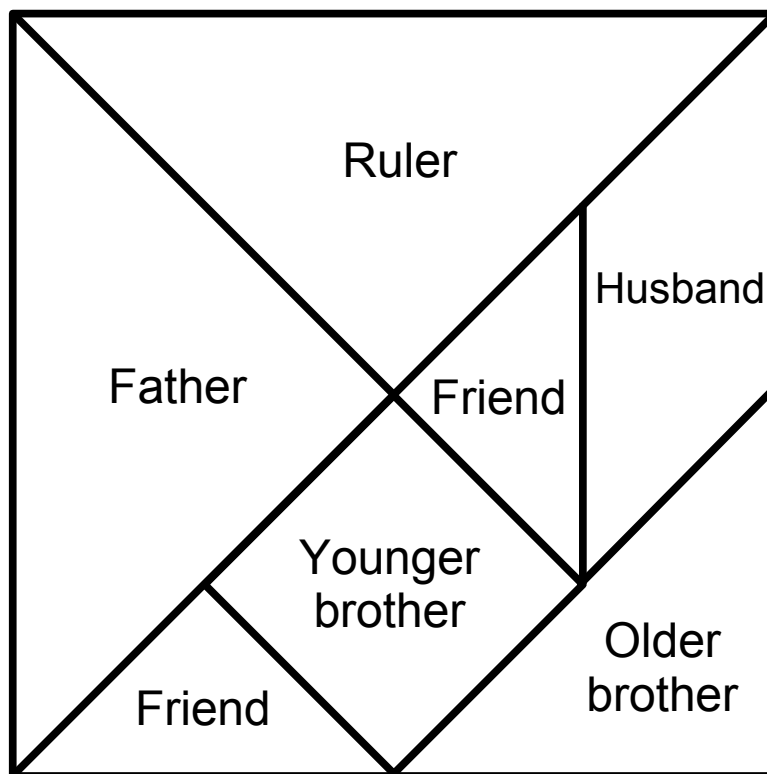


The Education of Wang Shen

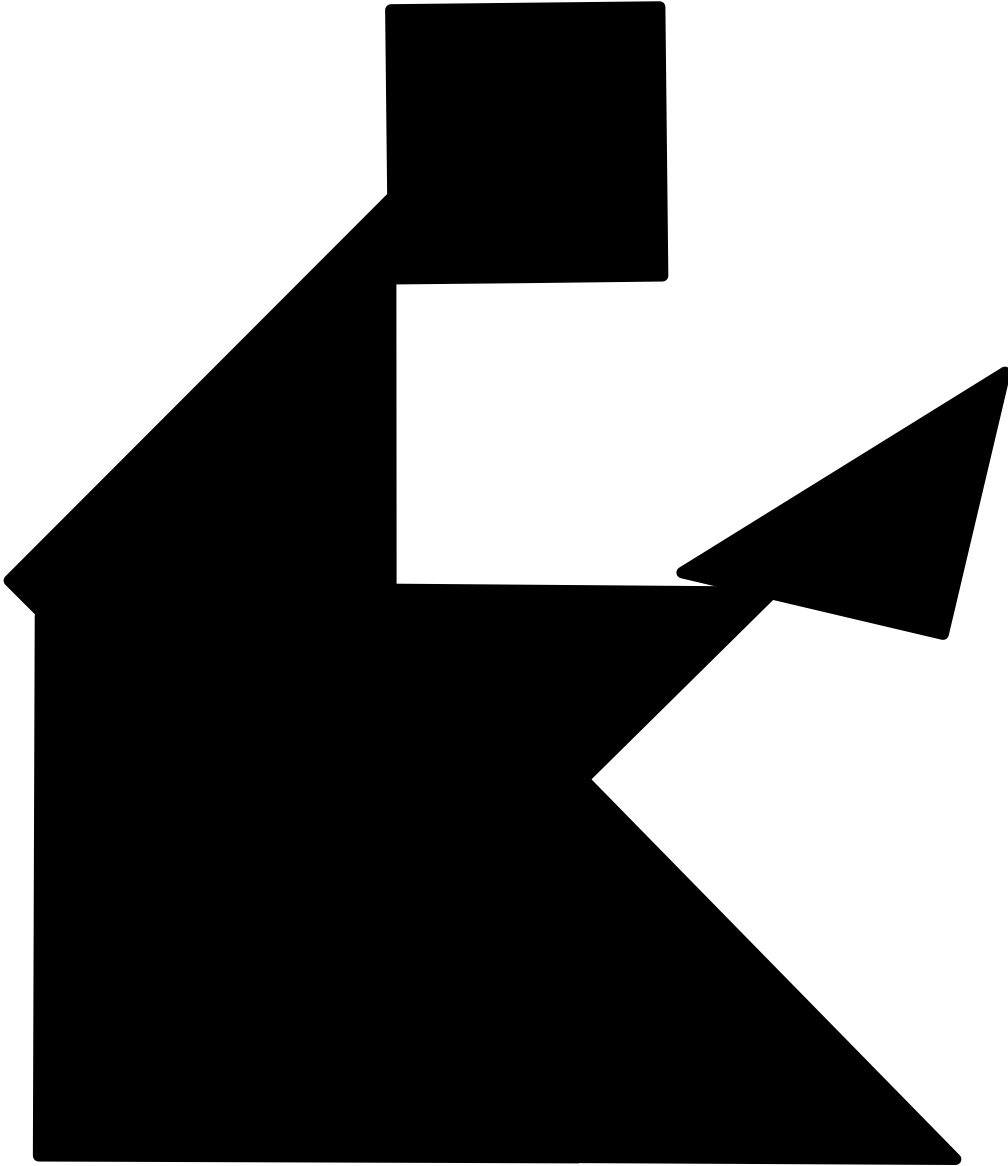
A tale told with tangrams

Lance Sayward

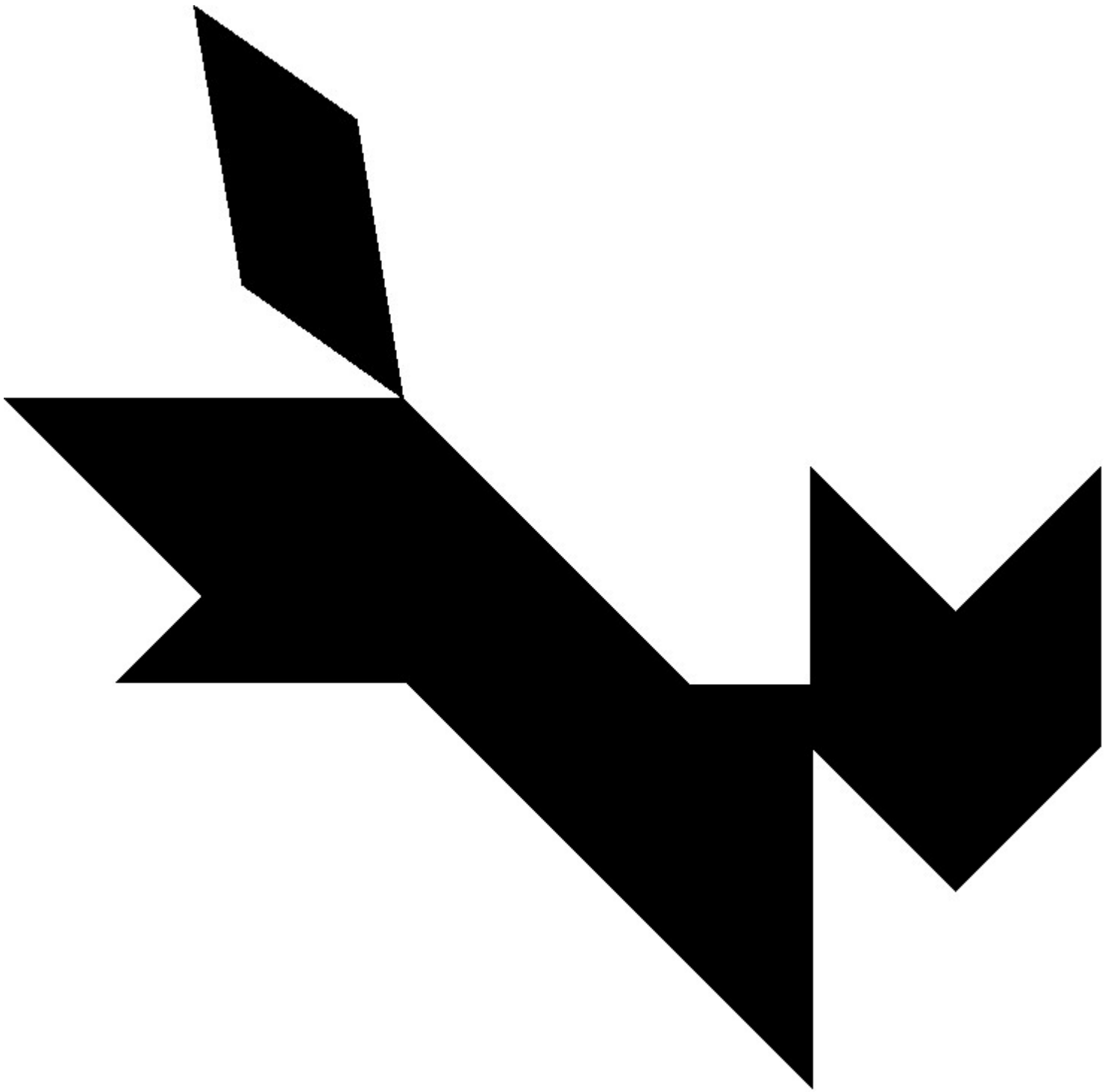


The Education of Wang Shen

For my children



There once was a boy, Wang Shen, who studied hard, but what he most wanted to learn was not taught. His greatest desire was to change his shape, so he went to the den of the fox spirit, Wu Ling.



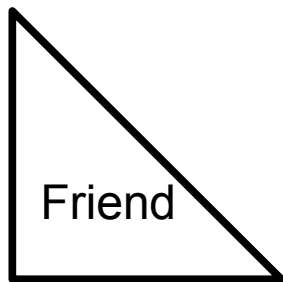
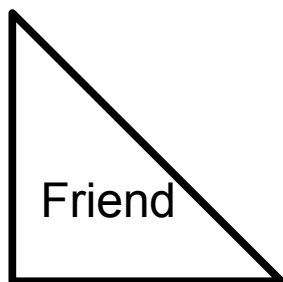
“O venerable fox, please instruct me in the ways of shape changing,” implored Shen.

“If you would change your shape young Wang, tell me what you know of the five relationships,” replied Wu Ling.

