The Magic Paintbrush

Long ago, there lived a boy called Ma Liang. Ma Liang was poor but he was very kind. He loved to paint and draw.

One night, Ma Liang had a dream. In his dream a mysterious old man gave Ma Liang a magic paintbrush. He told Ma Liang to use it to help people. When he woke up, Ma Liang found the magic paintbrush on his pillow.

From that day on, Ma Liang helped everyone he met. His village had no water, so Ma Liang painted a river and it came to life. The next village had no food, so Ma Liang painted crops. People in the next village had no homes, so Ma Liang painted houses.

The greedy king heard about the magic paintbrush. He wanted it for himself so he threw Ma Liang in prison! The greedy king tried to paint some gold, but nothing happened. He was very angry.

He went to Ma Liang and said, 'Paint me what I want and I will set you free.'

Ma Liang came up with a plan! The king asked for a mountain of gold. Ma Liang painted a big blue sea with a mountain far away. The king asked Ma Liang for a boat. When the king was half way there, Ma Liang painted a huge wave and - WHOOSH – the king fell into the sea.

The greedy king was never seen again. Ma Liang lived a good and happy life.