?”

Finally the nurse comes to tell him that his child has been born. Ricky rushed to Rachel’s bedside. He gave her a kiss and asked if she was okay. Rachel said, “Oh, Ricky he is so precious.” As she opened the blanket so Ricky could see his son for the first time, she said, “See, he has four right angles just like you.” Ricky replied, “And he has 4 congruent sides just like his mother. He’s beautiful!”

Rachel said, “What do you think we should name him? It’s got to be a special name.” Ricky thought for a minute and then said, “I’ve got it! How do you like the name Sammy?” “It’s perfect,” said Rachel. “With his 4 right angles and 4 congruent sides, we can call him *Sammy Square*.”

And Ricky Rectangle and Rachel Rhombus and Sammy Square lived happily ever after in Parallelogramville.

The End