

The Ballad of Mulan

Long ago, in a village in northern China, there lived a girl	12
named Mulan. One day, she sat at her loom weaving cloth.	23
Click-clack! Click-clack! went the loom.	30
Suddenly, the sound of weaving changed to sorrowful	38
sighs. "What troubles you?" her mother asked.	45
"Nothing, Mother," Mulan softly replied.	50
Her mother asked her again and again, until Mulan	59
finally said, "There is news of war. Invaders are attacking.	69
The Emperor is calling for troops. Last night, I saw the	80
draft poster and twelve scrolls of names in the market.	90
Father's name is on every one."	96
"But Father is old and frail," Mulan sighed. "How can he	107
fight? He has no grown son and I have no elder brother. I	120
will go to the markets. I shall buy a saddle and a horse. I	134
must fight in Father's place."	139
From the eastern market Mulan bought a horse, and	148
from the western market, a saddle. From the southern	157
market she bought a bridle, and from the northern market, a	168
whip.	169
At dawn Mulan dressed in her armor and bid a sad	180
farewell to her father, mother, sister, and brother. Then	189
she mounted her horse and rode off with the soldiers.	199
By nightfall she was camped by the bank of the Yellow	210
River. She thought she heard her mother calling her name.	220
But it was only the sound of the river crying.	230