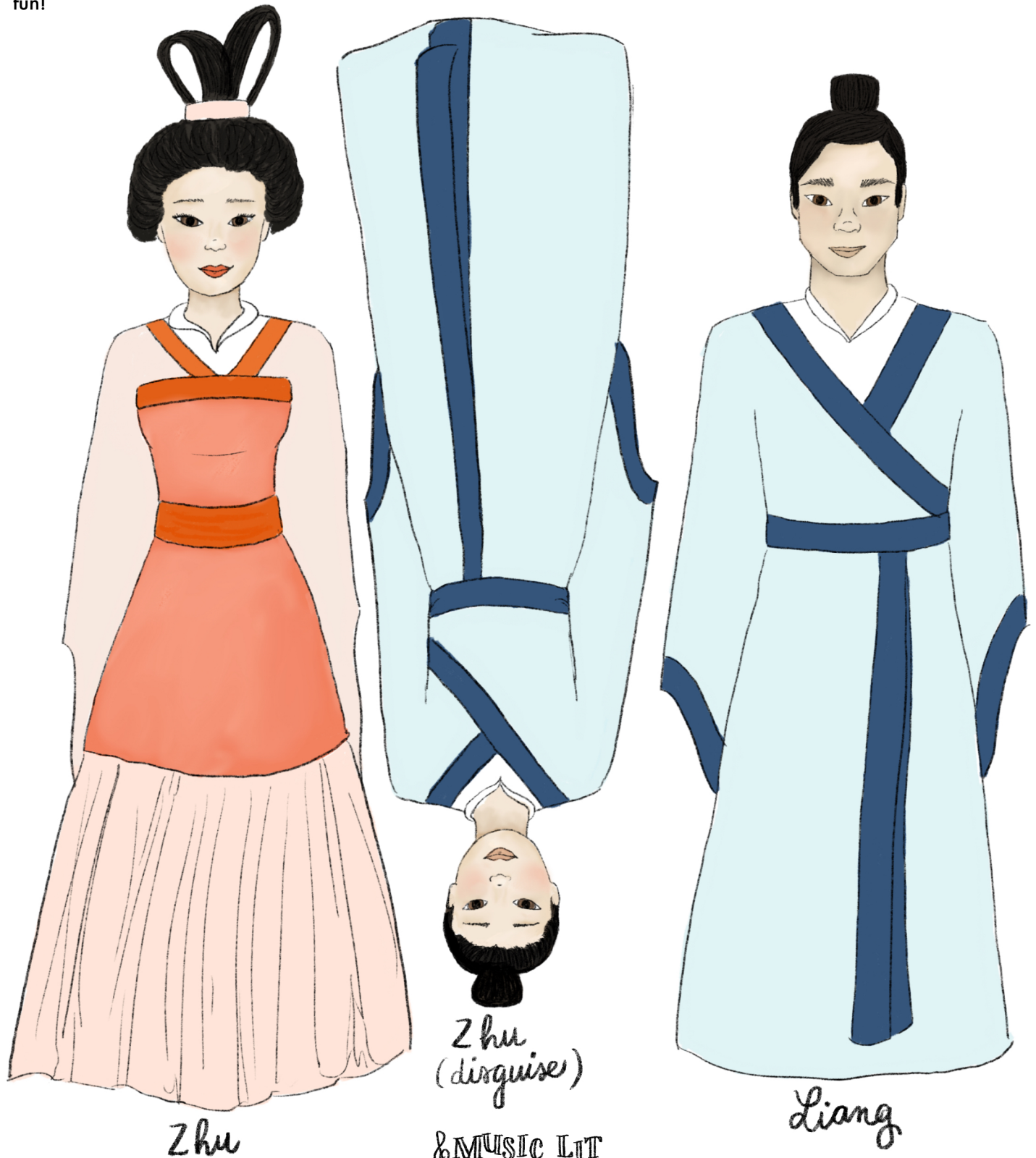


# Butterfly Lovers