“I know the relationship of friend to friend,” said the boy.

“Very well,” said the fox, “Consider the friends.”
And with that Wu Ling started to change.

Using



Make



“That reminds me of another relationship,” said the boy.

“I know the relationship of husband to wife.”

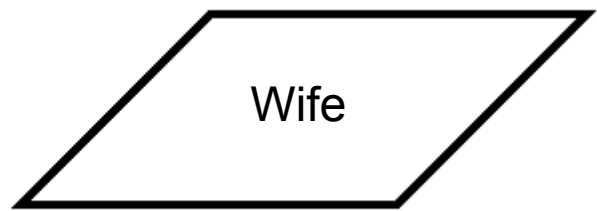
“Yes,” said the fox, “Consider the husband and wife. The two are like the reflection in still water.”

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

Using



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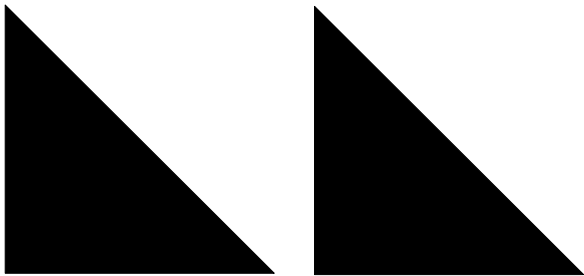
“I know another relationship,” said the boy.

