

Study Guide

Disney's MULAN JR.



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Music and Lyrics by
Matthew Wilder & David Zippel,
Stephen Schwartz,
Jeanine Tesori & Alexa Junge

Music Adapted and Arranged
and Additional Lyrics by
Bryan Louiselle

Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by
Patricia Cotter

Based on the 1998 Disney film *Mulan*
and the story *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci

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ABOUT MULAN

Story & Film Background

Since the dawn of recorded history, in every clan, in every culture—from ancient Greece to China, Egypt, the Americas and Polynesia—heroes have embarked on life-altering journeys. One of the most renowned and beloved of these “wandering heroes” is a young woman name Mulan. In Asia, the story of Mulan is as familiar as the story of Cinderella is in Western cultures. The story of this brave Chinese woman has been told for nearly two thousand years, and many believe that Mulan was a real person. In a tradition established by the creators of *The Rescuers Down Under*, the creative team for Disney’s *Mulan* journeyed to China in the summer of 1994 to get a feeling for the grand historical settings and physical topography that would become fundamental to their film. Although there is no proof that Mulan actually existed, almost everyone they met in China felt that she did.

“Everybody in China had a different story,” recalls the film’s co-director Barry Cook. “And everybody we asked about Mulan would say, ‘This is the story of Mulan and this is how it really happened, because she was from my village, and I know.’ She’s from 20 villages. She’s from 20 cities. She’s from 20 different regions. Everybody wants to claim her, proudly. It’s such an old story that no one could be proven right.” For Walt Disney Feature Animation, Mulan presented an unusual and powerful story and distinctive characters. The tale of Mulan also contains universal themes—that often the individual must sacrifice for the greater good, and that the path of personal discovery lies in that sacrifice. It was a legend that was developed enough to contain those strong elements, but spare enough to invite further development by the Disney storytellers. And though the incidents of the Disney story may differ from the Asian legends, the spirit of the story has survived intact. *Mulan* premiered at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles on June 5, 1998, and was released on June 19, 1998.

PLOT SUMMARY

The Fa family Ancestors take us back to ancient china where Mulan's big day to meet the village Matchmaker has arrived (**Written in Stone**). Mulan's father Fa Zhou prays to the family Ancestors (**Honor to Us All**) to no avail. A nervous Mulan wrecks her betrothal ceremony, dishonoring the family (**Honor to Us All – Reprise**) and making herself feel terrible (**Reflection**). Fa Zhou is unexpectedly called to the army by Chi Fu, the Emperor's councilor, having no son to join for him. Against her feeble father's command, Mulan steals Fa Zhou's helmet and sword, dresses as a boy, and runs away from home to go in his place (**Written in Stone – Reprise**). The ancestors have no choice but to send the misfit dragon Mushu to stop Mulan, who will be killed if she is discovered (**Honor to Us All – Reprise**).

As Shan-Yu and the Huns prepare to attack China, Mushu helps Mulan act like a soldier (**Keep 'Em Guessin'**). Mulan introduces herself as "Ping" and joins the Guys—Yao, Ling and Qian-Po—to endure Captain Chang's grueling training (**I'll Make a Man Out of You/Lesson No. 1**). The Chinese Soldiers march to defend a mountain village from Shan-Yu (**A Girl Worth Fighting For**), but arrive too late. While the Soldiers grieve (**A Girl Worth Fighting For – Reprise**), the Huns attack. Mulan creates noise to trigger an avalanche, which covers the Huns and saves the Soldiers from destruction. Shang honors Ping, only to discover Mulan beneath the helmet. He spares Mulan's life for saving his, but leaves her behind (**Written in Stone/Reflection – Reprise**).

