



Cast



Narrator 1



Sui-Ming



Old man



Teacher



Emperor



Narrator 2



Sui-Ming's family



People from the village
(non-speaking)

Work with the children to allocate characters and prepare a short performance. Discuss the stage directions in advance and make sure the children understand how to follow the script.

Narrator 1: Sui-Ming and his parents lived near a forest.

(Sui-Ming drags wood from the forest.)

Narrator 2: Every morning, Sui-Ming got wood from the forest. He sold it in the village.

(A bird flies down. Sui-Ming sits and draws a picture.)

Narrator 1: One evening, Sui-Ming sat next to a river. A white bird flew down, and Sui-Ming drew a picture of it.

(Sui-Ming thinks out loud.)

Sui-Ming: I don't want to sell wood. I want to draw!

(Sui-Ming walks past a school.)

Narrator 2: One morning, Sui-Ming walked past a school. He saw students painting.

Narrator 1: Sui-Ming ran into the class.

Sui-Ming: Can I paint, too?

(The teacher looks at Sui-Ming's clothes.)

Narrator 2: The teacher saw Sui-Ming's old clothes.

Teacher: You have no money. Now, go!

(Sui-Ming's is restless and can't sleep.)

Narrator 1: That night, Sui-Ming could not sleep.

Sui-Ming: I can't paint. I must work, because we have no money.

(An old man appears. Sui-Ming sits up.)

Narrator 2: Then, Sui-Ming saw an old man in his bedroom!

Old man: I have something for you. But you must help people with it.

Narrator 1: In the morning, Sui-Ming found a paintbrush. He painted flowers and a butterfly.

(Sui-Ming's mother comes in. A butterfly appears.)

Narrator 2: Sui-Ming's mother came in, and a butterfly flew on her face!

Narrator 1: The paintbrush was magic!

(Sui-Ming paints some bread.)

Narrator 2: Then, Sui-Ming painted some bread for his family.

Sui-Ming's family:

We are not hungry now!

(Sui-Ming paints for the people in the village)

Narrator 1: Sui-Ming painted food and animals for people in the village.

(The emperor hears about Sui-Ming.)

Narrator 2: Soon, the emperor of China learned about Sui-Ming. He sent for him.

Emperor: Paint me a crown!

Sui-Ming: No, my paintbrush must help people. A crown can't help people.

Emperor: Put him in prison!

(The emperor takes the paintbrush from Sui-Ming.)

Narrator 1: The emperor took the paintbrush.

Narrator 2: The emperor painted lots of money with the paintbrush. It changed into snakes!

Emperor: Help!

(The emperor lets Sui-Ming out of prison.)

Narrator 1: The emperor took Sui-Ming from prison.

- Emperor:** Paint a big sea for me!
- Narrator 2:** Sui-Ming painted water and beautiful fish.
- Emperor:** Now paint me a big ship.
- Narrator 1:** Sui-Ming painted a big ship and the emperor stood on it.
- Emperor:** There's no wind!
- Narrator 2:** Sui-Ming painted a very strong wind.
(The emperor is thrown about on the boat in the strong wind.)
- Narrator 1:** The ship went under the water, and the people never saw the bad emperor again.
- Narrator 2:** Sui-Ming went home. Every day, he painted beautiful things. He was very happy.

