

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

The Story of Hua Mulan

1. Many, many years ago in ancient China, there was a beautiful girl named Hua Mulan. Mulan's father was a retired general whose leg had been injured in a battle. Sick and frail, he was too old to fight, but still, he insisted on teaching Mulan how to ride a horse and use a sword. It was not common for girls to learn these skills in the old days. However, Mulan's father believed that everyone should know how to fight, even girls.
2. One day, the war news came like a bolt from the blue. The emperor had ordered that one man from every family MUST join the army. Mulan knew that her father was too old to fight while her brother was just a young child. There was only Mulan who could replace her father to serve the country. However, the military did not take girls as replacements for soldiers. Mulan was very anxious and tried to think of a way out. She decided that she could disguise herself as a man and join the army to take her father's place. Early next morning, when her parents were still sleeping, Mulan put on her father's armour and reported for duty secretly.
3. When Mulan arrived at the barracks, she trained with the soldiers and worked hard to adapt to the life there. At the beginning, Mulan struggled to keep up and she was very frustrated. Nevertheless, she faced all the challenges positively, and with determination and perseverance, she excelled in martial arts and made great achievements in devising strategies to beat back the enemies. Mulan was very careful over the years, so no one ever suspected that she was a girl.
4. Mulan's reputation for bravery reached the emperor's ears, and he was very grateful to Mulan, even after Mulan confessed that she was a woman. When the war came to an end, the emperor asked her to stay on as his adviser, but Mulan knew it was time for family reunion. Therefore, the emperor gave her a horse and a bagful of wealth as awards, and sent some soldiers to escort her home.
5. Mulan's family greeted Mulan with great joy. They prepared a big feast for her to celebrate. Mulan returned to her room, combed her hair and put on the clothes of a woman. The soldiers who escorted Mulan back could not believe their eyes and shouted, "Who are you? Where is Mulan?" After Mulan had recounted many memories, they finally believed that Mulan was a woman who had fought by their side in many battles, in which they narrowly escaped death.
6. The story of Mulan disguising herself as a man and replacing her father to serve in the army soon spread across China, and her virtue of filial piety was highly praised by people.