“I know the relationship of older brother to younger brother.”

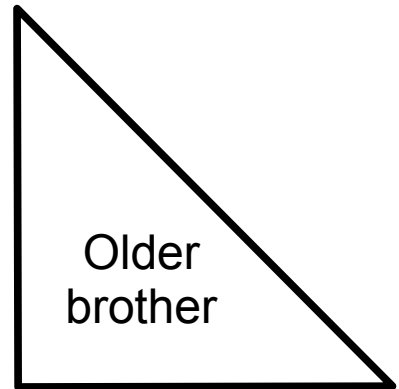
“Well done,” said the fox, “Consider the older brother and the younger brother.”

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

Using



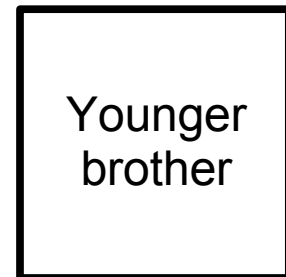
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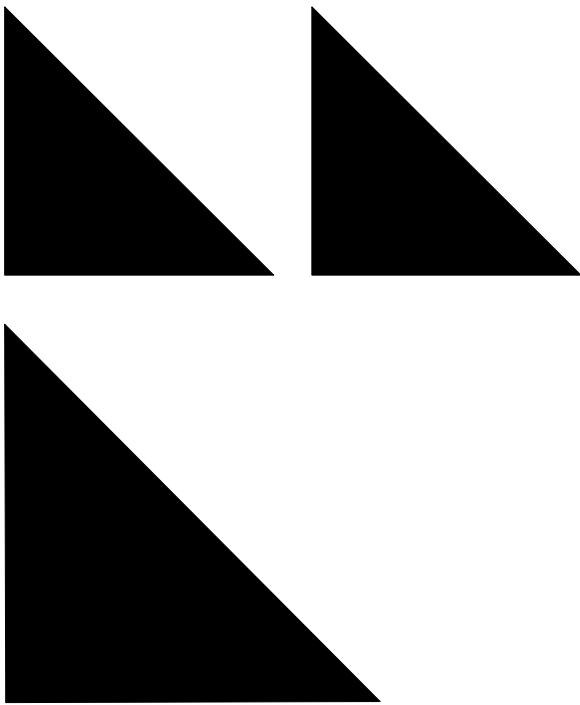
“I know more relationships,” said the boy.

“I know the relationship of father to son and ruler to ruled.”

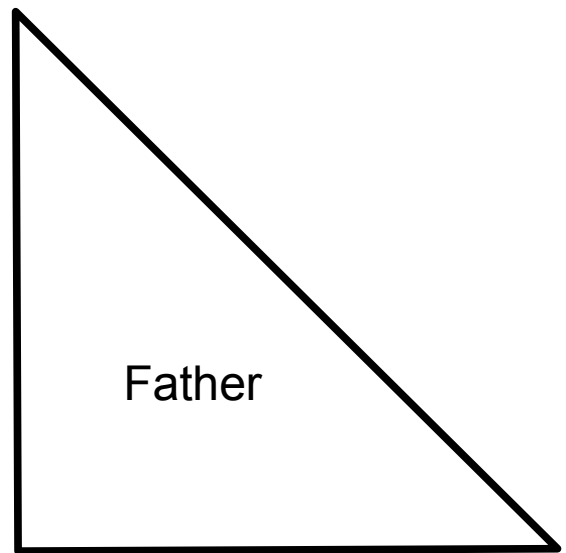
“Excellent,” said the fox, “Consider the father and ruler.”

