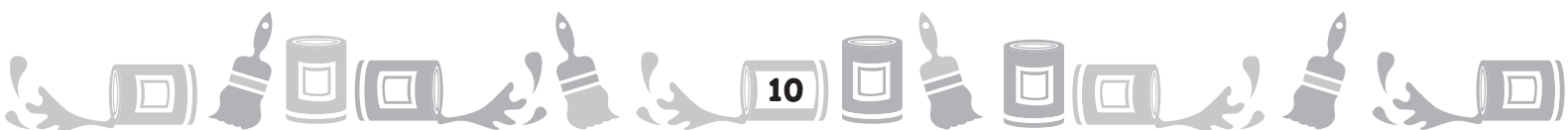## Activity sheet 1

1. You are going to write part of a play. Before you write the play, read the story below.

Liang was a poor boy from a small village in China. He did not go to school but worked hard all day. He had two very good friends who worked with him. They were poor too. Liang was a very talented painter but he could not afford to buy a paintbrush. So he normally drew with a stick on flat stones.
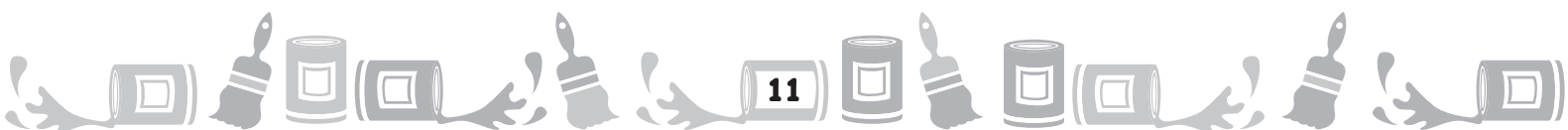
One day after lunch, he went to sleep in the field where he worked. He dreamt that an old man gave him a special paintbrush - a magic paintbrush. He told Liang to use the paintbrush to help others. When he woke up, he really found the paintbrush beside him. He started to paint right away and drew a frog. Surprisingly, it came to life and jumped away! His friends were surprised too.

Just then a soldier of the Emperor came past. He asked them rudely what had happened but he did not believe in what they said. He took Liang to the palace to see the Emperor.
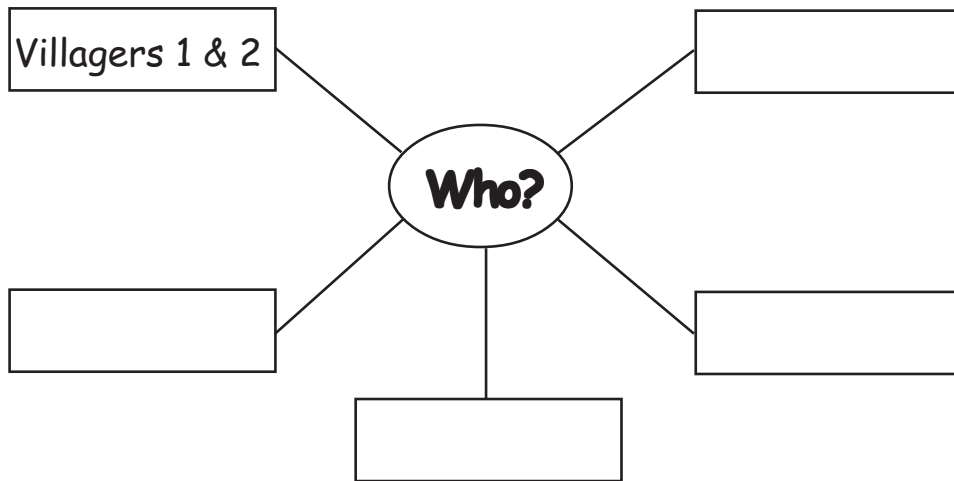

The Emperor did not believe Liang's story and asked him to prove it. He asked Liang to draw him a mountain of gold as he was very greedy. When Liang refused, he ordered his soldiers to put him in jail and not to give him any food. At last, Liang decided to paint the gold mountain for the Emperor.

While the Emperor was playing on his mountain of gold, Liang drew a gold snake that chased the Emperor and his soldier away forever. From then on, he used his magic paintbrush to help poor people.

2. Now, let's write the play. Think about the following questions.

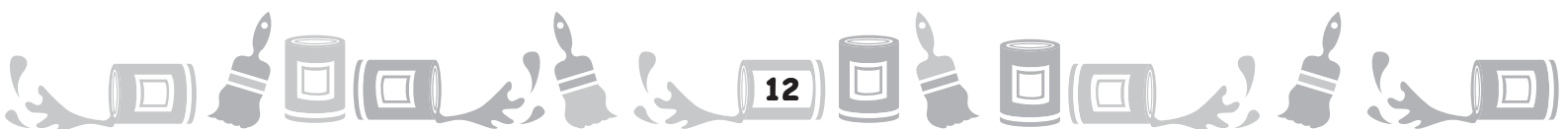a. **Who** is in the play? List the names of the characters.

Villagers 1 & 2		

Who?

Describe the characters.

Characters	Description
e.g. Villagers 1 & 2	poor

b. **Where** does the play take place?

_____

c. **What** happens in the story? What do the characters say?

e.g. Event: The soldier asked Liang and the two
                villagers what had happened.

      Soldier: Hey! What were you doing?

      Liang: I was painting a picture of a frog and it
                jumped away.

Now write about another event and what the characters
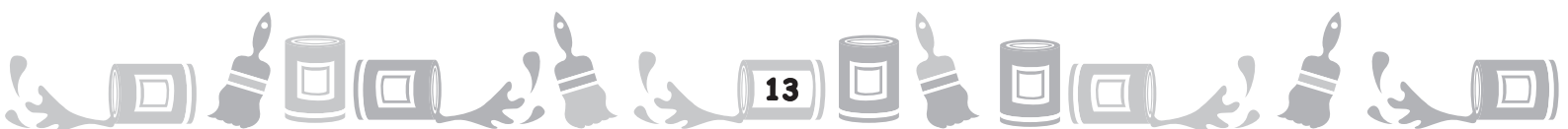say.

      Event : _____

              _____

      _____ : _____

              _____

      _____ : _____

              _____

d. **What** happens at the end? What do the characters say?

Ending: _____

_____

_____: _____

_____

_____: _____

_____

e. Next you need to add 'stage directions' to tell the characters how to act.

e.g.   Soldier: Hey! What were you doing?

Liang: I was painting a picture of a frog and it jumped away.

(The soldier looks at them in amazement - he does not quite believe them.)

↑

These are stage directions.

Add stage directions to the dialogue in Part c or d.

Part _____

(_____

_____)