

REFERENCE SHEET:

Descriptions of Pictures—Kit A

1. The First Performance

Child: Yang Ziyin, age 5

Nine girls play music on their violins for their school classmates. (Modern Style Chinese Painting)

2. Kitten

Child: Chen Lijuan, age 5, female

A kitten is sitting on the ground, watching a beautiful, red dragonfly dart back and forth. As the kitten's eyes follow the movements of the dragonfly, they appear to change color from yellow to blue, and from blue to yellow. The color change is an illusion created by the reflection of sunlight in the kitten's eyes. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting)

3. Attractive Toy World

Child: He Beijie, age 8, female

Chinese fabric toys are sometimes handmade, using colorful designs. A favorite fabric toy animal is the tiger. All tiger toys have the Chinese character for "king" (王) sewn on their foreheads. In Chinese, "King" is pronounced "wang" (wahng). Other fabric toys in the painting are roosters, frogs, fish, a donkey, a rat, and a cat. There are also incense bags shaped as circles, hearts and triangles. Fragrant herbs are put in the incense bags, which are sometimes worn. In the lower right corner of the painting, just above the rooster, is a red, blue, purple and green pumpkin. The girl standing by the pumpkin is threading a needle. In China today, cloth toys are sold mostly in the country. City children like "modern toys." These modern toys are similar to the toys that children have in the United States.

Chinese people have a tradition that occurs on the 100th day of a child's life. It is believed that if a child lives to this day, it will survive to be an adult. The child's grandmother gives him or her fabric toys. The fabric toy given represents the child's year of birth according to the Chinese Zodiac. The Chinese Zodiac is made up of twelve animals. Each

animal, such as the tiger, dog, monkey or serpent, represents a different year. For example, a child born in 1982 is said to have been born in the Year of the Dog. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting and Modern Style Chinese Painting)

4. Eleventh Asian Games

Child: Li Ting, age 6, female

The Eleventh Asian Games were held in Beijing, China, from September 23 to October 27, 1990. The panda, which is found only in China, became the mascot for these games. A mascot is something that is thought to bring good luck. The panda mascot was nicknamed "Panpan," which means looking for or expecting friends in the Chinese language. Panpan Panda became the official greeter at the games. (Modern Style Chinese Painting)

5. Long Live Friendship

Child: Wang Ying, age 5, male

The child who painted this picture wishes that all the children of the world could be friends. A girl from Asia is in the middle of the painting. The girl at the left is from North America, the boy at the right is from Africa. Flags and pinwheels fill the space around the children. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting)

6. Family Music Group

Child: Wang Wang, age 6, male

Dad, on the right, is playing cello; Mom, on the left, is playing an accordion. Sister, in front, is playing a guitar and a mandolin. Another Sister, in back, is playing a flute. The fifth family member is singing. Everyone in the family has brightly painted cheeks; this is called performance makeup. Musical notes surround the family music group. (Traditional Style Chinese Brush Painting)

7. Playing Chinese Chess

Child: Wu Xia, age 10, female

The boy in the green shirt has just won the third game of chess. This win has not been marked yet on the scoreboard, which is located in the middle of the painting at the top. The game board at the bottom of the painting has Chinese writing on it; the Chinese characters say “boundary.” Chinese chess, which is popular in China, is different from the type of chess we play in the United States. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting and Modern Style Chinese Painting)

8. Harvest

Child: Su Jing, age 6

In China, monkeys are often considered clever and are a favorite subject for children to paint. The monkey in this painting is busy harvesting loquat, which is a sweet tasting fruit grown in Asia. The monkey is using its tail to pull down the fruit-filled branch. This way, its hands are free to pick the fruit. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting)

9. Children of Four Seasons

Child: Lui Qing, age 6, male

In the past, Chinese farmers made decorations for their homes called “Children of Four Seasons.” The

decorations symbolized the hope for a good harvest. “Spring” is pictured as a girl with flowers in her hair, in the upper right corner of the painting. “Summer” is represented by a boy wearing a lotus leaf on his head. Lotus is a summertime water plant with big, flat leaves and beautiful flowers. “Fall” is also pictured as a boy with fall grains, such as wheat in his hair. The lower left corner of the painting is winter. “Winter” is a girl wearing a hat with embroidered flowers.

The Chinese writing is the signature of the 6-year-old boy who painted this picture. Chinese writing consists of “characters” that represent a word, an idea or a sound. A long time ago, many of the characters were pictures. Chinese does not have an alphabet, the way English does. Reading from top to bottom, characters one and two are the child’s name. His name is Lui Qing (lǒo.ě ching). The third character says that he is 6. The fourth character means “years old.” The fifth character says “painted by.” The red square is called a signature seal. A seal is made by carving Lui Qing’s name in stone, wood or brass using the ancient style of Chinese writing. The seal is pressed into ink and stamped onto paper. Lui Qing can sign his name by writing in Chinese characters or with his own seal. (Traditional Chinese Brush Painting)