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

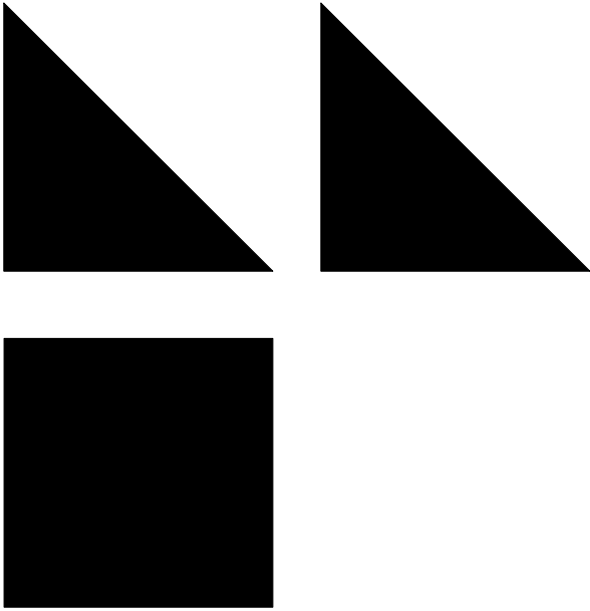
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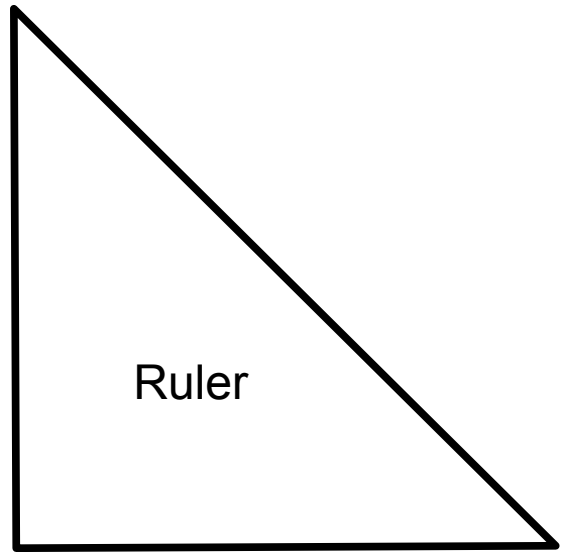
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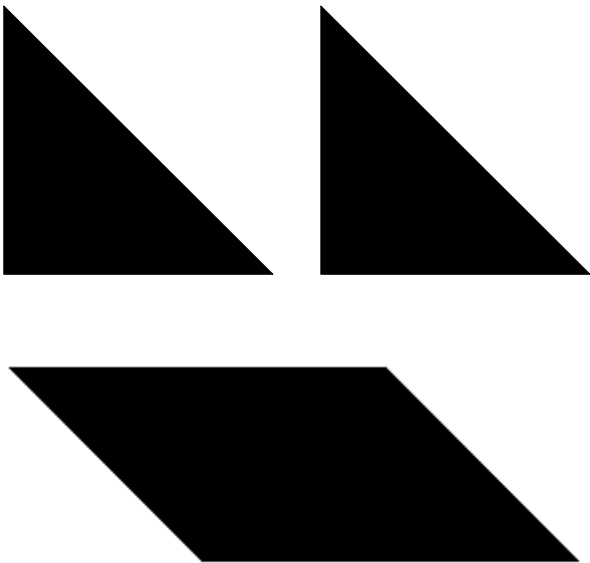
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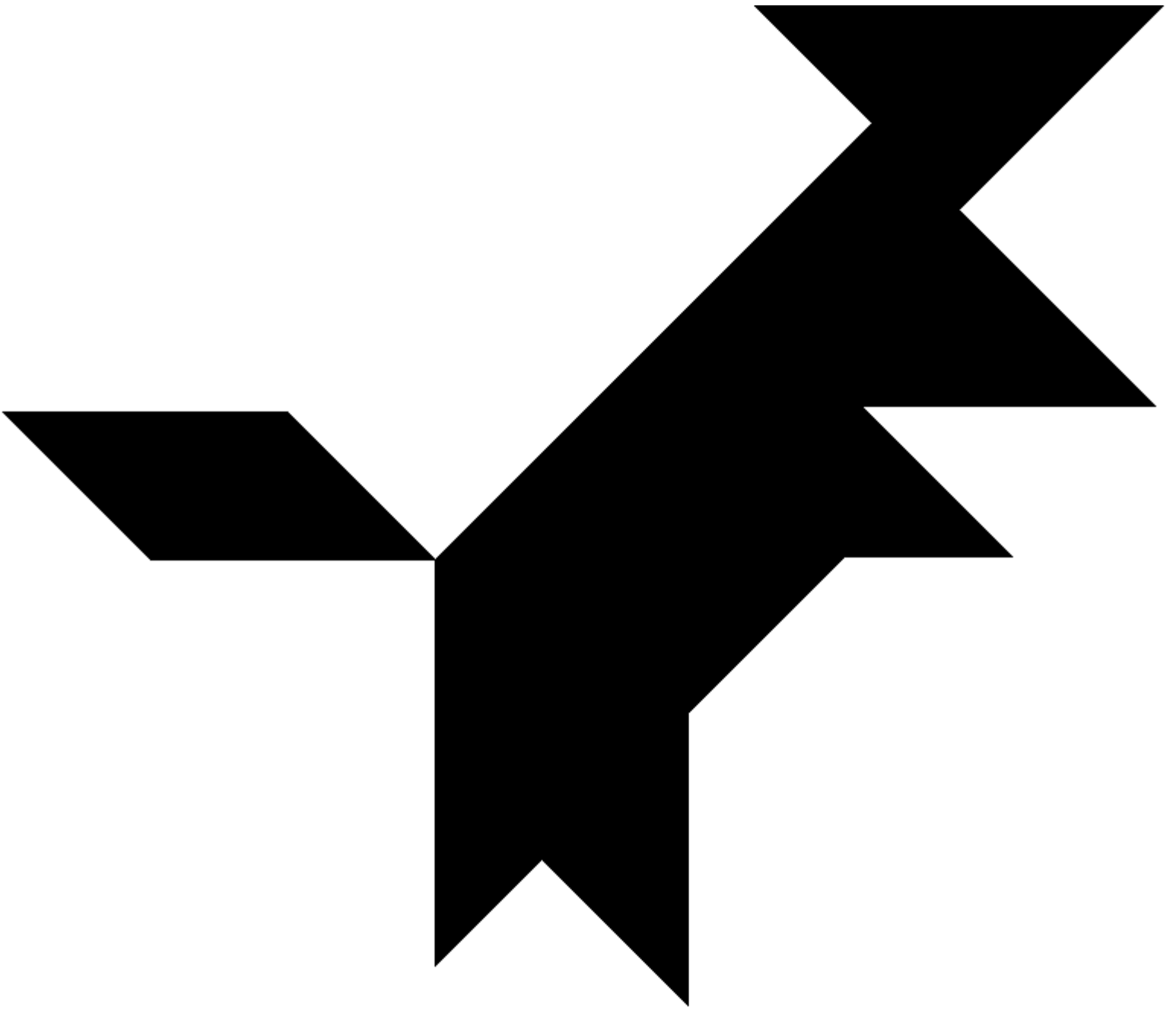


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Wang Shen grew impatient. “I know all these relationships, but how does that help me change my shape?”

