

Unit 1/Week 2

Title: The Ballad of Mulan

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.3.1, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, RL.3.7; RF.3.3, RF.3.4; W.3.1, W.3.4; SL.3.1, SL.3.2, SL.3.6; L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.3, L.3.4

Teacher Instructions

Refer to the Introduction for further details.

Before Teaching

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

Big Ideas and Key Understandings

Mulan showed true love and service by sacrificing herself and asking for nothing in return.

Synopsis

When war breaks out in Mulan's land and her father is drafted into the army, Mulan makes a great sacrifice when she disguises herself as a male to take her father's place in the army. Despite her initial fears, Mulan proves herself to be a brave and courageous soldier, winning her the title of general. When the Emperor offers her any reward her heart desires, she wishes only to return to her family.

2. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.

3. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

During Teaching

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.
2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along.
(Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

Text Dependent Questions

Text Dependent Questions	Answers
Reread the sentence, "One day she sat at her loom weaving cloth." What is a loom? (page 58) Describe the loom from the illustration on page 58-59.	A loom is a machine that weaves (makes) cloth. It is large, wooden, with thread and strings hanging on it.
How does Mulan's mother know that something is troubling Mulan? (pg 59)	The sound of the weaving cannot be heard. Instead, only Mulan's sorrowful sighs can be heard.
Reread pages 60-61. <i>Invaders</i> are enemies that enter people's land without permission and attack the people who live there. A draft poster lists the names of people who must go fight when there is war. What is the emperor telling certain people they must do to protect the land?	The Emperor is calling for troops in defense to fight against the invaders.
Reread pages 62-63. Why does Mulan decide she has to fight in her father's place?	Her father is old and frail Her father has no grown son who can fight in his place Mulan has no elder brother who can fight in his place

What does the author tell us that Mulan does in order to prepare for war? (pg. 64 – 65)	She buys a horse, saddle, bridle and whip and then at dawn she dressed in armor, bid everyone a farewell, and rode off with the soldiers.
How do Mulan and her family feel as she prepares for war? Find evidence from the words and the illustrations. (pg. 64-65)	Sad, there is a farewell, people are crying
Reread pg. 66 -67. What clues do the author’s words give us about how she might be feeling?	She thinks she hears her mother. This shows that she is feeling sad and misses her family. The author means to show that Mulan is feeling sad and homesick. Her interpretation of the river as “crying” demonstrates her mood.
Reread page 69. What words and phrases tell you that Mulan is still homesick?	“In the darkness she longed to hear her father’s voice.”
On page 70, the author says, “She crossed peaks and passes like a bird in flight.” Why does the author compare Mulan to a “ <i>bird in flight</i> ?”	Like a bird, Mulan is fast and graceful. She is also traveling over peaks which are higher up.
Describe the nights at camp for Mulan. How does she get through (endure) it? (pg. 71)	Nights at camp were harsh and cold Knowing her father was safe warmed her heart – this shows that instead of feeling homesick, Mulan is motivated to endure knowing that her family is safe.
What did Mulan earn at the end of the ten-year war? (pg. 73)	Respect and moved up in the ranks The post of general She was triumphant and victorious
The author states on page 74 that the Emperor “summoned” Mulan to the palace. When a person is summoned, they are asked to go someplace. Why did the Emperor summon Mulan to the palace?	He wanted to reward her for her skill and courage.
How did the emperor reward Mulan for her skill and courage? (page 74, 75, 76)	He praised her Bestowed many titles upon her Showered her with gifts of gold Offered her her heart’s desire
What does Mulan ask for? (page 77)	To return home to her family

Knowing that Mulan's heart's desire was to return home to her family, what does the phrase "heart's desire" mean?	Heart's desire means the thing that you want the most out of everything because it is the thing that will make you most happy.
How does Mulan's family feel about her coming home? Use evidence from the text. (pg. 78-79)	Parents proud, sister and brother happy excited, getting beautiful and sharpening blade
When Mulan returns home, what does the author say about what she does first?	She goes into her bedroom, changes into her favorite dress, brushes her hair, and pastes on a flower on her face. She changes from looking like a man to looking like a woman.
Who are Mulan's comrades? Why were they so surprised? (pg. 82)	Her comrades are friends she fought with in war. They were surprised to see that she was really a woman.
What was Mulan really talking about when she spoke about rabbits in times of danger? (pg. 84)	She was really talking about the difference between herself (woman) and her comrades (men), but that in battle, women and men can appear the same because they are both fighting together.
What does it mean that "Mulan's glory spread through the land?"	People all over hear about her bravery and are surprised that she is a woman.

Vocabulary

	KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING	WORDS WORTH KNOWING General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction
TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION not enough contextual clues provided in the text	<p>Triumphant (pg 73) Victorious (pg 73) Summoned (pg 74) Bestow (pg 75)</p> <p>Words not found in the text but critical to understanding the big idea: Sacrifice Homesick</p>	<p>Loom (pg 58) Draft (pg 61) Scrolls (pg 61) Elder (pg 62) Bridle (pg 64) Bank (pg 66) Dusk (68) Ravaged (pg 72) Swift (pg 77) Comrades (pg 82)</p>
STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING sufficient context clues are provided in the text	<p>Sorrowful signs (pg 59) Frail (pg 62) Farewell (65) Harsh (71) Endured (pg 71) Triumphant (pg 73) Victorious (pg 73)</p>	<p>Invaders (pg 61) Troops (pg 61) Armor (pg 65) Escort (pg 77) Astonished (pg 82)</p>

Culminating Task

- The author concludes the story by stating that, “to this day, we sing of this brave woman who loved her family and served her country, asking for nothing in return.” Describe all of the ways that Mulan showed love for her family and served her country.

Answer:

- Mulan doesn’t hesitate to take her father’s place in army. (page 62 and 63)
- She thought of her family often during her journey in the army. (page 66, 69)
- Despite the hardships of war, Mulan was content knowing that her father was safe. (page 71)
- Instead of accepting material gifts, Mulan asks only to return home to her family. (pg 77)
- Even though she had received great titles and honor in the war, Mulan happily returns to her life as a woman. (pg 80, 81,

Additional Tasks

- Throughout the story, the author uses figurative language to provide us information regarding Mulan’s feelings and moods. Identify the figurative language used and describe the literal and figurative meaning of the words and phrases.

Statement	Literal	Figurative
“...But it was only the sound of the <u>river crying</u> .” (personification) Page 67	The river was crying.	To Mulan, the river sounded like it was crying. This reflects Mulan’s feelings of being homesick.
“Mulan rode then thousand miles to fight in a hundred battles. She crossed peaks and passes <u>like a bird in flight</u> .”	Mulan moved like a bird in flight.	Mulan is compared to a bird in flight. This suggests that she is a graceful rider. It may also refer to the height of the peaks and mountains she crossed.

- On page 84, Mulan tells a parable of two rabbits to her comrades. What does this parable mean and how does it explain why the soldiers did not notice that she was a female?

Normally, the gender of a rabbit can be distinguished by their behavior. However, during times of danger, they both respond the same. This explains why no one may have noticed that Mulan was a woman. Her response to the challenge of the war and to the needs of her family had little to do with her gender and more to do with her character. During the war, the focus of fellow soldiers would be the task and not whether each soldier was male or female.

(*Also see page *84 of the TE for other possible explanations of the author's use of the parable.)