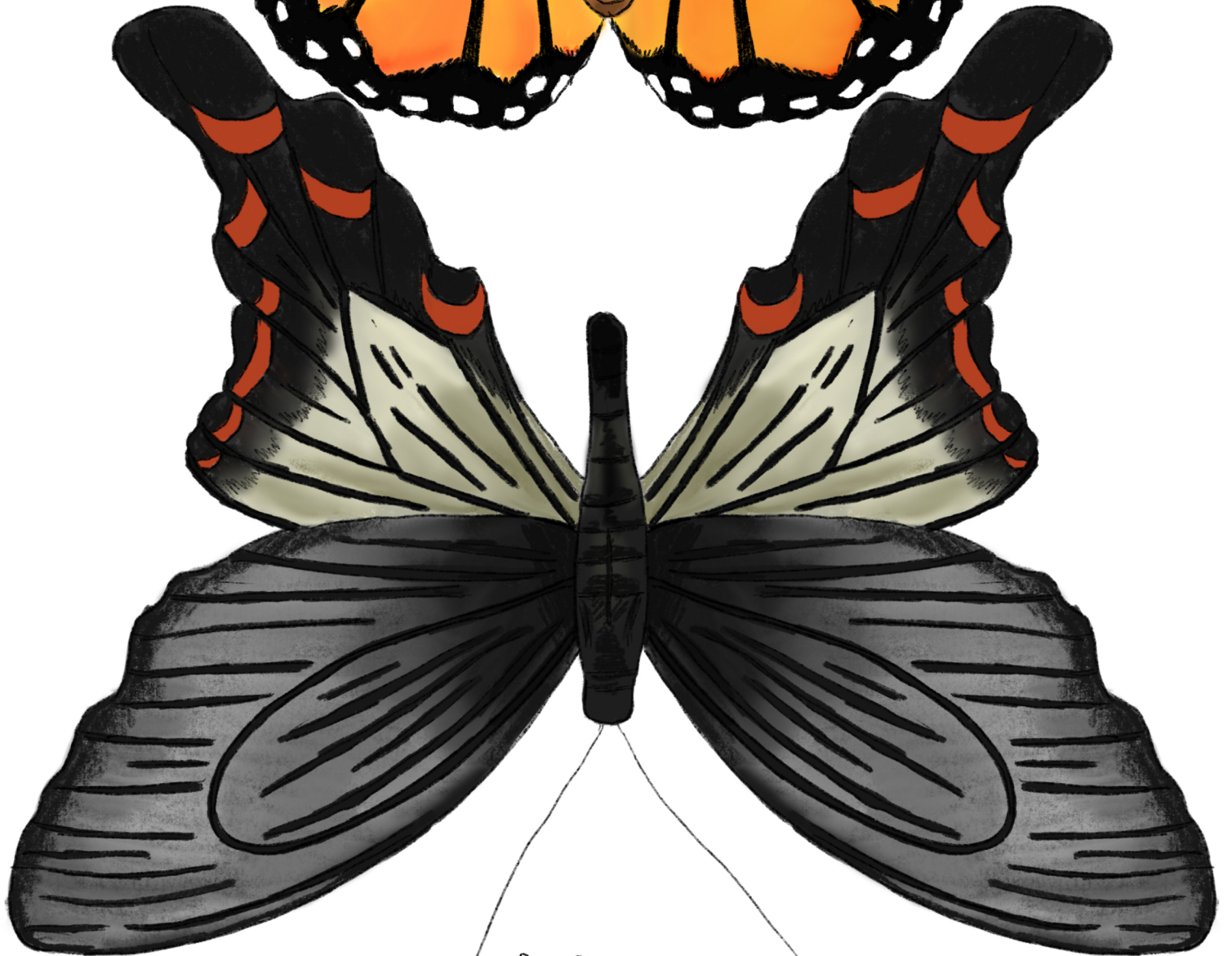
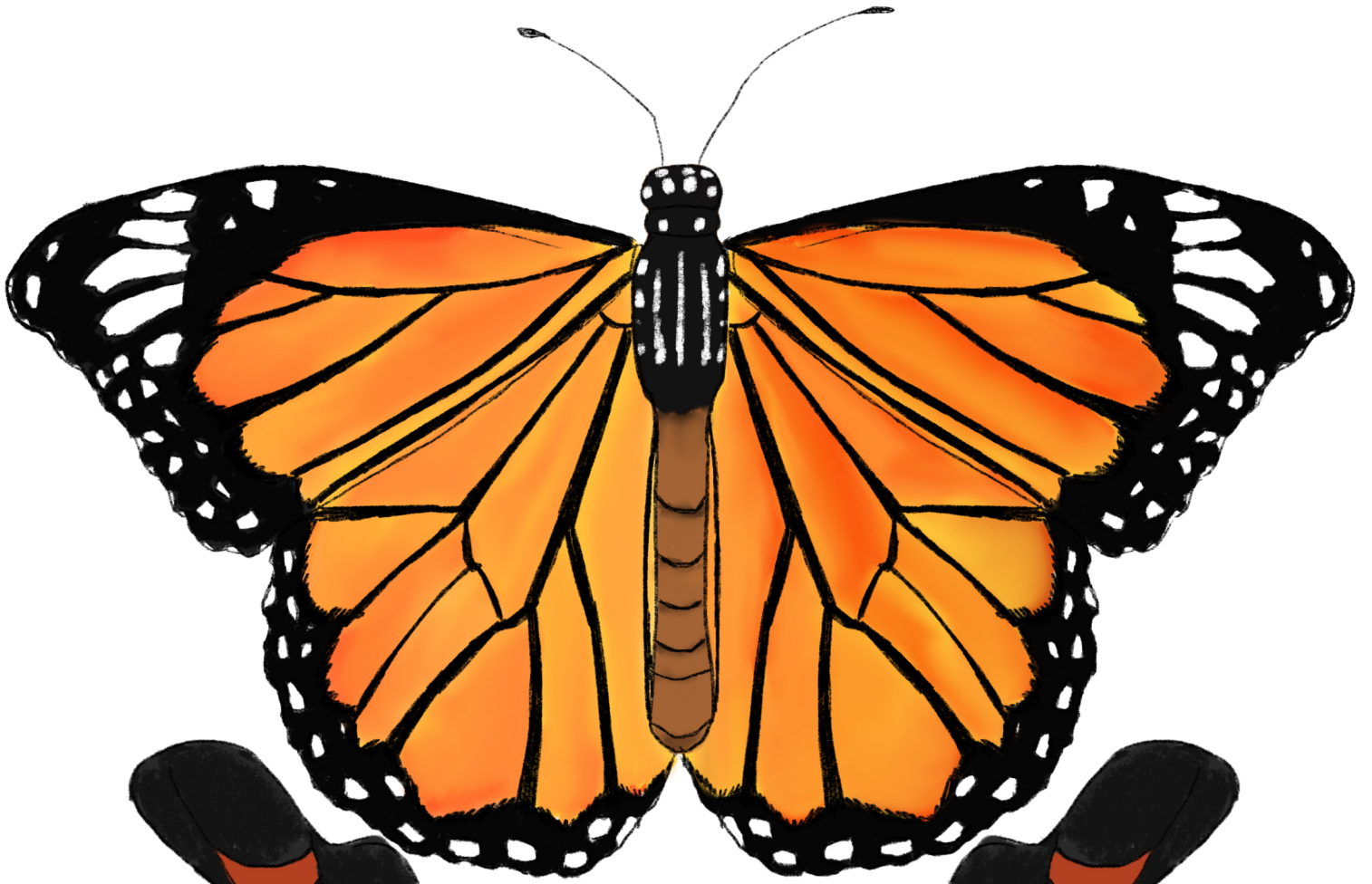
violin concerto

