

Malala Yousafzai

Differentiated Reading Comprehension

This resource has been designed to support teaching on the inspirational figure, Malala Yousafzai. The resource is specifically aimed at a KS2 audience due to the distressing nature of the events that Malala experienced.

Please be aware that it will not be appropriate for the children in your class to research further into the events Malala has experienced due to the harrowing information and images freely available on the Internet.

Be aware of individuals in your class and any children that may have lost their own family members in similar circumstances due to ongoing conflict around the world.

Know your class: some content may be too upsetting for some children.



Malala Yousafzai

Fact File

Name: Malala Yousafzai

Date of Birth: 12th July 1997

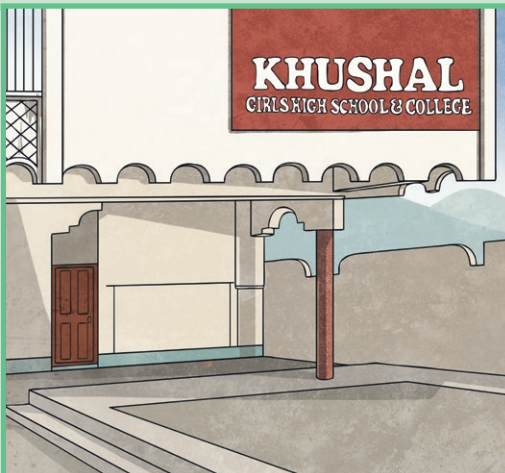
Place of Birth: Mingora, Swat Valley, North Pakistan

Famous For: Standing up for equal rights to education. Malala believes that all girls (as well as boys) should be able to learn. She was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



Did You Know...?

Malala's parents named her after Malala of the Maiwand: a courageous woman who helped to protect her village from invasion over 100 years before.



What Was Malala's Childhood Like?

Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was the Principal of a girls' school in Malala's hometown of Mingora. Malala's mother, Toor Pekai Yousafzai, had the important job of taking care of the family home. Malala's parents believed strongly in the importance of education for both boys and girls. Malala has two younger brothers, Khushal and Atal and her parents were determined to ensure that she, unlike many of her peers, was given the same education and experiences as them.

Malala loved school yet, at the time in Pakistan, all schools for girls were being ordered to close: Malala was unable to go to school as her brothers had. This made her feel frustrated and angry.

How Did Malala Become Well Known?

Malala's father encouraged her to write a blog to tell the world about the difficult days in the Swat Valley. It was a risky topic to talk about at the time so Malala used the name Gul Makai so people would not know who she was.

Malala's blog soon became very popular and she was even interviewed for a television documentary. She soon decided that she did not want to be anonymous anymore and people around the world started to hear about her and her views. She began being invited to important events and even won some awards.

How Did Malala Become Well Known?

Unfortunately, there were people that did not agree with what Malala had to say in her blog. They did not want her views about equal rights to become well known. Due to this, Malala was injured as she travelled on a bus home from school. Despite being very poorly, Malala made a miraculous recovery and was released from hospital less than three months later.

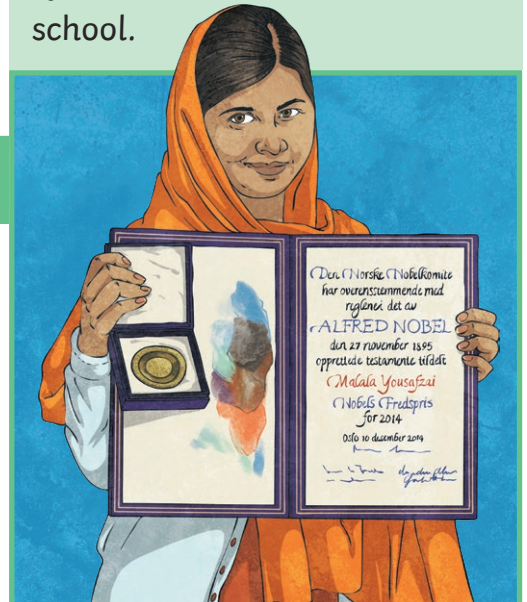
Malala was determined to prove that peaceful words are the most powerful. So, only nine months after her injury, Malala spoke on stage at the United Nations. This was also her 16th birthday. The United Nations named the day, 'Malala Day'.

What is a Nobel Peace Prize?

At the age of 17, Malala was the youngest person in the world to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The prize is awarded once a year to people who do outstanding work towards world peace.

Did You Know...?

Almost two-thirds of poor girls from Malala's home country of Pakistan have never been to school.



