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.

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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 natural Personal traits, be they physical or personality 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 what makes them 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 actually because she starts acting like herself, but because she starts applying what makes her unique to help the situation 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 when they’re not making fun of her, these guys put Mulan on a pedestal.

\*Play Let’s hear it for Ping\*