

## Malala Yousafzai

Malala is a girl who stands up for girls' education rights. She was shot in the head because of what she believed and is still fighting for what she wants. Malala is interesting because she is so brave and even though she got shot, she is still fighting and rebelling against the Taliban. I found out about her by reading some articles and hearing people talk about her as the "Pakistani girl that won the Nobel Peace Prize." It sounded interesting to me so I wanted to learn more about her so I read the book I am Malala. Other people would think she is interesting because she knows what she wants and will never stop thinking that women deserve education. No matter what, she will keep fighting for what she wants.

Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan in 1997. When she was a child, she loved to play cricket outside with her brothers. Then the Taliban took over her town and she was only allowed to go outside unless she was with a man. In addition, Malala loved going to school but the Taliban believed that girls should not get an education. The Taliban announced that they were going to close down the school Malala was going to. Malala was furious and she wanted to do something about it.

At the age of 11, Malala started blogging for the BBC channel about her life under control of the Taliban. It was posted publicly for people around the world to see. In the blogs, she went by the pseudonym of Gul Makai which means "cornflower" because if the Taliban found out it was actually her, she could have been badly beaten or even killed by the Talibs. However, in 2009, Gul Makai was revealed to be Malala. Also, Malala started a campaign to gain support for the rights of girls to get an education. She started winning prizes from all around the world. For example, she was awarded Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize. Also a lot of journalists went to Pakistan just to interview Malala about her life and what it was like to be under the influence of the Taliban.

In 2012, on her way home from school, Malala was shot in the head by a Talib. She was in a coma for about a week and finally when she woke up, she could not talk and she could barely hear. There were many operations done on her head. After a month of lying in bed and doing therapy in the hospital, she was finally ready to go back home. As a result of the shooting, she became even more well known around the world because people saw what she was ready to

sacrifice just so that girls and women could have an education. In 2013, on Malala's sixteenth birthday, she spoke at the United Nations and called for free education for all children. At the United Nations, Malala made a speech in which she said, "They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came thousands of voices." About a year after this speech, on October 10th 2014, Malala Yousafzai, at the age of seventeen, the youngest recipient ever, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

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### Intro

I used to tutor a sixth grader in writing, and I remembered that she wrote a wonderful essay about Malala Yousafzai, the girl who was shot by the Taliban for speaking out in support of education for girls, and survived to continue on in her cause and was later awarded the Nobel peace prize.

I thought it was such a beautiful essay on an amazing person that we'd like to share it with you now. The subject was the idea of the student, who was twelve years old at the time, and she did the research on it and wrote it. I helped her with grammar and tightening it up, but it's the story in her own words. Arlo (or Paikea) will read the essay.

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