What Is Malala Doing Now?

Malala continues to dream of making a difference to her home country. She and her family now live in England where she is studying to become a politician. With the help of her father, Malala has started her own charitable fund to support girls from around the world to be able to learn and lead.

Glossary

anonymous:	When someone chooses to hide their identity so others don't know who they are.
blog:	A regularly updated web page that is written in a conversational style by one person or a small group.
equal rights:	When all people are treated the same.
politician:	A person who is involved with running a country or area.
United Nations:	An international organization of countries whose aim is to promote international peace, security and cooperation.

Questions

1. In what year was Malala born? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 1996
- ☐ 1997
- ☐ 1998

2. How many brothers does Malala have? Tick **one**.

- ☐ none
- ☐ one
- ☐ two
- ☐ three

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malala's blog soon became very popular...**

Find and copy **one** word which shows that Malala wanted to keep her identity a secret when writing the blog.

4. How many of poor Pakistani girls have never been to school?

5. Why did Malala's father encourage her to write a blog?

6. **This made her feel frustrated and angry.**

Explain why you think Malala felt this way.

7. What evidence is there that Malala's family think education is important?

8. **At the age of 17, Malala was the youngest person in the world to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Explain why you think Malala won the prize.

Answers

1. In what year was Malala born? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 1996
- ☒ **1997**
- ☐ 1998

2. How many brothers does Malala have? Tick **one**.

- ☐ none
- ☐ one
- ☒ **two**
- ☐ three

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malala's blog soon became very popular...**

Find and copy **one** word which shows that Malala wanted to keep her identity a secret when writing the blog.

anonymous

4. How many of poor Pakistani girls have never been to school?

Almost two thirds of poor girls from Pakistan have never been to school.

5. Why did Malala's father encourage her to write a blog?

Malala's father encouraged her to write a blog to tell the world about the difficult days in the Swat Valley.

6. **This made her feel frustrated and angry.**

Explain why you think Malala felt this way.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala loved school and would have felt angry that she could no longer learn there. She had been brought up in a family where equal rights in education was seen as important so she would be angry that her brothers still got to attend school but she could not. She would have felt frustrated because there wasn't anything she could have done about it.

7. What evidence is there that Malala's family think education is important?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala's father was a Principal at a girls' school. It also says that 'Malala's parents believed strongly in the importance of education for both boys and girls.' Malala's father also encouraged her to write a blog about how she felt when schools had closed. This showed that he didn't agree with what was happening to education.

8. **At the age of 17, Malala was the youngest person in the world to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Explain why you think Malala won the prize.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Since she was a child, Malala has always fought for equal rights for girls and boys in education. She wrote a blog and went on TV to speak out about how she felt so that others could hear. Even after being injured, she continued to fight for what she believed in. This showed great strength and courage.

Malala Yousafzai

Fact File



Name: Malala Yousafzai

Date of Birth: 12th July 1997

Place of Birth: Mingora, Swat Valley, North Pakistan

Who Is She? A Pakistani activist who gained fame and respect throughout the world for her courageous campaigning for every child's right to education.

Malala's Childhood

Malala was born and raised in the Swat Valley. Her parents named her after Malala of the Maiwand: a courageous woman who helped to protect her village from invasion over 100 years before. Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was the Principal of the local girls' school. Her mother, Toor Pekai Yousafzai, took care of the family home. Not every girl in Pakistan went to school but Malala's parents firmly believed in equal rights for boys and girls. Malala has two younger brothers, Khushal and Atal, and her parents wanted to ensure that she had the same education and opportunities as them.

Malala loved going to school yet, at the time in Pakistan, all schools for girls were being ordered to close. After age 11, Malala was unable to go to school like her brothers had.



Malala's Rise to Fame

Malala's father encouraged her to write an anonymous blog to tell the world about the difficult days in the Swat Valley. This was a risky topic for a young girl to speak about at the time so, in order to protect her identity, she wrote using the name Gul Makai.

Malala's Rise to Fame

8th Feb 2009

I am sad watching my uniform,
school bag and geometry box.

Before long, Malala's blog became very popular and she was even interviewed for a television documentary. As her popularity grew, she went on to win several peace awards and attended a lot of important events. During this time, she would speak out about her views on the unequal treatment of girls in Pakistan and around the world.

Some people did not agree with what Malala had to say; they did not want her views to become well-known. Due to this, Malala was injured as she travelled on a bus home from school. Despite being very ill, Malala made a miraculous recovery and was released from hospital less than three months later. Messages of sympathy and support for Malala flooded in from around the world.

