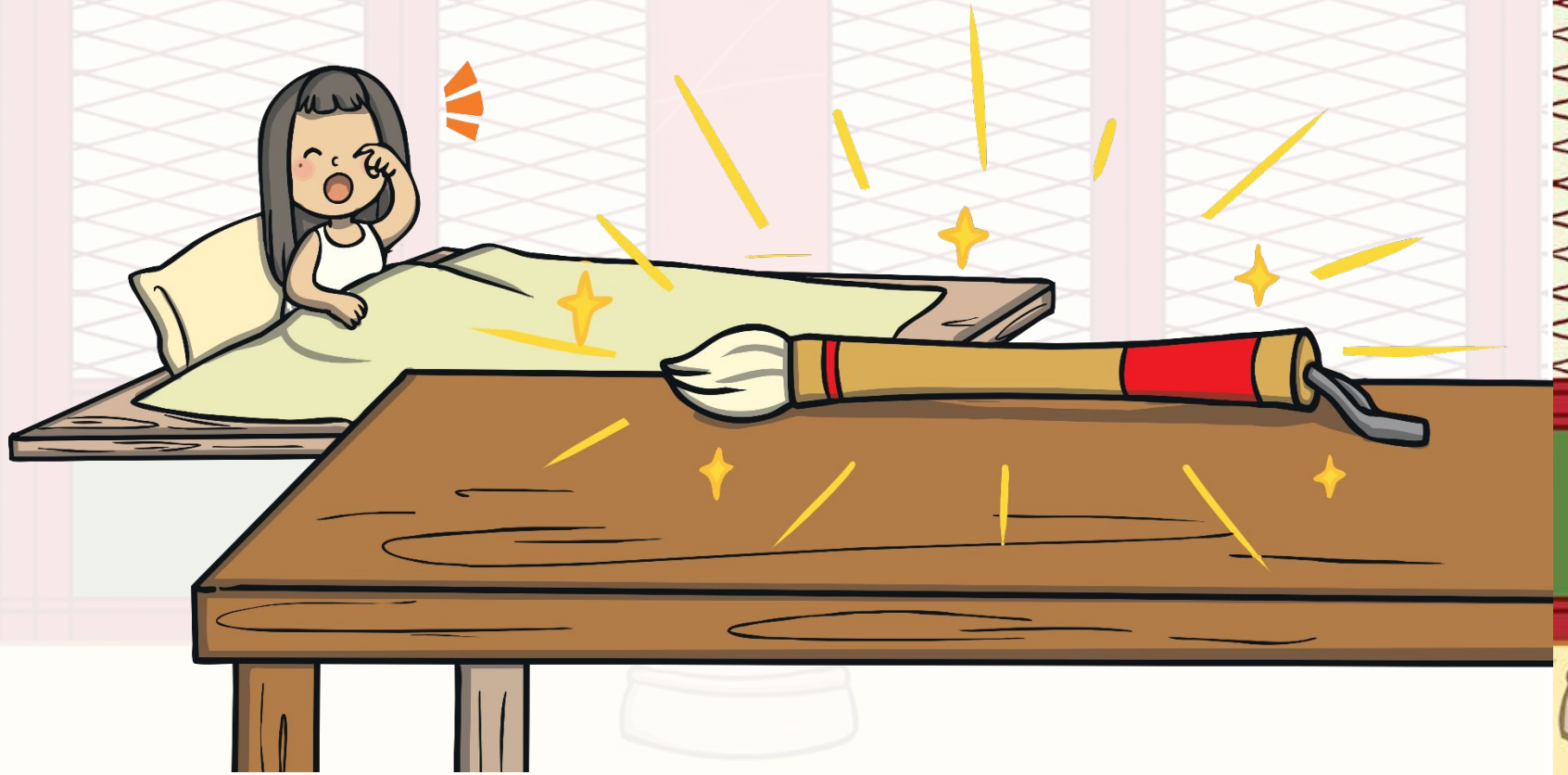# The Magic Paintbrush

神笔

A Chinese Folktale

中国童话故事

Once there lived a young boy named Ma Liang. He was very poor and very kind. Ma Liang loved drawing and drew pictures everywhere.

从前有个男孩，名叫马良。尽管他的生活非常穷苦，但是他很善良。马良很喜欢画画，在任何可以画画的地方画。

One night, when Ma Liang was asleep in bed, he dreamt that an old man gave him a magic paintbrush. In his dream, the old man asked Ma Liang to use the magic paintbrush to help poor people.

一天晚上，熟睡中的马良做了一个梦，一位老人给了他一支神奇的画笔。在梦中，老人告诉马良，要使用这支神笔帮助穷人。

When Ma Liang woke the next morning, he found the magic paintbrush on his desk.

第二天早上，当马良醒来的时候，他在桌子上发现了梦中的神笔。

Ma Liang did as the old man had asked and used the paintbrush to help poor people. Ma Liang spotted a dry field with no water for the crops to grow, so he used his paintbrush to paint a river.

