



a tangled teaser

Puzzle Topic
Visual puzzles

Puzzle Question
What secret message(s) can you find printed on the page?

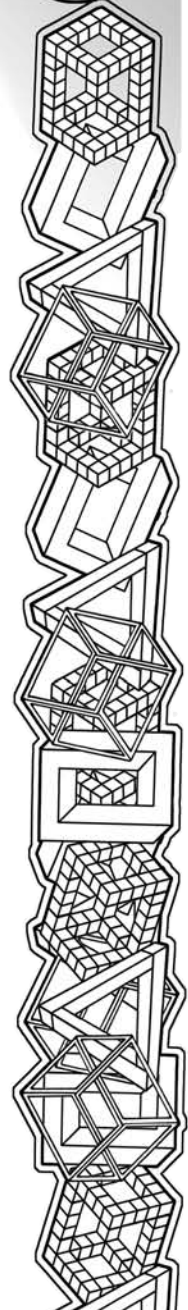
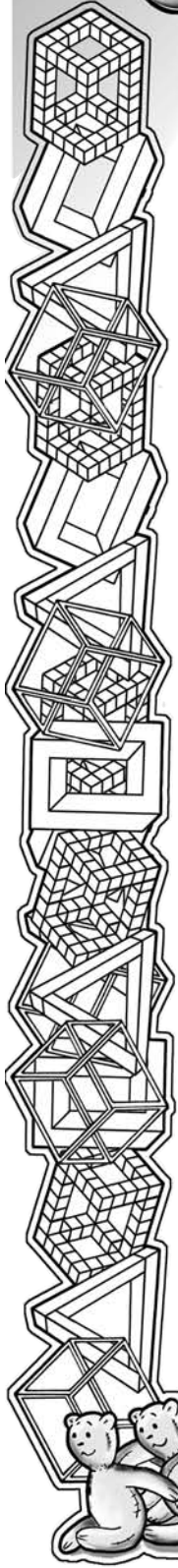
Materials
Student sheet

Puzzle Background
This puzzle is unlike the others in this section. It is loosely patterned after the anamorphic art which first appeared in the 16th century. This type of art plays with tricks of perspective and involves distorting an image to create a hidden object within a painting that can only be seen from one particular viewing angle. Leonardo da Vinci was the first to experiment with anamorphic art. In a 1518 painting he included a hidden eye that could only be seen from one special angle. This seminal work was the first of many by various European artists that proliferated in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Instead of a hidden object within a painting, *A Tangled Teaser* presents a *secret message* for students to decode. The jumble of lines on the page can be read quite easily once you learn how to view it. When the message is decoded, students can be challenged to create similar messages of their own. This is easy to do using a draw program on the computer which can be used to stretch and distort text.

- Puzzle Presentation**
1. It is possible that some of your students have seen a puzzle similar to this one before. When introducing the puzzle, ask any students who know how to view the message to keep this a secret so that everyone can have a chance to solve the puzzle on their own.
 2. Because the only thing needed for this puzzle is the student sheet, *A Tangled Teaser* is especially good for students to take home and share with their parents.

Solution Hint
Think about alternate ways to look at the paper.



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The task in this puzzle is to read the secret message printed below. It may take a while, but careful observation and creative thinking should untangle the mystery.

