

# Malala Yousafzai

*In this lesson, you will read about a Pakistani schoolgirl who became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner for standing up for girls' rights to education.*



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do females in your country have the same education rights as males?
2. What fears have you overcome in your life?
3. Who are the Taliban?
4. Are you an outspoken person or a person who keeps your thoughts to yourself?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. advocate ( <i>noun</i> ) | a) a state of prolonged unconsciousness                                    |
| ___ 2. found                    | b) a person who receives something   |
| ___ 3. condemn                  | c) to criticize or talk in a negative way about someone or something       |
| ___ 4. pseudonym                | d) a book about one's personal experience at a certain time of one's life  |
| ___ 5. outspoken                | e) a person who supports and promotes a thing or way of living             |
| ___ 6. deteriorate              | f) the process of improving one's health after an accident or injury       |
| ___ 7. coma                     | g) willing to talk openly about issues                                     |
| ___ 8. rehabilitation           | h) to worsen over time   |
| ___ 9. memoir                   | i) to be the one to make or start something                                |
| ___ 10. recipient               | j) a fake name and profile used by an author who wants to remain anonymous |

## Reading

1. Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. Her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was an **advocate** for children's education rights. He **founded** a chain of schools in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Malala attended one of his schools and was a straight-A student. Like her father, Malala became an education activist.
2. Life in Swat Valley changed drastically in 2007. At this time, the Taliban, an Islamic militant group, occupied Swat Valley. The Taliban forced men to grow beards and women to wear burkas. They also banned girls over 10 from going to school. In 2008, Malala **condemned** the Taliban in a speech titled, "*How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?*" She continued to go to school, and she shared her experiences in a BBC blog called *Diary of a Pakistani schoolgirl*.
3. Even though Malala used a **pseudonym** in her blog, she became famous for speaking up for girls' rights. Over the next few years, many schools were destroyed and Malala's **outspoken** family received several death threats. On October 9, 2012, a gunman boarded a school bus in Swat Valley and shot Malala three times. One of the bullets went through Malala's head and into her shoulder. Two other schoolgirls were also shot.
4. The schoolgirls all received medical treatment in Pakistan. Malala's brain surgery was a success, but her health **deteriorated** shortly after. Soldiers guarded the hospital and British doctors came to help. Malala was placed in a medical **coma** and transferred to a hospital in England.
5. When Malala woke up in England, she was alone and confused. She had no memory of the attack and her family was still in Pakistan. After weeks of **rehabilitation**, Malala began to walk and talk again. Her family joined her in England, and Malala began attending school in the UK. People all over the world sent gifts, cards, and supportive messages to Malala and her family. In Pakistan, however, many felt that Malala's family was too supportive of the West.
6. On July 12, 2013, on her 16th birthday, Malala delivered a speech at the United Nations Headquarters. She spoke about girls' rights and told the world, "We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back." In Pakistan, some people rejected her message and her story. Some even claimed Malala was never shot.
7. In October 2013, the young activist published her **memoir**, *I am Malala*. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 and became the youngest **recipient** of all time. In her acceptance speech, Malala begged the world's leaders to guarantee free, quality education for primary and secondary students around the world. Malala continues to advocate for children's rights. She hopes that one day it will be safe for her to return to Pakistan.

*"We realize the importance of our voices  
only when we are silenced."*

—Malala Yousafzai

## Comprehension

### A. True, False, or Not Mentioned?

Read the statements below. Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is false, and correct the information in your notebook. Write NM if the fact is not mentioned.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Malala has two younger brothers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Taliban threatened to kill Malala and her father.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Two other schoolgirls died on the bus the day Malala was shot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In 2013, the UN declared Malala's birthday *Malala Day*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Some people in Pakistan did not support Malala.

### B. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1-8). Add one final item to the timeline, and mark it 9.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Taliban took control of Pakistan's Swat Valley and announced that girls over 10 could not go to school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala was transferred to a hospital in England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala began attending one of her father's schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala received brain surgery at a hospital in Pakistan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala spoke about girls' rights at the UN Headquarters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A member of the Taliban shot three schoolgirls on a bus in Swat Valley.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala condemned the Taliban for trying to take away girls' rights to education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malala won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Review

Are the following words synonyms or antonyms?

- 1. advocate / activist \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. outspoken / shy \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. deteriorate / rehabilitate \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. giver / recipient \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. memoir / autobiography \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. coma / consciousness \_\_\_\_\_

# Poster Challenge

## I AM MALALA

What English words can you use to describe and define Malala?  
Write as many English words as you can. Use nouns, adjectives, verbs,  
and phrases. Include some words that you learned in this lesson.

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