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The Story of Mulan

Supplementary

This is the classic story of Mulan based on the legend of Hua Mulan. A legend is a story from long ago that is believed to be true, or mostly true.



Many years ago, China was in the middle of a great war. The Emperor said that one man from each Chinese family must leave his family to join the army. Mulan, a teenage girl who lived in a faraway village of China, heard the news when she was outside, washing clothes.

Mulan ran into the house. Her father was sitting in a chair, **carving** a piece of wood. "Father!" she said. "Did you hear what the Emperor says each family must do?"

"Yes," said her old father, "I heard about it in town. Well, I may as well go pack up." He put down his carving, stood up and walked very slowly to his room.

"Wait!" said Mulan, "Father, you have not been well. If I may say so, why at your age must you keep up with all those young men?"

"What else can be done?" said her father. "Your brother is a child. He cannot go."

"Of course that's true," said Mulan. "He is too little. But I have an idea." She poured her father a cup of tea and handed it to him. "Father, have some tea. Please sit for a minute. I will be right back."

"Very well, dear," said the father.

Mulan went into her room. With her sword, she cut off her long, black hair. She put on her father's **robe**. Going back to her father, Mulan said, "Look at me. I am your son now. I will go in your place. I will do my part for China."

"No, my daughter!" said the old man. "You cannot do this!"

