唧唧复唧唧，木兰当户织。
ji ji fu ji mu lan dang hu zhi

"Ji ji," and "ji ji," Mulan weaves in front of the door.

不闻机杼声，惟闻女叹息。
bu wen ji zhu sheng wei wen nu tan xi

“Now we don’t hear the loom shuttle; we only hear our daughter sighing.

问女何所思，问女何所忆?
wen nu he suo si wen nu he suo yi

Daughter, what are you thinking about? What are you nostalgic over?”

女亦无所思，女亦无所忆，
nu yi wu suo si nu yi wu suo yi

daughter also none of think daughter also none of remember
“I am not thinking about anything, and I am not nostalgic.

昨夜见军帖，可汗大点兵，
Last night I saw the conscription notice; it’s the Khan’s Great Call-up.

军书十二卷，卷卷有爷名。
There are twelve scrolls of army rolls, and every scroll has Father’s name.”

阿爷无大儿，木兰无长兄，
Father has no elder son; I have no big brother.

愿为市鞍马，从此替爷征。
Let me buy saddle and horse, and go to war in Father’s place.”

东市买骏马，西市买鞍鞯，
In the east market a fine horse is bought; in the west market, a saddle and its skirt;
南市买辔头，北市买长鞭。
nan’ shì mai^ pei’ tou’ bei^ shì mai^ chang’ bian’
south market buy bridle -- north market buy long whip
In the south market, a bridle; in the north market, a long whip.

旦辞爷娘去，暮宿黄河边，
dan’ ci’ ye’ niang’ qu’ mu’ su’ huang’ he’ bian-
morning leave father mother go evening sleep Yellow River side
In the morning she says good-bye to her parents; in the evening she sleeps at the side of the Yellow River.

不闻爷娘唤女声，
bu’ wen’ ye’ niang’ huan’ nu^ sheng-
not hear father mother call daughter sound
She doesn’t hear the sound of parents calling her,

但闻黄河水声溅溅。 
dan’ wen’ huang’ he’ liu’ shui^ sheng- jian’ jian-
but hear Yellow River flowing water sound “jian” “jian”
But hears the sound of the Yellow River’s water going “jian, jian.”

旦辞黄河去，暮宿黑山头，
dan’ ci’ huang’ he’ qu’ mu’ su’ hei’ shan- tou’
morning leave Yellow River go evening sleep Black Mountain head
In the morning she says good-bye to the Yellow River; in the evening she sleeps on the Black Mountains.

不闻爷娘唤女声，
bu’ wen’ ye’ niang’ huan’ nu^ sheng-
但闻燕山胡骑声啾啾。  
但 hear Yan Mountain barbarian horsemen noise “jīu” “jiu”  
But hears the sound of the Yan Mountains’ barbarian horsemen  
going “jīu, jìu.”

万里赴戎机，关山度若飞，
万里 ten-thousand mile attend war opportunity, passes mountains cross like flying  
For thousands of miles, she goes wherever the battle takes her,  
crossing passes and mountains as if she flew.

朔气传金柝，寒光照铁衣。
朔气 northern air  
传 transmits  
金柝 golden night-watch-claps  
寒光 cold light  
照 shines-on  
铁衣 iron clothes  

Frigid air transmits the night watch claps; frosty light illumes the iron armor.

将军百战死，壮士十年归。
将军 general  
百 battle  
战 die  
壮士 strong men  
十年 ten years  
归 return  

Generals die after a hundred battles; heroes return after ten years’ time.

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1 *Ci Hai* 辞海，1989 ed., Shanghai, p. 1453 under entry “tuo” 「柝」：巡夜者击以报更的梆子 (the clap board that night watchmen hits to announce the hour). It’s interesting here that the clap board is referred to as being a “golden” or metallic one, perhaps yellow copper, as ordinary night watch clap boards are made of wood. Perhaps in the army the night watch clap boards are made of metal?
They return to see the Son of Heaven, sitting in the Bright Hall.

The merit scrolls confer twelve promotions, awarded to thousands of strong men.

The Khan asks what she wants. “Mulan doesn’t need to be an Imperial Cabinet Official,

I’d like a good camel’s thousand-mile hooves, to carry me back home.”

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2 Op. Cit., p. 1511, under the entry “zhuan”：迁调官职 (to change official position).

3 Op. Cit., p. 1258, under the entry “shang shu lang”：尚书郎： Since the Wei and Jin Dynasties the various departments of the Imperial Cabinet… have officials… who administer overall affairs and are generally known as shang shu lang.”
Hearing that Daughter is coming, the parents come outside the city walls, supporting each other.

阿姊闻妹来, 当户理红妆。

Hearing that Little Sister is coming, Big Sister puts on her makeup in front of the door.

Hearing that Big Sister is coming, Little Brother sharpens the knife, eyeing the pig and goat.

“I open up my east bedroom door; I sit on my west bedroom bed.

脱我战时袍，著我旧时裳。
I take off my wartime clothes; I put on my old times dress.”

At the window she arranges cloud-like hair; facing the mirror she pastes on her yellow forehead ornaments.

She comes out to see her comrades; her comrades are all shocked.

“We march together for twelve years, and we don’t know that Mulan is a lady!”

Op. cit., p. 634, under entry “hua huang” 花黄：装饰…以金黄色纸剪成星月花鸟等形贴于额上 …(ornament…pasting on the forehead golden yellow paper cut into the shape of star, moon, flower, or bird…)

Op. Cit., p. 1709, under entry “shuo” 朔：初始 (at the beginning); 此二句则形容如何辨别雄雌兔 then it’s possible that these two lines describe how to distinguish
“The male rabbit hops from the beginning; the female rabbit’s eyes are misty;

兩兔傍地走，安能辨我是雄雌?

Both rabbits are running along the ground; how can you tell whether I am male or female?”

between male and female rabbits。但亦有可能「扑朔」为拟声辞，形容雄兔走路 but “pu shuo” may also be an onomatopoeia, describing the male rabbit’s run.  