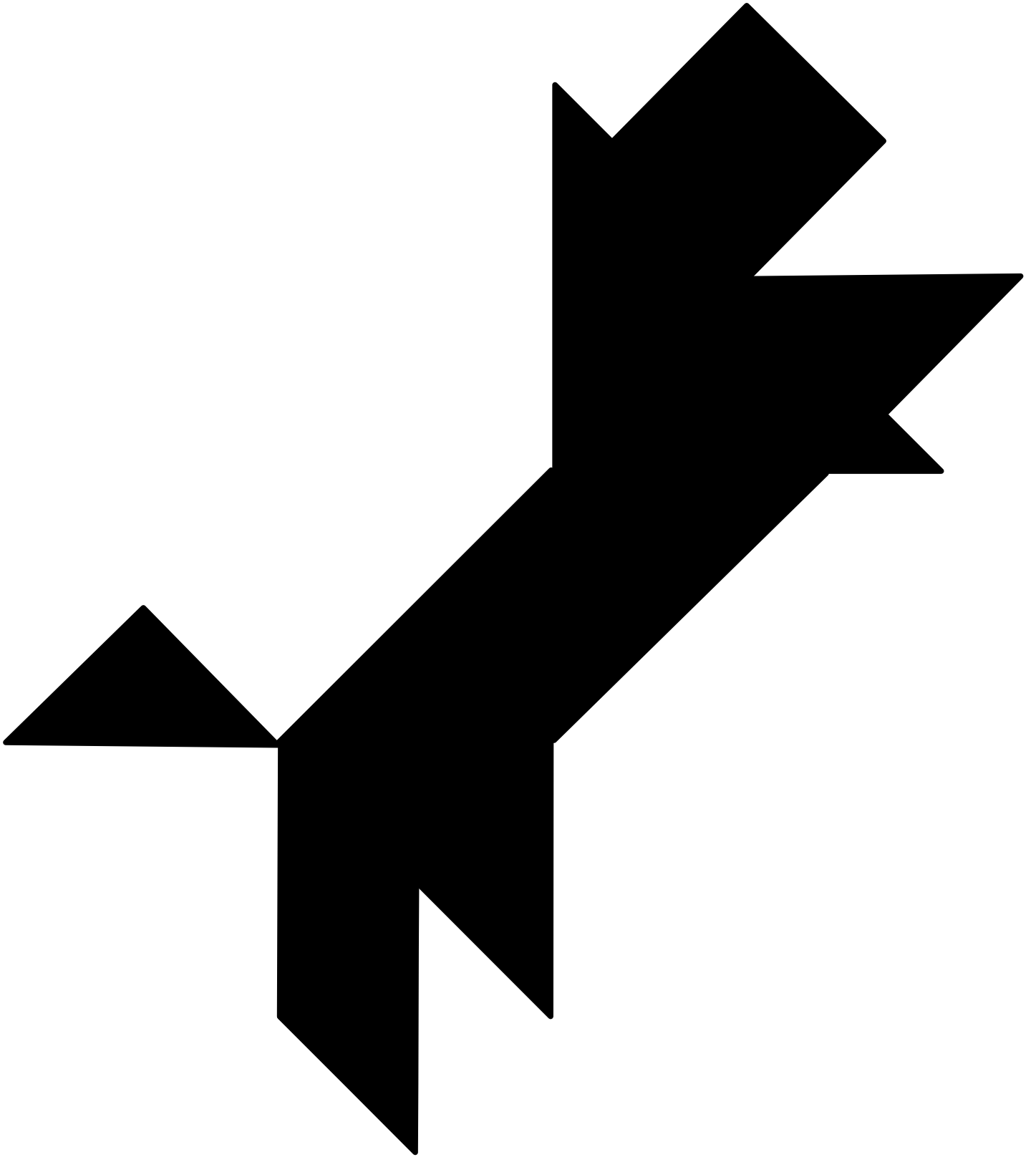
“Patience little Wang. You have all the necessary knowledge in the five relationships,” said Wu Ling, “Ruler to ruled,
Father to son,
Older brother to younger brother,
Husband to wife, and
Friend to friend.”



“If you would be a protecting lion, consider ruler and father,” said the fox.

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

“Oh, I understand now,” said the boy, and he changed into a lion.