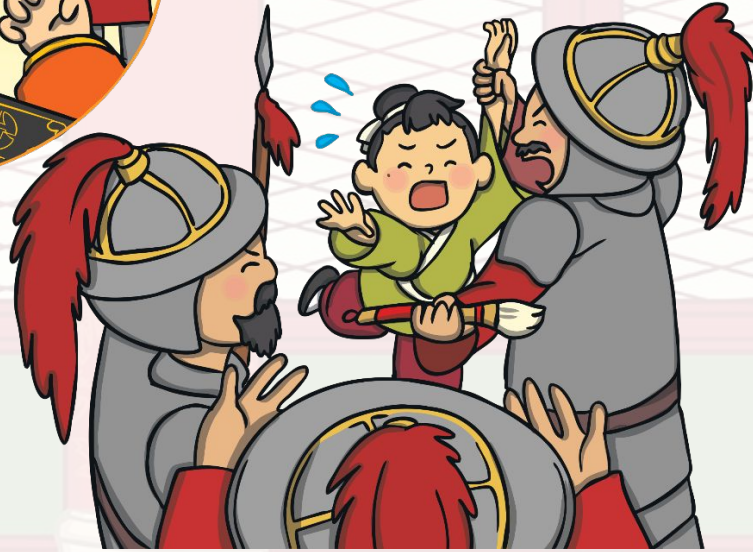马良按照老人的指示，使用这支神笔画画以帮助穷人。当他看到农田干涸，因缺水灌溉导致农作物无法生长时，他使用画笔画出一条河流。

The river came to life! The poor people collected water from the river and used it to help the crops in their fields to grow.
结果，河流变成了真的！穷人可以从河流中取水，用于灌溉庄稼，最终使得农作物生长。

Ma Liang saw some farmers. He noticed that they worked really hard, but they still struggled to feed their families. He used his magic paintbrush to paint more food for them to eat. Everyone he helped was very grateful to Ma Liang.

马良见到了很多的农民。他看到尽管农民的生活非常艰辛，却仍旧努力的生活，以养活全家。于是他使用神笔画出了食物，供穷人们食用。他帮助过的每个人都非常感激马良。

Everyone, except for a mean, rich man who lived in the village. This man was very greedy and he thought that owning the magic paintbrush would make him even richer. He made a plan and sent his servants to steal the magic paintbrush from Ma Liang's home.

村里住着一个卑鄙的富人。这个人很贪婪，当他知道马良有神笔后，他就希望将神笔据为己有，这样就可以使他更富有。于是他制定了一个计划，派遣他的仆人从马良的家中偷走了马良的神笔。

The greedy, rich man had the paintbrush and was very happy. He invited all of his friends to come and look at his new magic paintbrush and show them what it could do. He drew painting after painting, but none of them came to life. This made the man very angry and he sent for Ma Liang.

这个贪婪的富人得到了神笔后非常开心。他邀请了他的朋友来看这支神笔，并且希望给朋友们展示神笔的魔力。他画了一幅又一幅画，但没有任何一幅画变成真的。这使富人很生气，然后派人抓来了马良。

Later that day, Ma Liang arrived at the rich man's house. The rich man said, "If you paint me some magic pictures that come to life, I will set you free." Ma Liang didn't want to help the greedy, rich man, but he wanted to escape. Ma Liang thought up a clever plan…

随后，马良到了富人的家。富人对他说:"如果你能画出变成真的画，我就放了你。"马良不想帮助这个贪婪的富人，但他又想逃跑。于是，马良想出了一个相当聪明的计划……

Ma Liang asked the greedy, rich man, "What would you like me to paint for you?"

The greedy, rich man said, "I want a picture of a golden mountain. I will go there to collect gold."

马良问贪婪的富人, "你希望我帮你画什么呢?"

贪婪的富人说"我想要画出一座金山。我就可以去那里采金子了。"

But Ma Liang did not paint a golden mountain. Instead, he drew the sea. This made the greedy, rich man even angrier. "Why have you drawn the sea? I want a golden mountain. Draw it for me now!" he demanded. So Ma Liang painted the golden mountain far away from the sea.

然而马良并没有画出金山。反而他画了一片海。这让贪婪的富人更加生气了。"为什么你要画一片海呢？我要的是一座金山。现在就画给我！"他命令到。所以马良在海的远处画出一座金山。

The greedy, rich man still wasn't happy with the painting. "Draw me a large ship. I want to go there now and get the gold!" he said. Ma Liang painted a large ship and smiled to himself as the greedy, rich man jumped into it.

贪婪的富人依然对画不是很满意。"给我画一艘大船。我希望乘船到金山那里去采金子！"他说。于是马良画了一艘大船，看着贪婪的富人跳上船，他笑了笑。

The greedy, rich man started sailing towards the golden mountain to find the gold. When the ship reached the middle of the sea, Ma Liang painted a huge wave which destroyed the ship. The greedy, rich man wasn't seen in the village ever again.

贪婪的富人开始朝着金山的方向航行，去寻找金子。当他的船逐渐到达海洋的中心时，马良画出了巨大的海浪，这海浪足以摧毁大船。最终人们再也没有在村子中看到过这个贪婪的富人。

Ma Liang lived a long and happy life with his family. He continued to use the magic paintbrush to help poor people, just as the old man had asked him to in his dream. Ma Liang, and his magic paintbrush, was loved by everyone.

从此马良和他的家人幸福的生活在一起。他继续听从老人在梦中告诉他的，使用神笔为穷人作画，帮助更多的穷人。人们都爱马良和他的神笔。