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# 西風

## THE WESTSIDE BREEZE

WESTSIDE CHINESE SCHOOL



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### Empress Dowager\* Cixi

*By Kayee Mays*

**Dowager Cixi was born on November 29, 1835. She was chosen as a concubine for the Emperor Xianfeng. When she was a young girl, she gave birth to the emperor's son, Tongzhi in 1856.**

**After Emperor Xianfeng's death in 1861, the young boy became the Emperor Tongzhi at 5 years old, and Dowager Cixi assumed the role of co-empress, alongside the Emperor's other widow, Empress Dowager Ci'an. Dowager Cixi was also known as the "dragon lady" as she effectively controlled the country during the late Qing dynasty for nearly five decades.**

**\*Dowager: a widow with a title or property derived from her late husband.**



# EMPRESS CIXI



Art by: Kayee Mays



**She celebrated her birthdays with the release of 10,000 caged birds .**



**She had fruit on her tables so the rooms smelled good.**



**She was served 120 dishes each meal but she would only eat 3 bites of each dish to prevent herself from being poisoned.**



**Empress Cixi made her 5 year-old son the emperor but she was actually ruling behind the curtains.**



**The Empress Dowager spent a lot of her time outside Beijing in the Summer Palace, a huge complex with a marble boat built in 1888 with money that was supposed to be spent on building a modern navy.**



# ☆🐮 The Cow Herder and the Weaver Girl 🐮☆

by Amelia Chief 漆曉曦

In Chinese culture, the seventh day of the seventh month of the Lunar Calendar is the Qixi Festival, also known as Chinese Valentine's Day. On this day, people tell the story of a forbidden love between a cow herder and a weaver girl. This story has many variations, but they all have the same theme: this forbidden love creating the Milky Way that is seen between the stars Altair and Vega, and the lovers' annual reunion on the day of the Qixi Festival.



The cow herder was very sad that his wife had been separated from him. His loyal ox suggested that he skin him and use his hide to travel to the heavens to see her. He took their two children with him as he made his way across the heavens, but not before he was stopped by the Goddess, who was infuriated and used her hairpin to create a river in the sky (the Milky Way) to separate the lovers, thus dooming them to never meet again. However, once a year magpies take pity on the lovers and form a bridge together, flying to the heavens so that they can be together again for a single day. This day marks the day of the Qixi Festival.

One version goes that the seven heavenly sisters had at long last received permission from the Goddess of Heaven to visit the mortal world. During this visit, they were seen bathing by a mortal cow herder. The cow herder fell in love with the youngest and most beautiful sister, who also fell in love with him and agreed to marry him. They spent many happy days together in the mortal world, but the weaver girl's sisters began to worry about her because marrying a mortal man was forbidden. Although her sisters kept her secret, the Goddess of Heaven eventually found out because the weaver girl had been neglecting her duty of weaving clouds while with the cow herder. She was very angry and ordered her to return to Heaven.



# 牛郎織女 by Amelia Chief 漆曉曦

中國的農曆年的七月七日稱為七夕，又稱為中國情人節。在這一天，大家都會談論著牛郎和織女的故事。這個故事有很多不同的版本，但是大致上都是關於一段不被認同的愛情；銀河的來源；和牛郎織女每年一次在七夕這一天的團圓故事。



有一個最常流傳的版本是這樣說的：有一天，天上的七仙女得到天后的准許來到人間世界拜訪。牛郎看到了最年輕也是最美的織女。他們馬上就墜入了愛河。牛郎織女結婚以後生了一男一女。他們在人間世界生活得非常快樂。可是，有一天，天后發現了織女竟然跟凡人結婚，她很生氣得馬上把織女召回天堂。



