Ellipsis…. Costume.

Who is that sexy beast. It’s RP, that is me.

**INTRO**

Sup peeps, Random Person here. Before there Elsa and before there was Merida, Mulan was the representation of GIRL POWAH! But is that all there is to her? A representation of this stereotype? Ellipsis? Huh. Well, lets find out then.

**History**

Mulan Fa is the only child of the veteran Zuu Fa. From the movie we can garner that Zuu Faa is rich, as he owns a lot of land, and he’s famous as he’s recognized by name.

\*Show THE Faa Zuu scene.\*

So, Mulan grows up in a well known and highly respected family. She’s a good guy, right? Okay, the rules say all good people born in nobility must be outcasts. Outcasts mean different things for different environments. For Mulan’s environment, it means she doesn’t fit the definition of a girl, or better yet, a “perfect bride.” The song “honor to us all” is not just put there because Ellipsis really likes it, but like good musicals should, it works its way into the story. The song is actually a check list of pretty much everything Mulan is bad at, building her character while introducing the viewers to the world.

\*Play lyrics from the song\*

Mulan is usually dirty

Mulan’s hair is usually messy.

Uh… Mulan usually doesn’t have any of that.

Also, I want everyone to remember this scene. We’re going to need it later.

So Mulan tries to be a bride and fails horribly. Context clues… and by that I mean this a song that practically spells it out for us, shows that this is not Mulan’s first failure in representing her family. It happens to her often, despite her trying her best. We also see that despite her knowing what an embarrassment she is to her family, she has a pretty understanding family. After she gets there, she finds out her dad is being sent away to war where he’ll most likely die. So, Mulan disguises as a boy… oh yeah, she lives in a time and country where woman can’t fight in wars. That might be important to the plot or something. So Mulan disguises herself as a man and goes to fight in her father’s place.

Design

Mulan is Chinese.

Big. Shocker.

Mulan goes through several wardrobe changes. First is Mulan in her natural state. She be a chinese farm girl. I have no idea what those are supposed to look like, so I have no idea if they did a good job. She has straw in her hair though so… that’s a thing.

Then there’s mime Mulan. This is supposed to be the version Mulan is very bad at and uncomfortable with. Even though she has all the make up and fairness that everyone else has, she completely fails at being what her make up says she is.

\*Play Too Skinny\*

Actually, that’s a good point. In my opinion, they made Mulan a bit… too much like a Disney princess. It would’ve helped her character more if she wasn’t so pretty. I’m not saying she has to be ugly, but there are some characters I can look at and immediately think… “yeah, they’re average.” Mulan is not one of them. I think it would’ve helped her character if she wasn’t so picture perfect. It would’ve been especially interesting since she’s able to pass for a man.

\*picture of max caufield and Skyward Sword Zelda ^^\*

Lastly, we have Ping. Ping is supposed to be a boy, but if we take away the armor, the only difference Mulan seemed to do was cut his hair. Ping is a form Mulan initially starts out as uncomfortable as she is in her mime form, but eventually makes her own. Contrary to what people might think, I don’t think Mulan was ever truly comfortable in this form either. More on that when we get to the Purpose section.

**Personality**

Mulan was slightly difficult in terms of color personalities as she doesn’t exhibit any of the main traits that stick out. When that happens, I work backwards. Her least likely trait would be an orange. Mulan does not like having the spotlight casted on her. This most likely comes from years of trying and failing to uphold family honor. In her past, whenever Mulan is cast in any kind of spotlight, she fails. And it is a country wide trait to be afraid of dishonor.

The times in the movie where Mulan is succeeding, she never brags or seeks out attention for what she’s done. She’s just happy she did a job well done.

Her next least likely trait would most likely be a Green. Mulan doesn’t show signs that she’s opposite of a Green, but she doesn’t really show signs of being like one either. Never overthinking a situation. In fact, many times she gets an idea and acts on it very quickly. While she is smart, she does not dwell on the solutions she comes up with nor is she ever 100% sure they’ll work. She gets and idea, she executes it, it works.

Mulan’s second closest trait would be a Gold. Being a man dominated world, and Mulan being one who doesn’t like standing out, there are very few moments where Mulan takes charge of a situation. But they do happen. When she needs to, she steps up and begins commanding.

\*Show a few scenes of her commanding\*

Finally, we can conclude that Mulan’s primary color is a Blue, and her Personality does line up with that.

\*Play I think you’re a great captain\*

And remember how I said Mulan doesn’t like the spotlight, even when she’s done a job well done? Many times, Mulan actually shows humility more than anything. Despite the fact that she saves an entire nation by defeating a villain the countries greatest soldiers couldn’t, at the end, she still bows her head and gives respect to those she deems above her.

With the exception of the bath scene, nothing Mulan ever does in this movie is strictly for herself. She’s constantly trying to warn people of upcoming danger. The entire reason she joined the army, was for her father.

\*RP pauses and looks at Ellipsis\*

What?!?  
  
\*Show Maybe I didn’t do it for my father.

-\_-

Anyways

With these traits, I give Mulan an INFP on the Meyers Briggs scale.

Introverted, as demonstrated with her approach to attention being casted on her.

Intuitive, as when making decisions she goes with her gut feeling.  
Feeling, because she’s constantly concerned others

And Perceptive, as she acts on a moment to moment basis and clearly is not good at following any specific schedule.