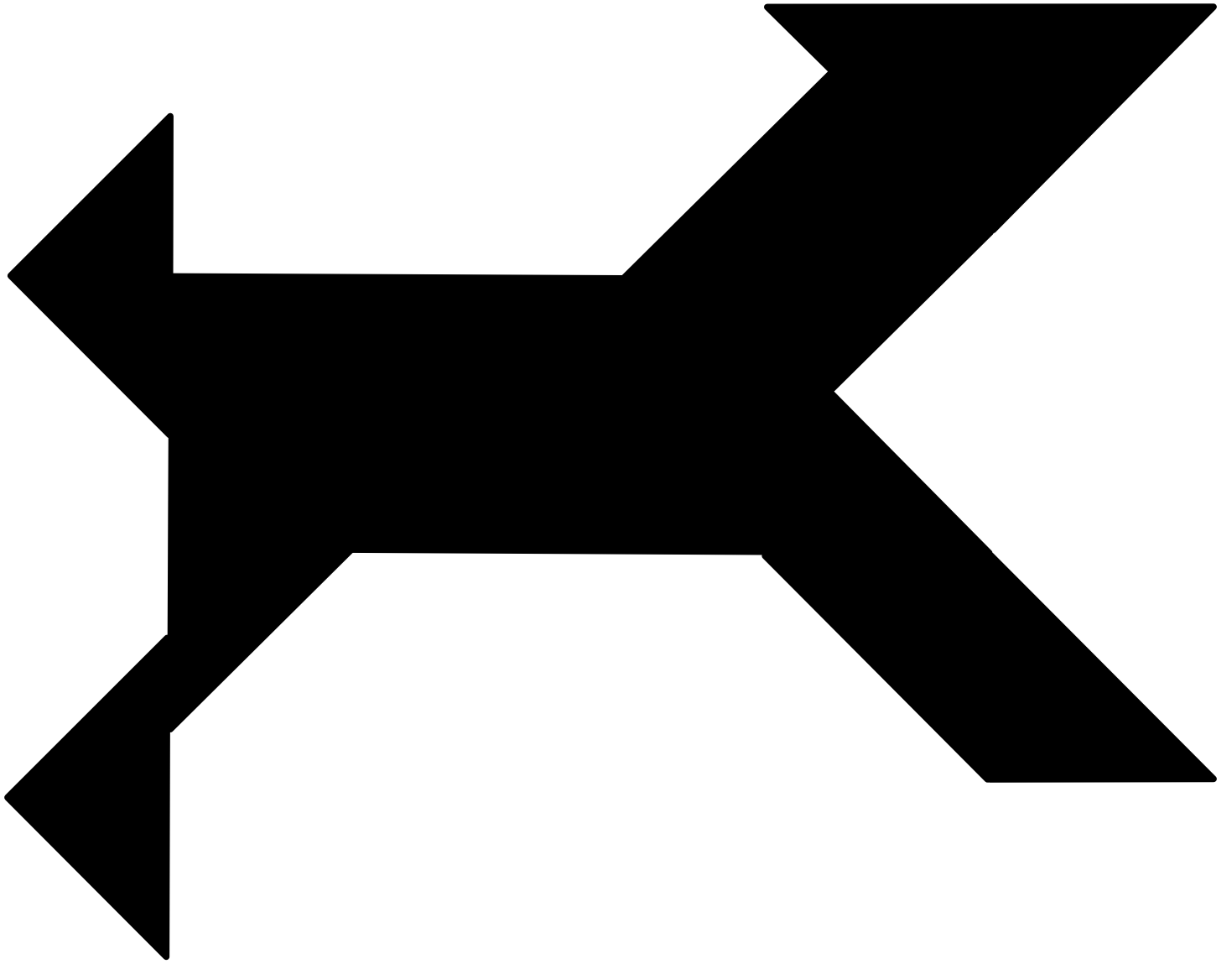


“If you would be a bounding deer,
consider ruler and father.

Consider older brother and younger brother,” said the
fox.

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

“Oh, I understand now,” said the boy, and he
changed into a deer.



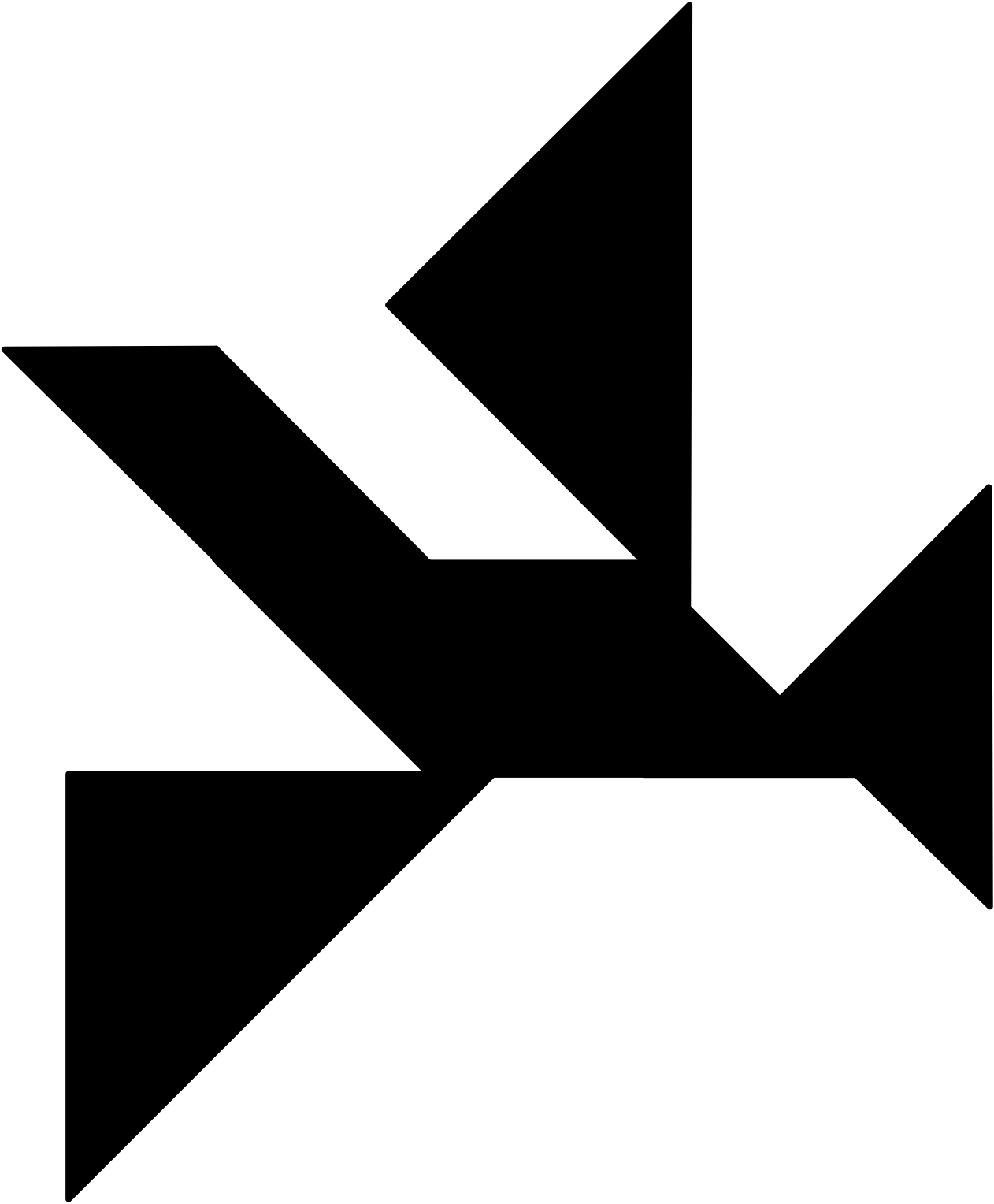
“If you would be a soaring eagle,
consider ruler and father.

Consider older brother and younger brother.

Consider husband and wife,” said the fox.

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

“Oh, I understand now,” said the boy, and he
changed into an eagle.



“If you would be a diving fish,
consider ruler and father.