牛郎和織女分開了傷心得很。他的牛告訴牛郎，如果用牠的皮就可以上去上天堂找織女。牛郎帶著兩個孩子用牛皮飛上天堂找織女，可是馬上就被天后發現了。天后很生氣，用她的髮夾變出天上一條河把牛郎織女分開。這條河就是後來大家說的『銀河』。每年到了農曆七月七日七夕這天，喜鵲們就飛到天堂搭成一座鵲橋讓牛郎織女可以團圓。這也就是後來民間流傳的牛郎織女的愛情故事。



# THE EMPOWERING STORY OF HUA MULAN

Andrea Marie Pua

Long before she was a beloved Disney Princess, Hua Mulan was an inspiring historical figure who encouraged generations of young women in her own country of China. Her story was originally written during the Northern Wei Dynasty from 386 to 535 AD as a folk song named the *Ballad of Mulan*.

The translated version of the *Ballad of Mulan* begins with Mulan weaving as she worriedly thinks about the military draft she found the night before with her father's name written in it.

*Father has no grown-up son;  
Mulan has no elder brother.  
I am willing to buy a horse and a saddle,  
To fight in my father's place henceforth."*

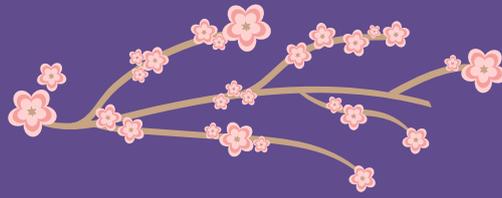
With these thoughts, Mulan disguised as a man and left for the Yellow River under the cover of the night, arriving at the military station near the Black Mountain by dawn.



*Galloping ten thousand miles for the battlefield,  
Passing through mountains as if on rapid wings.  
Northern winds carry the rattle of the army's pots,  
Chilly light shines on suits of chain mail.  
Generals die in a hundred battles,  
Stalwart soldiers take ten years to return.*

*The Khan asks her what she desires.  
"Mulan doesn't care to be the Emperor's minister.  
I wish for a swift horse that runs a thousand miles,  
To take me back home."*

The battles she faced were fierce and the situations she endured were great; however, she surpassed all obstacles and was able to return from the battlefield. Because of her great contributions, the Emperor wanted to reward her, but all she could think of was to return home to her family.



With the war over, she took off the armor she carried among the battlefields and put on the garments she once wore a decade before. A few days passed and she received an invitation from her military companions to meet each other. She accepted and began to get ready to see the people whom she trusted and relied on greatly, but left the disguise she bore all those years behind.

*I tidy my cloud-like hair by the window,  
And dab on a yellow, flower-shaped mark on my forehead.  
I go out the door to greet my comrades;  
They are all in shock and perplexity—  
Twelve years as traveling companions,  
And nobody knew that Mulan was a girl!*

**The *Ballad of Mulan* imparts a lasting impression with a message that should be heard by all.**

*The male hare has legs that twitch;  
The female hare has squinted eyes.  
When both race along close to the ground...  
Who can tell if I'm a he or she?"*



Mulan's story challenges the notions of gender preconceptions with a playfully ambiguous tone that questions the division between a man and a woman by noting that when fighting to protect one's family and country, gender is irrelevant. In the final stanza, the story emphasizes that all that distinguishes Mulan's gender are solely superficial and that her nature as a strong, brave warrior with an unwavering sense of love and protection for her family is what truly matters.



# The Moon Festival: How Did the Jade Rabbit Get on the Moon?



中秋节：玉兔是怎么上了月亮？

By Lulu Liu



Although the story of the goddess Chang'e and her ascent to the moon is widely taught, are you aware of the backstory behind her companion, the Jade Rabbit? This benevolent rabbit works continuously to produce the elixir of life for immortals, and if you glance toward the sky at night, you may be able to discern his image with a pestle and mortar from markings on the moon.

The origin of the Jade Rabbit begins with the Jade Emperor, who wished for assistance in creating the elixir of life. The Emperor believed animals would be more trustworthy than humans for this task, and disguised himself as a starving beggar in a forest to test the animals. Eventually, a monkey, fox, and rabbit each arrived to help forage for food.



