

Story 5: The Butterfly Lovers



Story shared by: *Name Withheld*

Representing: *Chinese in Groningen*

The Story:

Once, in ancient China, there lived two young people, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, whose story would be remembered for generations. Their love, much like that of Romeo and Juliet, was destined to face obstacles. But there was something unique about their tale.

Zhu Yingtai was a clever and determined girl, but in those days, girls weren't allowed to study alongside boys. So, she came up with a plan—she disguised herself as a boy and went to school. That's where she met Liang Shanbo, and the two became fast friends. They studied together, and over time, Zhu Yingtai's feelings for him grew stronger.

The problem was, Liang Shanbo didn't know she was actually a girl. No matter how many hints Zhu Yingtai dropped, he just didn't get it. Once, she even told him, "You should come to my house and meet my sister," when really, she meant herself. She tried and tried to let him know, but Liang Shanbo was too slow to figure it out.

Finally, the truth came out—Liang Shanbo realized Zhu Yingtai was the girl he had fallen in love with. But by then, it was too late. Zhu Yingtai's family had already arranged for her to marry another man. Heartbroken, Liang Shanbo couldn't bear it, and he died from sorrow. On the day of her wedding, Zhu Yingtai ran to his grave, crying her heart out. Right there, by his tomb, she chose to die too.

In the end, they were buried together, and the legend says that two butterflies emerged from their grave, flying side by side. People believed those butterflies were their spirits, finally united in a way they couldn't be in life.





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Story Moral: *Love will win at the end of fate*