Directions: Print and cut out all puppets (including the two butterflies!), then tape or glue to popsicle sticks or skewers. Put the two Zhu puppets back to back on the same stick, so that she can transform into her disguise during the story. Tell the story of the butterfly lovers while listening to the concerto and playing with the puppets. Have fun!



Zhu  
(disguise)

Liang





the story of the  
*Butterfly Lovers*

(Music begins) (Listen for the solo violin. That is Zhu's voice!)

Once, long ago in ancient China, there was a young girl named Zhu. She loved life, but as she grew into a young woman, she realized that her deepest wish was to go to school, like her eight older brothers had done before her. But in those days, girls were discouraged from learning and forbidden from attending school. Still, she begged her father to let her go, and finally, he agreed. They came up with a plan for Zhu to go off to school—she would disguise herself as a man!



(Around 5:03 ) (listen for when the orchestra picks up the tempo and the music is fast and exciting!)

When she arrived at school in her disguise, she was excited to finally learn about the world she loved so much. She dedicated herself to her studies, and truly loved to be busy, hard at work, and finally, finally! Learning!

(Around 6:04 )

While she was at school, Zhu met a young man named Liang. They became great friends, although Liang still thought that Zhu was a boy! They grew to be such good friends, that one day they took an oath of brotherhood, that they would be loyal friends forever. They both studied at school for three years, growing closer together every day.

(Around 7:35 ) (listen for the orchestra to slow down, and the return of Zhu's voice on the solo violin, talking sadly to her friend)

Then one day, Zhu's father wrote to tell her she needed to come home. She was heartbroken to leave her friend! They had grown so close, and she had started to secretly fall in love with him. He traveled home with her, and the whole way home she tried to hint that she was actually a girl, but he didn't understand what his friend was trying to tell him. After a sad goodbye, Liang returned to school.



(Around 9:15 listen for the solo cello to answer Zhu. This is Liang's voice.)

(10:15)

Months passed, and Zhu wrote to her friend Liang to come visit her, and decided to surprise him by saying that she would arrange for him to marry her sister (who would really be her!) (10:43) When he arrived, he was confused to see his friend Zhu, but no sister (11:02). Zhu started to explain everything to her friend (11:28), and after

mustering up enough courage, she finally revealed to Liang that she is really a girl (13:21).  
(Timpani roll to emphasize the big reveal at 13:58)

(Love theme at 14:19)

Zhu explains that she has been in love with her dear friend Liang for a long time. At first he is confused and astonished, but then realizes he is deeply in love with her as well. (Liang's voice returns in the Cello solo at 15:28, echoing her theme). Time seemed to stop for Zhu and Liang, who had grown to be so close. They became inseparable.

(16:30)

But their joy was short lived, as Zhu's father soon told her that she was betrothed to a wealthy young man from a nearby village.

(Around 17:23) (listen for Zhu's voice on the solo violin, crying and sad, angrily playing double stops)

Zhu did not want to marry this other man, however rich he may be. She tried to beg her father to reconsider, but he would not change his mind. Liang left devastated and died of a broken heart.

(Around 18:42 )

The day of the wedding came, and as Zhu walked past Liang's grave, a great clap of thunder stopped her, (19:50) and in that moment Liang's grave opened up, and Zhu fell in.

(20:44)

Everyone looked around, astonished and confused. What had happened? After the dust cleared, they saw two butterflies emerge from Liang's grave. (Around 21:00)

Zhu and Liang had transformed into butterflies, never to be parted again.

(Listen for the flute, followed by the harp. Then, softly, Zhu's voice returns on the violin, playing fluttering high notes, as the two butterflies fly away into the distance).