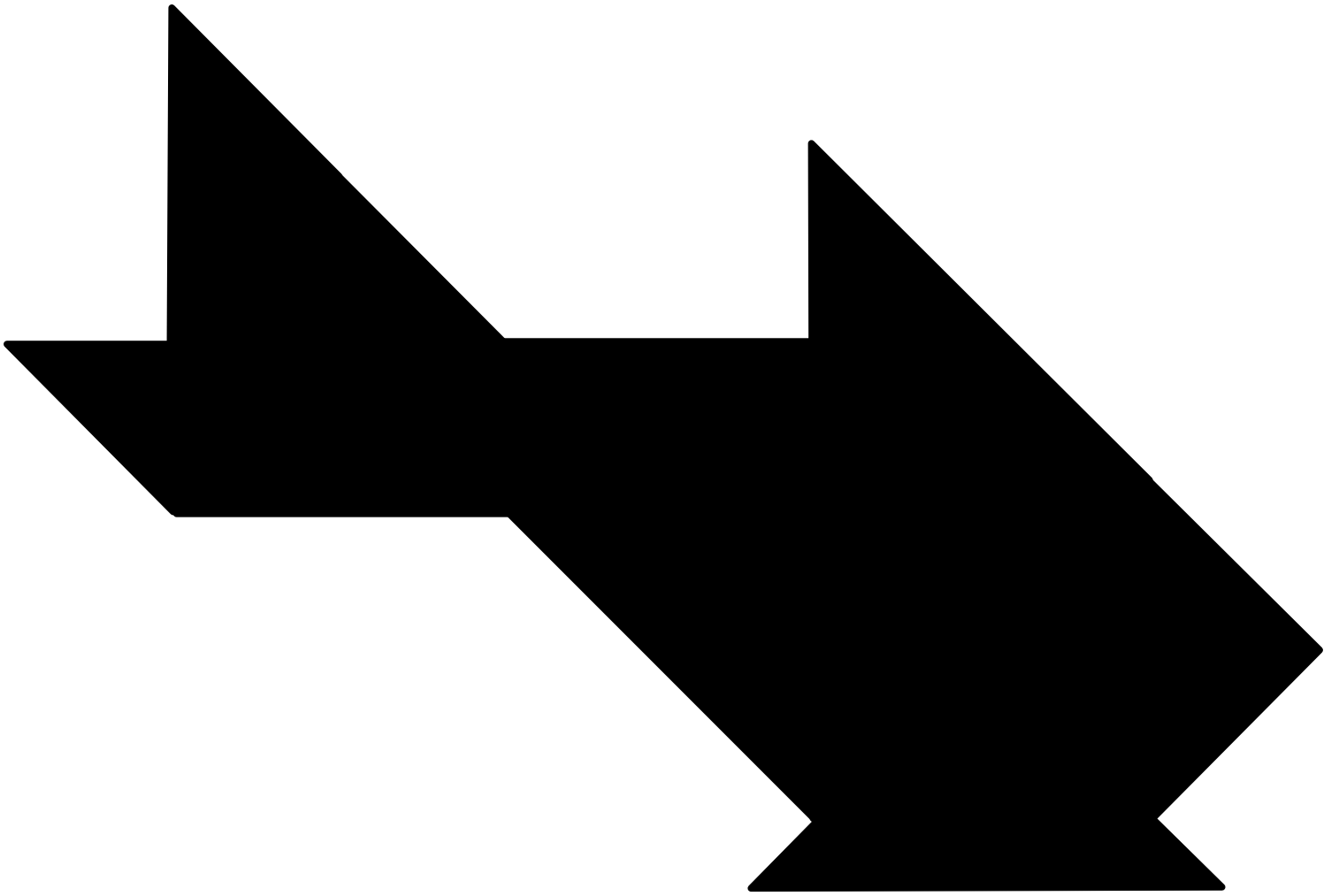
Consider older brother and younger brother.

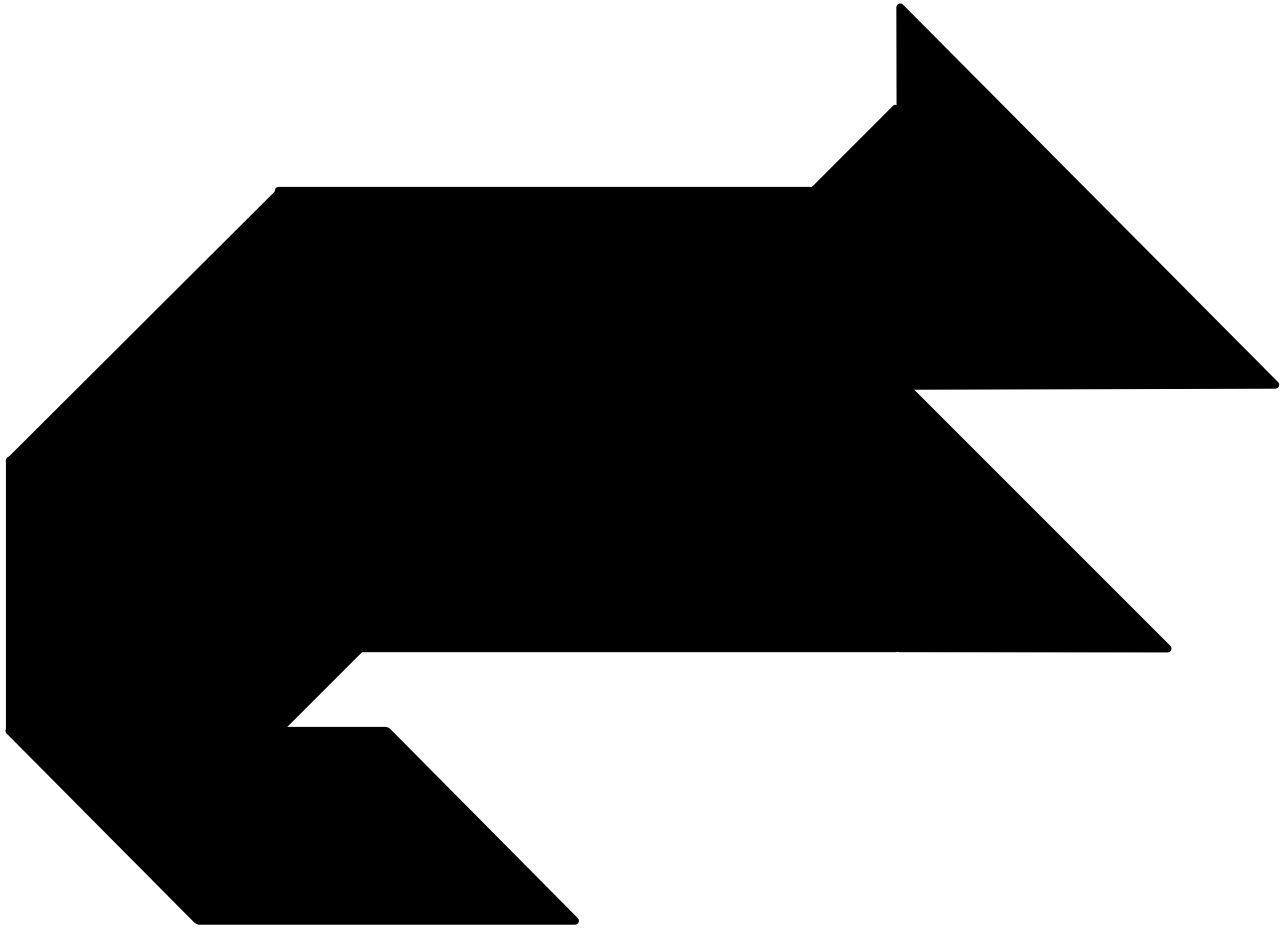
Consider husband and wife.