While the monkey provided fruits from a high tree and the fox returned with freshly hunted fish, the rabbit returned unsuccessful and empty-handed. Overcome by guilt upon seeing the bountiful harvest of fruits and fish roasting over a fire, the rabbit realized he himself could be used as food - and jumped into the flames.

Upon seeing the selflessness and nobility of the rabbit, the disguised Jade Emperor prevented the flames from hurting the rabbit and chose him - out of all other animals - to learn the craft of divine medicine-mixing.



The rabbit trained dutifully on the moon, where he was safe from prying humans wishing to steal the Emperor's secrets. After the rabbit mastered the art, the Emperor transformed his pelt into a bright white hue; the glow of the fur resembled that of a jade stone, and thus the use of the name "Jade Rabbit" began.

Today, the Jade Rabbit remains hard at work on the moon, not just combining ingredients into elixirs, but also keeping Chang'e company. If you examine the markings on the moon, you may be able to distinguish the Jade Rabbit pounding away with a pestle and mortar.



# The Legend of the White Snake

## A Retelling of a Classic Chinese Myth by Jason Durkee

Long ago in China, when immortal deities still had sway over mortal affairs and magic ran rampant, there lived a boy named Xǔ Xián. The boy had a hunger for tāngyuán, (boiled glutinous rice balls) and did as one should do when one hungers for tāngyuán, which is to go to the local tāngyuán vendor. The vendor, a somewhat disheveled scholarly man, sold Xǔ Xián the tāngyuán he hungered for. After consumption of the sweets, something strange happened to Xǔ Xián. He wasn't sick and felt no pain. Quite the opposite, he found that he no longer felt any hunger at all. After days of this strange affliction, he ran in a panic to the tāngyuán seller. With a great belly laugh, the drunken scholarly man grabbed the child and subsequently carried him to a broken bridge next to the nearby lake, having him vomit out the rice balls. The rice balls were actually not rice balls at all; they were immortality pills. Moreover, the tāngyuán vendor was certainly not an ordinary man but the legendary immortal, Lü Dongbin, playing a prank on the poor child.

### Delicious Tāngyuán



Tāngyuán is a common Chinese desert made of balls of glutinous rice flour served in syrup or broth

The coughed up fraudulent tāngyuán sank to the bottom of the lake where a magical white snake spirit by the name of Bai Suzhen consumed them. From this chanceful consumption, she gained magical powers. With this magic she could transform into a human at whim and use magic to influence the world around her, which she very well did when one day her fellow snake was in danger. Seeing a man capture a green snake with the intent of mutilating it for its snake bile, Bai Suzhen transformed into a woman with her magical powers and saved the snake by bargaining with the man for its life.



### Lü Dongbin

A Daoist deity and member of the eight immortals

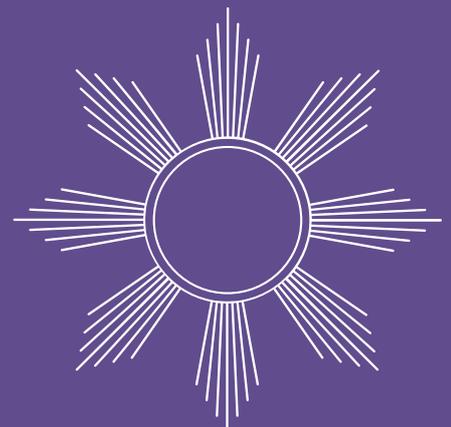
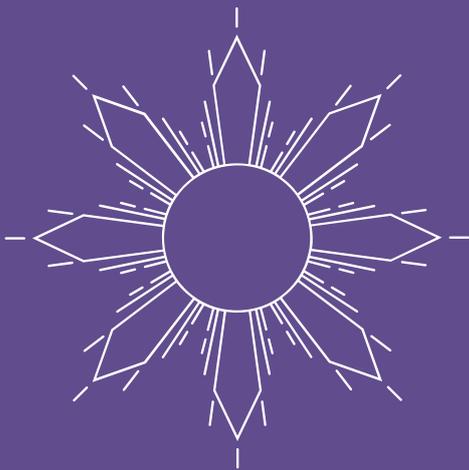