**Character Purpose**

Mulan is the protagonist. Glad we got that out of the way. What’s her goal? Prevent her father from joining the war. What’s her obstacle? Woman aren’t legally allowed to be in the war by penalty of death. Many might look at Mulan’s story and think the point of it is to emphasize girl power and how woman can do anything a man can. Well, I disagree with those people making them wrong and me right.

AND THAT’S A FACT!

At the beginning, Mulan has shown that she’s not good at being what society deems a “female.” She’s different. She doesn’t fit in. People think she’s an embarrassment. Everytime she tries to do what everyone else does, it’s obvious she doesn’t fit the mold.  
  
So what happens when Mulan joins the army and tries to be a man. Well… she’s different. She doesn’t fit in. People think she’s an embarrassment. Every time she tries to do what everyone else does, it’s obvious she doesn’t fit the mold.

It’s easy to look at this movie and see it as an example of how one gender can do what the other gender is known to do. But Mulan has trouble fitting in with the guys just as much as she does with the girls. This isn’t about gender, but about outcasts.

When I say outcasts, I mean people who despite doing their best to fit into society, their Personal traits, makes it so that they have a hard time being accepted as one of the norm. I am NOT talking about hipsters, or people who choose to be separated from society because they don’t like it.

Still don’t know the difference? Toby Mcguire Peter Parker was an outcast. Andrew Garfield Peter was a hipster.

I think it’s important to distinguish this difference because, nothing against hipsters… actually, I take that back, everything against hipsters, but when your character is learning about accepting what makes them different, it helps when that character doesn’t already praise being different.

Mulan hates the fact that she’s different, but for some reason, can’t get around it no matter how hard she tries.

And I know what you’re thinking, “but Mulan was eventually accepted as one of the norm when hanging out with the men. She was seen as just another guy.”

Yeah… no. Mulan starts acting like a guy at about here, and she’s still hated. The moment where people start treating Mulan positively is right here. This is probably Mulan’s most defining moment in the entire movie. Why? Not because she starts acting like a guy, and it’s not because she starts acting like herself either, but because she starts applying what makes her unique to the task at hand.

Mulan is smart and creative. For the purposes of this movie, this is the trait that separates her from everyone. Normally we might automatically assume that these are good traits, but Mulan has lived a life where this trait has made her life miserable, despite being a part of her. Once she here, it’s no longer “just be myself” nor is it “just be what people say.” She takes what Cheng said, takes her creativity, and she applies it.

And even after she’s done all of this, she’s never really seen as “just another guy.” She’s often times still seen as incredibly weird.  
  
\*Play Girl whose got a brain and craziest man I’ve ever met\*

They don’t hate her anymore, in fact many times they put her on a pedestal, but she’s never seen as ordinary.

Then we see at the end, Mulan continuing to use her skills even when it’s revealed that she’s a girl. Being a man had nothing to do with finding out who she was, it just happened to be the task she was currently struggling with.

I want to rewind a bit and go back to when Mulan first has to be judged by matchmaker. Rather than memorize what she was supposed to do, Mulan cheated. You would think someone whose supposed to be smart would be able to easily pass something like this.

I’d like to think this is somewhat a hit towards how some people treat traditional learning as if it’s the only way one can do something. I’ve seen many people, including those who are smart, put more effort into cheating at something than actually doing the task. I’ve often asked why that is and the conclusion I’ve come up with is this. When you’re asked to do something and told how to do it, you may enjoy it or you may not. You may be good at it, or you may not. However, when you allow yourself to apply what you know about yourself to the task you’re being asked to do, you become more invested. While doing something like taking a test is more restrictive, an activity like cheating allows the person to put themselves into the experience, and they’ll spend more effort on cheating than they would studying.

Note, RP does not encourage cheating.

It’s similar to an environment like youtube or deviantart. You have basic parameters like make a video or make a piece of art, but there’s no strict parameters demanding how you go about doing these activities. This allows many to express themselves in the way they choose. And when you can express yourself in what you’re doing, it becomes much more enjoyable.

That’s what I think Mulan represents, adapting ones self to the task at hand to allow themselves to succeed in the activity that they’re doing.

I also believe Mulan is a message to failures. I said earlier that she joined the war to help her father, but that’s not entirely the case which SOMEBODY spoiled.

\*Play So when I looked in the mirror\*

Now, I don’t believe Mulan actually joined the war because of herself, but I do believe there is a part of her that wants to desperately prove something.

Mulan has been trying all her life to live up to expectations that for some reason she just can’t seem to do. When you fail, over and over, many times trying again becomes something you fear of doing. Deep down, Mulan is scared. She’s scared that she’s not worth anything.

If you’ve seen my review on Monster’s University, you know how I feel about these kinds of morals. The scene at the end with Mulan and her father really brings this point home. Mulan returns, knowing that she’s broken a major rule. In a desperate attempt to make up for her dishonor and prove her worth, she presents the greatest gift anyone can receive, and what does the dad do…?

\*show the greatest gift scene\*

All he wanted was Mulan. To him, she is more worth more than any honor she could’ve brought home.

Character Capture

All in all, Mulan is a character meant to adapt to herself. Growing up in an environment filled with people who could meet their stereotypes, she did her best to be what society expected her to be, but constantly failed. Her feelings to protect her father set her on a journey to join the Chinese army, through which she learns to not only advance by using her own skills but thrive. Mulan lives under the costant threat that she has no value, but is able to learn that despite anything that she or anyone else deems as a flaw or even a positive trait, she herself holds value. If while watching Mulan, you saw an outcast who learned what it meant to apply herself to a situation… then I believe you’ve captured Mulan’s character