



# Liang and the Magic Paintbrush

*Demi*

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## **Liang and the Magic Paintbrush** Demi

When a poor boy in China receives a magical paintbrush, everything he paints turns to life. But the wicked emperor wants to capture the boy when he hears the news. The story will excite readers as the ruler gets his just reward when the boy creates a masterpiece that spells his doom.

## **Liang and the Magic Paintbrush Details**

Date : Published July 15th 1988 by Square Fish (first published 1980)

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Author : Demi

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# From Reader Review Liang and the Magic Paintbrush for online ebook

## Shuntia Williams says

This book is about Liang and his magic paintbrush. When the king learns that everything he paints comes to life, he tries to steal it. Liang prevails in the end! This fable shows the power of the imagination. I would use this story when talking about the power determination and creativity.

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## Olivia says

I thought that this book was an easy read and it was exciting and understandable. This book was exciting because there were parts that made you curious, and this book really came to life. It was very artistic because the illustrator made the drawings look very real. This book deserves 4 stars!!!! :)

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## Lde212\_06 says

Liang and the Magic Paintbrush is a good story to read when introducing folklore to students. I think that it is important to diversify the minds of your students and explore the writings of those from other cultures. Teachers can still teach different types of writing without using text found within the dominant culture. In addition to this, I think that this book will help those from other cultures see that their backgrounds are valued within the classroom. The teacher can elaborate on the idea of folklore by having the students find a book outside of their own culture that falls within this category.

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## Shannon says

04/09: Another beautiful book by Demi. Liang longs to paint but is too poor for a paintbrush, much less lessons. One day he is given a magic paintbrush. What he paints comes to life. He uses his gift for good, but of course, there is a powerful villain who covets the paintbrush for greed. Read on as Liang paints his way out of this one and back into the background.

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## Bonnie Chang says

This book is a Chinese folktale about a poor boy that is desperate to become an artist. The main character, Liang, is an unselfish individual that is given a magical paintbrush and instead of being selfish and enriching himself he gives back to the community. But of course, good things are not always noticed by the people with the best intentions. The emperor sees Liang's brush and imprisons him. Taking full advantage that the brush is now his, the emperor tries to paint himself mountains of gold but instead he gets a pile of stone. Eventually, Liang bests the emperor and disappears into the world to do wonders.

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### **Lydia says**

The story of a poor boy who has a passion for painting. At first, he cannot because no one will give him a brush, but then a stranger gives him a magic brush that can bring the things he paints to life!

I don't know the "history" of this story, if it's a legend or something Demi made up, it feels like it's a bit of both. The art complements the story very well, and though the color scheme feels a little dated (very 1970's), it still works in the story.

Content notes: No language or sensuality issues. Several people die by drowning because they get in over their heads with the magic (which is what gives this the classic fairy tale feel; Grimms and co. always rack up a body count at the end).

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### **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

This is my second favorite Demi book. Both Laurence Yep and Robin Muller also wrote versions of this story with the same title. All three are excellent. Recommended!!

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### **Vaishali says**

Absolutely beautiful... and so gently rendered. A complete pleasure to read.

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### **Matt Miles says**

This beautifully illustrated tale is a surprisingly profound meditation on the relationship between art, artists, and power. Highly recommended.

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### **Jan says**

Once upon a time in China, a poor boy named Liang loved to draw. He drew in the dirt and the sand, and even was able to draw upon rocks by using drops of water. But he couldn't do what he most wanted to do -- paint -- because he didn't have a paintbrush. One night as he slept, an old man appeared, riding a phoenix, and placed a magic paintbrush in his hand. Liang was thrilled! He soon found that whatever he painted with the magic brush became real, so he painted things that his friends and neighbors needed, such as shoes, tools, and toys. But what will happen when the greedy emperor finds out about Liang's magic brush?

Demi's lavish, finely detailed ink and watercolor illustrations give life and energy to this classic folktale.

### **Meltha says**

This Chinese fairy tale has a wonderful sense of the fantastic about it. It centers on the kindness and generosity of Liang through much of the story, and the illustrations, which appear to be nods to traditional Chinese art, have a lightness and simplicity to them while being fanciful and occasionally quite colorful. There are two things that detracted from my enjoyment of the book, though. The first is I would have liked some more peritext present, perhaps in the form of some background on the story. At this point, there is only a mini-biography of Demi present, which while nice, doesn't answer my question as to whether this story is traditional in China or not. The other problem that might occur is the death of the emperor and his family. While the emperor himself is certainly depicted as evil and corrupt in the story, Liang killing his whole family in the boating accident feels a touch too close to direct murder, frankly. That would be something that might need to be discussed somewhat with a class. However, certainly many European folk and fairy tales implement similar strategies for this plots, so it's not without precedent.

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### **Megan Roberts says**

This story is about a boy who discovers a magical paintbrush that makes everything he paint turn to life. After hearing the news the emperor is now after him. I would read this to a first grade class and below.

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### **Ronyell says**

Is there not anything that Demi cannot do? "Liang and the Magic Paintbrush" is a Chinese folktale by Demi that is about a young boy named Liang who receives a magic paintbrush from a magical man and every time Liang painted with the paintbrush, whatever he painted would come to life and he also must avoid the evil emperor at all costs! "Liang and the Magic Paintbrush" is truly a beautiful tale about the consequences of being greedy that many children will love for years!

Demi had made this book completely beyond amazing with her beautiful illustrations and her dazzling writing of this ancient Chinese folktale. Demi makes this book extremely exciting as Liang is immediately thrown into trouble when the Emperor forces Liang to come to his palace to do his evil biddings with the paintbrush. I loved the way that Demi made Liang into such a kind-hearted and clever character as he truly uses his magic paintbrush for good intentions such as helping out his family and friends and it is that aspect of Liang's personality that I really enjoyed since I also love helping other people during their time of needs too. I also thought that the idea about a magic paintbrush bringing paintings to life is truly creative and amazing as I never would have read about an object that would bring drawings to life, although that does seem to be the norm for many fairy tales. Demi's illustrations are extremely beautiful, especially the way that Demi drew the bamboo trees in luscious green colors and I also loved the image of Liang himself as he has dark hair and small eyes and he is always shown wearing a beige colored robe which clearly makes him look distinguished and innocent.

All in all, "Liang and the Magic Paintbrush" is a truly magnificent book for children who love Chinese folktales and love to learn about the consequences of being too greedy. I would recommend this book to

children ages five and up since the Chinese names might be too difficult for smaller children to read through.

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### **Heather says**

Another lovely book from Demi. Her illustrations are always so beautiful.

An interesting story of a boy with a magic paintbrush who can create things just by painting them. The not-so-nice emperor finds out and orders him to paint things for him. Liang ends up drowning him. In a nice way.

I hesitate to recommend this to little ones because they may not like that part. My older boys were just fine with it. I suggest you read it first to see what you're comfortable with.

We will probably read this again in our study of China. Not because it contains factual information though. The illustrations and story itself are Chinese which adds a 'cultural' element to the study.

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### **Marianna French says**

Beautiful illustrations and a wonderful concept.

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