Suddenly, Shan-Yu and the Huns emerge from the avalanche and race toward the Imperial City. Mulan runs ahead to warn Shang (**Written in Stone – Reprise**). At the Emperor's Palace, the Chinese people celebrate the defeat of the Huns. While Shang ignores Mulan, Shan-Yu surprises and kidnaps the Emperor. Mulan convinces Shang and the Guys to dress as women to distract Shan-Yu while Mushu signals the army (**Keep 'Em Guessin' – Reprise**). The Guys save the Emperor, Mulan defeats Shan-Yu, and the Huns retreat. The Emperor honors Mulan's bravery, to everyone's surprise and delight (**A Girl Worth Fighting For – Reprise**). Back at home, Fa Zhou welcomes his beloved—and honorable—daughter. Shang surprises Mulan with a visit as a suitor instead of a captain. The Ancestors invite Mushu into the Fa family Temple as a full-fledged Guardian (**Honor to Us All – Finale, Keep 'Em Guessin' – Bows**).

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Matthew Wilder (composer) launched his career as a songwriter/performer with the 1983 hit single “Break My Stride” and has since gone on to become a top record producer whose hits include *Tragic Kingdom* for alternative group No Doubt. After “Break My Stride,” Wilder became a staff writer and sometime producer, first at Geffen Music, then at Interscope. He also wrote and produced the song “Watch Me Fly” for *The Air Up There* soundtrack, as well as Jimmy Cliff’s cover of “(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher” for the same album. Wilder was working on a musical adaptation of Anne Rice’s *Cry to Heaven*, a musical based on the novel of the same name. It was through this project that Wilder came to the attention of Disney, and was invited in 1998 to collaborate with lyricist David Zippel on the song score for Disney’s *Mulan*. Wilder also provided the singing voice for “Ling” in the film. He lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife Tamara Dunn and his sons Zachary and Grayson.

David Zippel (lyricist) made his Disney animation debut in 1997 with *Hercules*, which earned him (and composer Alan Menken) an Academy Award® nomination for the song “Go the Distance.” Zippel made his Broadway debut with *City of Angels*, for which he received the 1990 Tony Award, New York Drama Critics Circle Award and Drama Desk Award and London’s 1994 Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award. His songs have been performed by numerous theater, cabaret and recording artists including Michael Bolton, Cleo Laine, Mel Torme, Nancy LaMott, Elaine Paige, Jason Alexander and Jeffery Osborne. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he is delighted not to practice law.

Stephen Schwartz (composer/lyricist) was born in New York City in 1948. He studied piano and composition at the Juilliard School of Music while in high school and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1968 with a B.F.A. in Drama. Upon coming back to live in New York City, he went to work as producer for RCA Records, but shortly thereafter, began to work in the Broadway theatre. In 1971, he wrote the music and new lyrics for *Godspell*, for which he won several awards including two GRAMMY® Awards. Collaborating with composer Alan Menken, he received two Academy Awards and another GRAMMY® for the score of the Disney animated feature *Pocahontas*, which the pair followed with Disney’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He also provided songs for DreamWorks’ first animated feature, *The Prince of Egypt*, for which he won another Academy Award® for the song “When you Believe.” Mr. Schwartz’s most recent musical, *Wicked*, opened in the fall of 2003 and is currently running on Broadway and on tour. Under the auspices of the ASCAP Foundation, he runs musical theatre workshops in New York and Los Angeles, and serves on the ASCAP board; he is also a member of the Council of the Dramatists’ Guild.

Jeanine Tesori (composer) wrote the score for the acclaimed Tony Award®-winning musical *Caroline, or Change*, and the score for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, which won the 2002 Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Musical and earned her a Ton and GRAMMY® nomination. For film, Ms. Tesori has written songs for Disney’s *Mulan II* and *Lilo and Stitch II*. She has collaborated with lyricists Dick Scanlan, Brian

Crawley and Alexa Junge. Ms. Tesori is married to music director and composer Michael Rafter, and they are the proud parents of Siena Rafter.

