



Family Activities

Title: **Liang and the Magic Paintbrush**

Author: **Demi**

Illustrator: **Demi**

Taken from a Chinese legend, a poor boy who longs to paint is given a magic paintbrush that brings everything he paints to life. LeVar takes a trip to New York City's Chinatown and visits a Chinese calligraphy expert, a stone carver who makes LeVar a name stamp, and a gourmet Chinese chef. He also takes viewers to the New York Institute of Technology where he is shown how to use computer graphics to create art. LeVar concludes his tour of Chinatown by participating in a traditional lion dance.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

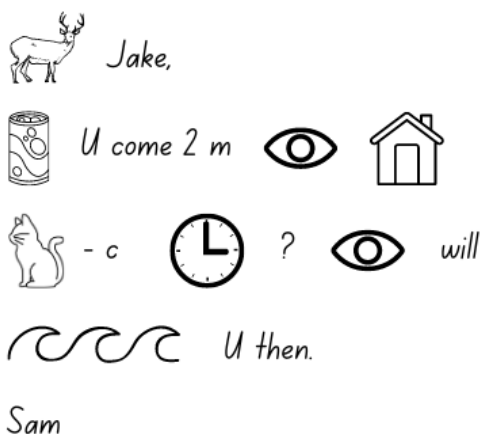
Rebus Characters

The Chinese do not use an alphabet like the English language. They write what we call characters or symbols that stand for sounds, syllables, words, or whole ideas. Children can puzzle their friends by sending a message that is written with a combination of letters, symbols, pictures, syllables, words, or numbers. This is called a "rebus."

For example, if the message is:

Dear Jake,
Can you come to my house at 3?
I will see you then.
Sam

It can be written as a rebus like this:



Have fun creating your own rebuses. Draw pictures, cut them from magazines, or use stickers. See if your friends can figure them out!



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Surprise Paintings

You will need:

- white paper
- liquid tempera paint
- paintbrush
- rolling pin
- newspaper

Directions:

1. Cover your table or working space with newspaper. Fold a sheet of white paper in half.
2. Drip small puddles of paint onto one-half of the paper, then fold it closed.
3. Using the rolling pin, go back and forth over the top of the paper, pressing it down. This will make the print create the design.
4. Open paper for a double design.

Options:

- What does your picture look like? Add details with markers to make a thing or an animal.
- Use scissors to cut paper into a shape such as a butterfly. Fold in half and drip paint on one side. When you open it, look at the double design.
- Put drops of paint on paper. Use a drinking straw to blow the colors of paint to create a design.

Visit Your Community Library

Here is a book to check out on your next trip to the library:

Ben's Trumpet by Rachel Isadora