



The Reading Link

Connecting You
and The Classroom

The Ballad of Mulan

Retold and Illustrated
by Song Nan Zhang

Dear Families,

This week we will read a Chinese legend about a girl who disguises herself as a male warrior and goes into battle in place of her aged father. Below are some easy ways to help your child practice reading skills.

Thanks!
The Third Grade Team

Quick Takes (10 minutes each)

Book Links

If your child enjoyed *The Ballad of Mulan*, check out these books:

📖 **The Drums of Noto Hanto** by J. Alison James (DK). Available at the Mansfield School Libraries and the Mansfield Public Library.

📖 **Sable** by Karen Hesse (Holt) Available at the Mansfield Public Library.

Encourage your child to read at least twenty to thirty minutes a day outside of class.

Fun Fact

Did you know that the ballad of Mulan was composed as a popular song in China over 1,500 years ago? Since then the story has been retold in Chinese poems, essays, operas, paintings, animated films, and even comic books. Mulan means “magnolia.”



Read Aloud

One definition of *ballad* is “a song that tells a story.” With your child, find the words to a song that tells a story, and read them together. (Folk and camp songs often tell stories.) If you wish, learn the melody and sing the song together.

Talk About It

Ask your child what qualities he or she thinks a person would need to be a good soldier. What qualities would a general need?

Internet Connection

What did your child like about *The Ballad of Mulan*? Ask him or her to write a review and post it on the publisher’s web site. Visit <http://link.teamhendricks.com/1-2activity>