Consider friend and friend” said the fox.

And with that Wu Ling started to change.

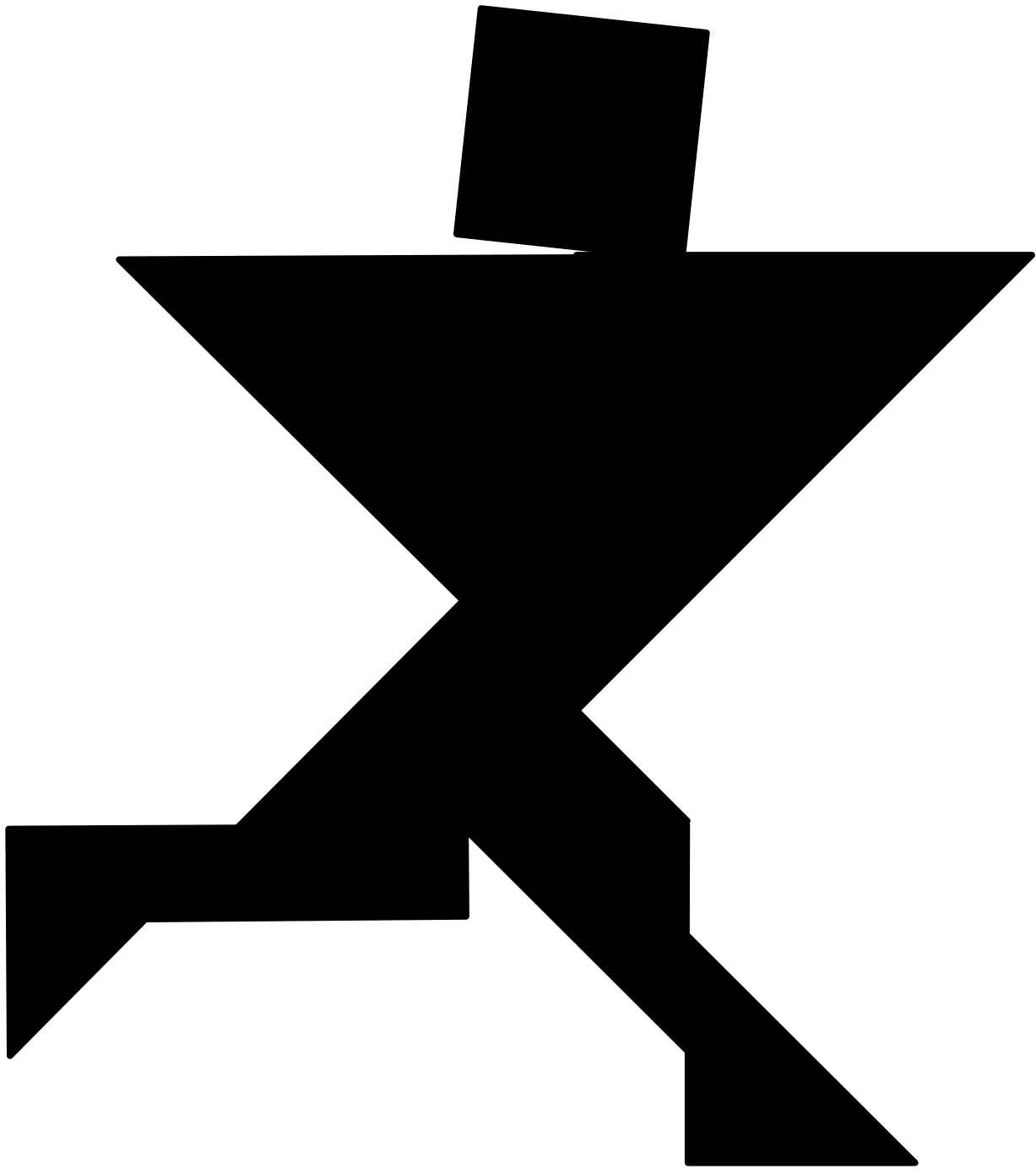
“Oh, I understand now,” said the boy, and he
changed into a fish.





When they had changed back into a boy and a fox, Wang Shen said, “O wise spirit, thank you for instructing me.”

“An able student gladdens the master's heart,” said Wu Ling. “Always remember the importance of the five relationships.”



“I will,” promised Shen, and he made his way home.

Appendix C:
Solutions by page number