Alexa Junge (lyricist) is a nationally recognized playwright whose plays and musicals have been produced at The Goodspeed Opera House, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theatre Club, Studio Arena and Depot Theatre among others. A graduate of New York University (M.F.A.) and Barnard College/Columbia University (B.A.), Alexa is the recipient of two national prizes for playwriting, fellowships to the MacDowell and Djerassi Colonies and four ASCAP popular music awards. Recent feature work includes co-writing the screenplay to Disney's *Lilo and Stitch II* as well as a song with Jeanine Tesori for that film. Alexa and Jeanine also wrote song for Disney's *Mulan II* and are currently at work on Disney's *Rapunzel Unbraided*. In her spare time, Alexa writes plays for at-risk kids at The Virginia Avenue Project (the West Coast version of the 52nd Street Project), helps edit an anti-AIDS zine in conjunction with Clean Needles Now and can be heard as a contributor on NPR's *This American Life*. She is married to writer/director Doug Petrie and they have a three year-old son, Henry.

Brian Louiselle (music adapter, composer, lyricist) has composed music for the documentary films *Sacred Space*, *Saints and Strangers* and *Prisoners of Hope*. His arrangements and orchestrations include music for *Broadway's Best from Bravo*; the *Yale Tercentennial Celebration*; the CD *Anthems in Disguise*;

the Broadway musicals *The Red Shoes*, *Dream* and *Buttons on Broadway*; two Miss America Pageants; two Kennedy Center Presidential Inaugural Galas; the *1988 Super Bowl Half Time Show*; the *Cole Porter 100th Birthday Celebration at Carnegie Hall*; Musical Theatre Works. Bryan has arranged, conducted and produced the radio and television commercial music for the Broadway shows: Elton John and Time Rice's *Aida*, *The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, *The Music Man*, *Swing!*, *Tallulah*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Into the Woods*, *42nd Street*, *Cinderella*, *Take Me Out*, *Happily Ever After* and *Titanic*. Since 2002, he has been the resident music supervisor and adapter, arranger, orchestrator, conductor and recordings producer for MTI/Disney KIDS & JR. and MTI Theater for Young Audiences projects, including: *Cinderella KIDS*, *101 Dalmations KIDS*, *The Jungle Book KIDS*, *Aladdin JR & TYA*, *Sleeping Beauty KIDS*, *The Aristocats KIDS*, *Alice in Wonderland JR.*, *Mulan JR.*, *Frog and Toad KIDS*, *Seussical Jr. & TYA* and adapted the book for *Frog and Toad KIDS*.

Patricia Cotter (book adapter, lyricist) is a writer from Massachusetts who is currently based in Venice, California, and New York City. In 2004, she received a Daytime Emmy® Award for her writing on Comedy Central's "Win Ben Stein's Money." A playwright and screenwriter, Patricia is currently co-writing a screenplay with Dustin Hoffman for his company Punch Productions and working with Fox Comedy Development in the creation of shows for the small screen.

MUSICAL THEATRE STAFF

The Story Tellers are responsible to read, research and then write the dialogue and lyrics to tell the story.

The Director is responsible to read the script and then interpret the story using the talents of actors, designers and technicians.

The Musical Director is responsible to read the script and study the music and teach it to the actors.

The Choreographer is responsible to work closely with the director to determine what dance steps should be used to tell the story in each scene and then teach the actor/dancers.

The Orchestra Arranger is responsible to work with the writer to determine what musical orchestra sounds will be needed to tell the story and then write the music.

The Set Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director to determine the different “looks” that will be used in each scene to tell the story.

The Costume Designer is responsible to work closely with the director to determine the costumes (clothing) that each performer will wear that will help to tell more about each character in the story.

The Properties Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director and the Set Designer to determine what items each Actor will use in each scene (such as scrolls, books, cups, paint brushes, etc.) that will help to tell the story.

The Hair and Makeup Designer is responsible to work with the Director and the Actors to determine how each character will look in each scene to tell the story.

The Lighting Designer is responsible to work with the Director and Set Designer to determine what the lights will look like in each scene to set the “mood” and further tell the story.

The Actors are responsible, working with the Director, to tell the story through their voices, their facial expressions, their dancing and their body movements.

THEATRE VOCABULARY TERMS

Match up the terms with the correct description.