Many years later on a rainy Qingming Festival day in celebration of China's ancestors, Bai Suzhen meets a man who shields her from the rain with his umbrella. The man is Xu Xian, the tangyuan boy, and from this meeting love blossoms. The couple settles down and opens a medicinal shop, with Bai Suzhen withholding her serpentine identity from her husband. A Buddhist monk named Fa Hai from the nearby Lei Feng Pagoda recognizes the woman as a snake spirit and tells her husband to ward the spirit away through a poisonous alcohol that would reveal her identity. During the Dragon Boat Festival, Xu Xian gives his wife the drink, and she becomes violently ill, running to her bedroom. Xu Xian walks into the bedroom confident that the monk had been proven wrong and his wife would be fine. However, he died on the spot. It was a death by shock; so great was his horror when he walked into the bedroom to find not his beautiful wife, but a giant white snake. Bai Suzhen, mourning her husband's death, flies up to the mythical Kunlun mountains, where she battles a giant crane and other animal spirits guarding an herb that can bring her husband back. The owner of the mythical herb, an old man, witnesses the battle and calls off his guards. He questions Bai Suzhen why she would go through all this trouble to obtain another tool for immortality when she was already an immortal snake spirit. Bai Suzhen professes her undying love for her husband, Xu Xian, to the old man, and the elder, in awe at the lengths she had gone for her love, gives her the herb as a gift. Bai Suzhen returns to her husband's death bed and administers the herb to him, where he revives and professes his love for her, whether she be woman or snake.

**The**



**End**



# 2A 班作文

## 最难忘的一天 王艾米

2021年五月的一天，我收到了一个特别的礼物。一只小兔兔。牠白白软软，好可爱！妈妈说兔兔是我的宠物，也是我的责任。我决心好好照顾牠，和牠一起长大！这一天，我收到了爱好和责任。这真是难忘的一天。

## 最難忘的節日 林衍銘

我喜歡中國過年，因為有拿紅包！我喜歡紅色的新衣服，和家人玩！大家都說：新年快樂，恭喜發財，紅包拿來。我也喜歡看舞龍舞獅！

## 我最難忘的體驗 盧翰音

我最特別的經驗是去佛州的迪士尼樂園。在那裡我有開小車車，也有買冰淇淋吃。我還坐了兩次雲霄飛車。可惜我的弟弟太小不能坐。我也玩了打外星人的飛天遙控車。我還看到很多迪士尼的人物。我們在那邊玩了好多東西覺得好好玩。

## 我最难忘的节日 顾家华

圣诞节是美国的友谊，家庭和其他人在一起的传统。有一个叫圣诞老人的人，他送礼物给世界各地的好孩子。圣诞老人实际上是一个真实的人，你知道吗？这是关庆祝！快圣诞节了!!!!

## 我最難忘的旅行 高婉淇

我難忘的旅行是2021年夏天的旅行去蒙特雷市。我們住在凱悅酒店。我和爸爸,媽媽,哥哥一起去旅行。酒店有溫水游泳池。我們在酒店游泳,打乒乓球,吃披薩和烤土豆泥。我們去了海灘,在海裡游泳,我們玩沙子,非常有趣。

## 我最難忘的經驗 李欣然

我最難忘的經驗是在我的生日去加州科學中心。我看見一個去過太空的火箭。我吃了太空人冰淇淋。媽媽買了衣服給我。衣服上面有火箭。我在科學中心玩了一個火箭。我很喜歡去科學中心玩。

# 西風

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