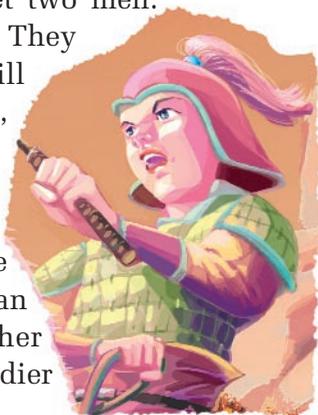


# Introduction

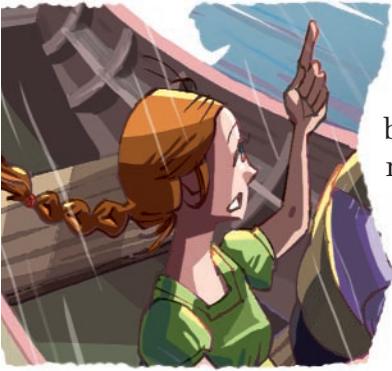
**W**hat makes a man a hero? What makes a woman a heroine? Heroes and heroines are men and women that people look up to because they did something brave or good. Heroes and heroines do not run from danger, difficulty or problems. They help people and they put other people first.

In this book, you will meet two men: William Tell and Robin Hood. They are heroes in this book. You will also meet three women: Mulan, Grace Darling and Pocahontas. They are the heroines.

First, you will meet Mulan. Mulan was a great soldier more than 1,500 years ago. Mulan fought for China and for her family name. This great soldier had a great secret!



Next, you will meet William Tell, a famous archer. He was good at using a bow and arrow. He had a very good aim and always hit the target. He is a great hero to people in Switzerland. He lived about 700 years ago. William Tell visited Altdorf, a Swiss town. The people in the town were unhappy. The cruel Baron Gessler ruled their town. Everything changed when William Tell visited.



In another story, you will meet Grace Darling. She was a young English woman. She lived between 1815 and 1842. One night a ship sank. Grace saw the people from the ship on rocks. The wind was cold and strong. The waves were high. It was dangerous to take a boat to sea. But Grace could not let those

people die on the rocks.

Then you will meet another person from England. He is Robin Hood. He lived long before Grace Darling — about 800 years ago. Robin Hood robbed rich people! Can we call this man a hero? English people call him a hero. Read his story. Perhaps you will want to call him a hero, too.



Lastly, you will meet Pocahontas, an American Indian heroine. English people wanted to make America their home. Life was difficult for these English people. The American Indians did not welcome them. But Pocahontas became friends with the English people. She also saved their lives again and again.



Read on and find out about these heroes and heroines.

# 1

## Mulan:

### Part One

#### **The Men from the North**

**S**omewhere in China, a girl sat and sewed. She was fifteen, and the daughter of the Hua family. Her name was Mulan.

Mulan was sewing in her room. Her mother came in. 5  
She looked at Mulan's work.

'Your sewing isn't very good today,' said Mulan's mother. 'You're not thinking about what you are doing, Mulan. What's wrong?'

Mulan looked at her mother sadly. She began to cry. 10  
She said, 'Mother, I saw posters in town today. Men from the North have come into China. They are burning towns and villages. They are killing the people. The posters ask men to fight for China. Every family must send a man. Our family's name was on the posters. 15  
Father must go and fight. It makes me so sad. Poor Father is old and sick.'

Mulan's mother sat with Mulan. They cried together. Mulan's mother said, 'Daughter, I'm sad, too. But it's the Emperor's order. Father must go. Our family must help 20  
China.'

Mulan's mother left. Mulan began to sew again. She began to think, too. An idea came into her head.

Mulan spoke to her father. 'Father, you can't fight well. Your hair is white. Your eyes are weak. My 25  
brother can't be a soldier. He's just a young child. Father, let me go and fight for our family. You taught me