House	The part of the stage that sticks out past the curtain line, closest to the audience.
The Pit	The area above the stage where scenery is rigged and hung.
Proscenium	The entrance to the theatre used by actors and technicians which leads directly backstage.
Apron	The lowered area in front of the stage where the orchestra musicians play.
Wings	The “control room” where the sound and lighting operator runs the show.
The Booth	The area above the stage where all the lights are suspended.
Stage Door	The arch that separates the “house” from the stage.
The Flies	The area of the theatre where the audience sits.
The Grid	The area on either side stage of the stage where actors wait for their cues.

THEATRE GAMES

When students begin to act, they may feel a bit self-conscious or nervous. A good director knows this and will take the extra time to help them get to know each other so they can lose their inhibitions about performing. Following are a couple of tried-and-true theatre games perfect for the target age group for Disney's *Mulan JR.*

Zip! Zap! Zop!: Standing in a circle, one actor begins by announcing "Zip!" while clapping once toward someone else in the circle. With this clap, he sends all of the energy of the "Zip!" to the next player. The designated player then sends a "Zap!" to a new person, who sends a "Zop!" to yet another person. The game continues, repeating the same sequence and getting faster and faster until someone misses a cue or says a word out of sequence. Start over as needed until the cast succeeds in creating an impressive display of teamwork.

The Name Game: The cast stands in a circle. The first player says her name while making a specific movement: a bow or curtsy, a jumping jack, anything she comes up with. The actors should not repeat any of the movements they have already seen. The person to the student's right repeats the name and movement of the first player and then creates his own. Continue to the right, with each player in the circle repeating the name and action of all players before her and then adding her own.

MULAN WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following words.

LEVEL 1

A N F

— — —

N A C E D

— — — — —

O R W S D

— — — — —

G N S I

— — — — —

A N S G H

— — — — —

T G I F H

— — — — —

LEVEL 2

A T I I H C

— — — — —

A O P D G A

— — — — —

U H U M S

— — — — —

V L A N A C A H E

— — — — —

R N C S A T E O S

— — — — —

T L B T A E

— — — — —

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Describe Each of the Characters below—what they wore, how they acted and something they said that helps their character.

