



arts connect

## The Magic Paintbrush: Learning Resources

### Watching the video:

- At the beginning of the video, we can see various pictures on the wall. Pause the video. Choose one picture that you like and give it a title. Don't worry about whether the title is right or wrong; just look at the picture and let a few words come into your head! Use one or more of those words for your title.

### After watching the video:

1/ Draw some shapes in the air with your finger: a circle, a square, a triangle. Then draw some objects in the air: a flower, a fish, a hen, a boat, a tree. Enjoy making your pictures as big or as small as you like! Then draw someone in your family. Then draw your best friend. Then draw whatever you like!

2/ If you had a magic paintbrush that could paint things that became real, what would you paint for:

- a) Yourself?
- b) Someone in your family?
- c) Your friend?
- d) The world?

3/ Shen paints lots of things for her neighbours. Here is a verse from the story:

*"She paints a melon for a boy,  
A ladder for a man,  
A basket for a woman,  
And, for a girl, a fan."*

We are going to add some of our ideas to Julia Donaldson's story.

Firstly, think of some words that have two syllables / two beats in them: for example – rabbit; handbag; football; X box; flower; rainbow; bucket. See how many you can come up with!

Make a list of these so that you can use them.

Now, use your words to fill in the gaps below:

She paints a -- for a boy.

*A -- for a man,*

*A -- for a woman,*

*And, for a girl, a fan."*

See how many verses you can come up with.

4) Now let's make up our own short poem: look at the poem below.

*"With my magic paintbrush,*

*I can paint a tree.*

*I can paint a –*

*Look, can you see?"*

Fill in the gap on the third line, with whatever you like – it can have as many syllables as you like!

See if everyone in your family or group can make up a verse and then read the verses out to each other.

**Further ideas and activities:**

- How many books by Julia Donaldson have you read? Try to list at least 5. Which is your favourite, and why? Look online to find out some others.
- Look up Julia Donaldson's official website on [www.juliadonaldson.co.uk](http://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk) . Read about her growing up, and read her poem called 'A Day in the Life'. Try to write your own poem about what you do each day! See if some of the lines can rhyme but don't worry if they don't!
- How about reading out loud to someone in your group or family? Choose one of Julia Donaldson's stories if you like. Can you divide the story up so that one of you reads some bits and some of you read others?
- Try acting out a story. One person can read the story; anyone else can play characters and act them out as the reader narrates.
- Have a go at painting a dragon, either by drawing one in representational detail, or by using colour and abstract shapes to create a sense of power, fire and energy.