Mulan

Mushu

Shang

Chi Fu

Fa Zhou

Shan Yu

MULAN TIME LINE

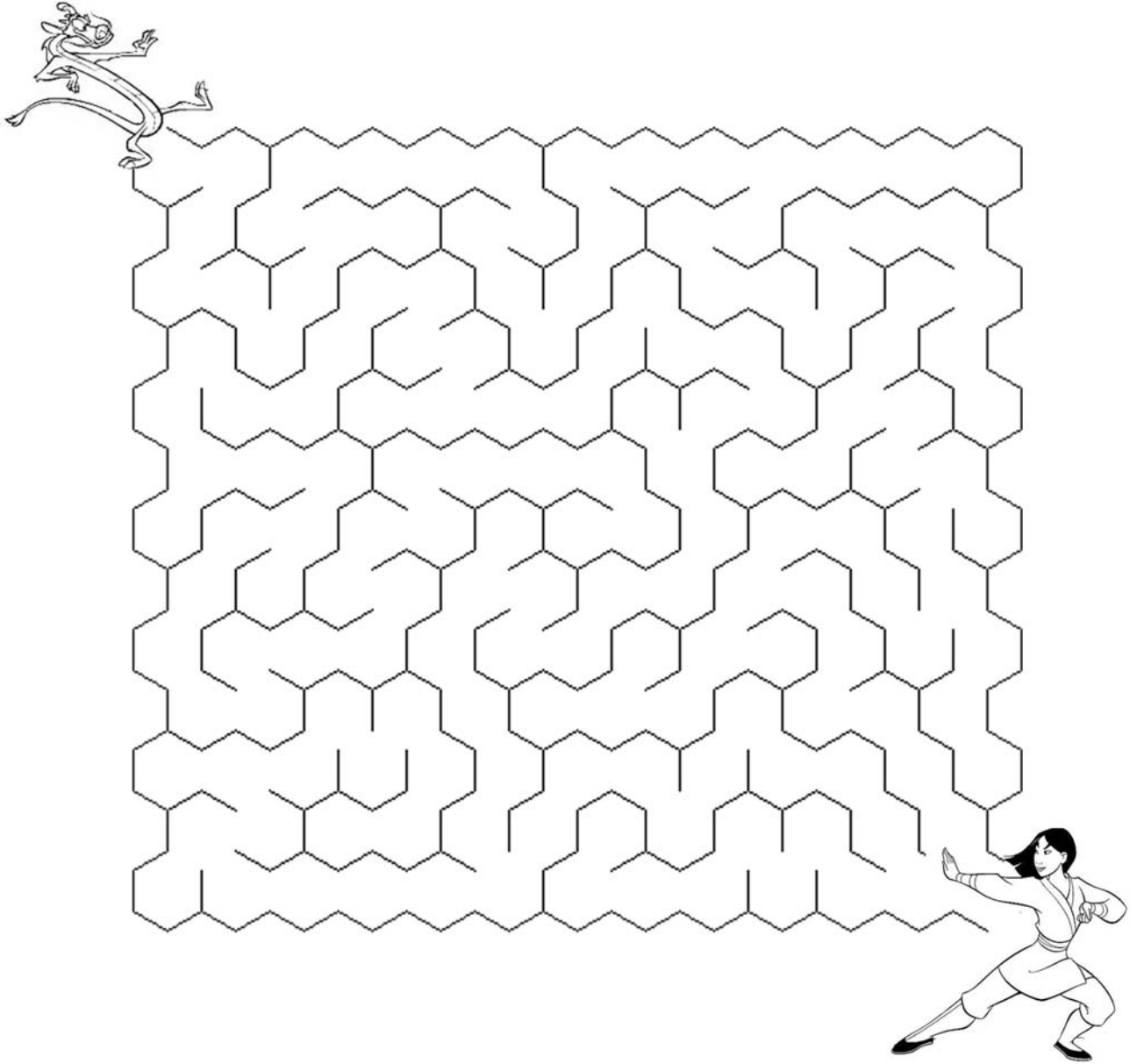
Figure out the correct order of events in the show. Then match up the right letter to determine the saying below!

- _____ Mulan defeats Shan Yu—with a fan (T)
- _____ Chi Fu announces and commissions soldiers to go to war (P)
- _____ An avalanche falls on the Huns (R)
- _____ Shang, Mulan and soldiers find a burned village (S)
- _____ Fazhou is angry with Mulan for talking back to Chi Fu (Z)
- _____ Matchmaker scolds Mulan (T)
- _____ Shang comes to visit Mulan (E)
- _____ Mulan steals her father's sword and helmet and runs off to war (W)
- _____ Mulan meets Mushu (E)
- _____ Emperor awards a pendant to Mulan (I)
- _____ Chinese soldiers learn to fight (I)
- _____ Mulan defeats Shang in tug-of-war (N)
- _____ Mulan runs away to Palace to warn Shang of Huns (O)
- _____ Mulan tries to warn Shang about the Huns at the Palace (A)
- _____ The Ancestors tell Mushu to bring back Mulan (N)
- _____ The Ancestors introduce the audience to family traditions (T)
- _____ Dressers try to prepare Mulan for the Matchmaker (N)

(6) (12) (16) (1) (15) (17) (10) (9) (2) (11) (3) (13) (7) (8)

HELP MULAN AND MUSHU

Mulan has gone ahead and Mushu needs your help to find her!
Guide Mushu through the maze and help save the day.



WORD FIND FUN

Find the words below. They can be forward, backward, up, down, left, right and diagonal too!



HELMET

ANCESTORS

HERO

EMPEROR

SOLDIER

HUNS

MATCHMAKER

HONOR

MUSHU

MULAN

VILLAGE

DRAGON

COLORING FUN!



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