Continuing Activism

Malala was determined to continue speaking out about the right to education for all. Only nine months after her injury, Malala took to the stage at the United Nations (the organisation which aims to ensure world peace and security) on her 16th birthday. "My dreams are the same," she bravely stated. The United Nations named the day, 'Malala Day'.

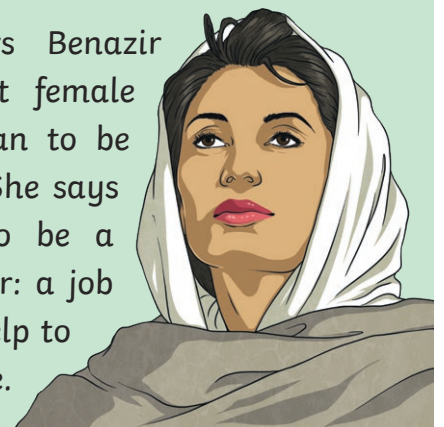
Malala continues to campaign for equal rights in education. At the age of 17, she was the youngest person in the world to receive the Nobel Peace Prize: an important award given annually to people who do outstanding work to contribute to world peace.



Malala currently lives in England and is studying for a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at university. With the help of her father, Malala has started a charity called The Malala Fund, which aims to support girls from around the world to be able to learn and lead.

Benazir Bhutto

Malala considers Benazir Bhutto, the first female leader of Pakistan to be her role model. She says her dream is to be a politician like her: a job where she can help to make a difference.



Questions

1. How old was Malala when she won the Nobel Peace Prize? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 11 years old
- ☐ 15 years old
- ☐ 16 years old
- ☐ 17 years old

2. What job did her father have when Malala was growing up? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Teacher at a boys' school
- ☐ Principal of a boys' school
- ☐ Teacher at a girls' school
- ☐ Principal of a girls' school

3. What name did Malala use when she wrote her blog?

4. Look at the section entitled **Continuing Activism**.

Find and copy **one** word which shows that Malala did not want to give up speaking about her beliefs.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malala continues to campaign...**

Find and copy **one** phrase which shows that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to individuals who do exceptional things.

6. **I am sad watching my uniform, school bag and geometry box.**

Why do you think Malala is sad?

7. **Malala's parents firmly believed in equal rights for boys and girls...**

Explain what you think this means.

8. Why do you think Malala considers **Benazir Bhutto** to be her role model?

9. **Malala was unable to go to school like her brothers had.**

Explain how Malala might have felt about this. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. How old was Malala when she won the Nobel Peace Prize? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 11 years old
- ☐ 15 years old
- ☐ 16 years old
- ☒ **17 years old**

2. What job did her father have when Malala was growing up? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Teacher at a boys' school
- ☐ Principal of a boys' school
- ☐ Teacher at a girls' school
- ☒ **Principal of a girls' school**

3. What name did Malala use when she wrote her blog?

Malala used the name Gul Makai when writing her blog.

4. Look at the section entitled **Continuing Activism**.

Find and copy **one** word which shows that Malala did not want to give up speaking about her beliefs.

determined

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malala continues to campaign...**

Find and copy **one** phrase which shows that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to individuals who do exceptional things.

awarded to people who do outstanding work

6. **I am sad watching my uniform, school bag and geometry box.**

Why do you think Malala is sad?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala would have been sad looking at those items because they would have reminded her of going to school. Her school was closed so she would have seen them sat there unused.

7. **Malala's parents firmly believed in equal rights for boys and girls...**

Explain what you think this means.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala's parents believed that boys and girls should be given the same opportunities as one another. For example, they both should have the right to an education.

8. Why do you think Malala considers **Benazir Bhutto** to be her role model?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Benazir Bhutto was the first female leader of Pakistan. Malala also wants to become a politician and is a firm believer in equal rights for women. This means that Benazir has done something that Malala wants to do herself.

9. **Malala was unable to go to school like her brothers had.**

Explain how Malala might have felt about this. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala loved school. Her father was a principal and encouraged her to learn so she would have likely felt disappointed and frustrated about not being able to attend school.

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist who gained fame and respect throughout the world for her courageous campaigning for every child's right to education.

Childhood

Malala was born on 12th July 1997 and she was raised in Swat Valley in North Pakistan. During her early childhood, Malala's hometown of Mingora was a tourist hotspot and held many festivals. Her parents aptly named Malala after Malala of the Maiwand (a courageous woman who helped to protect her village from invasion over 100 years before).

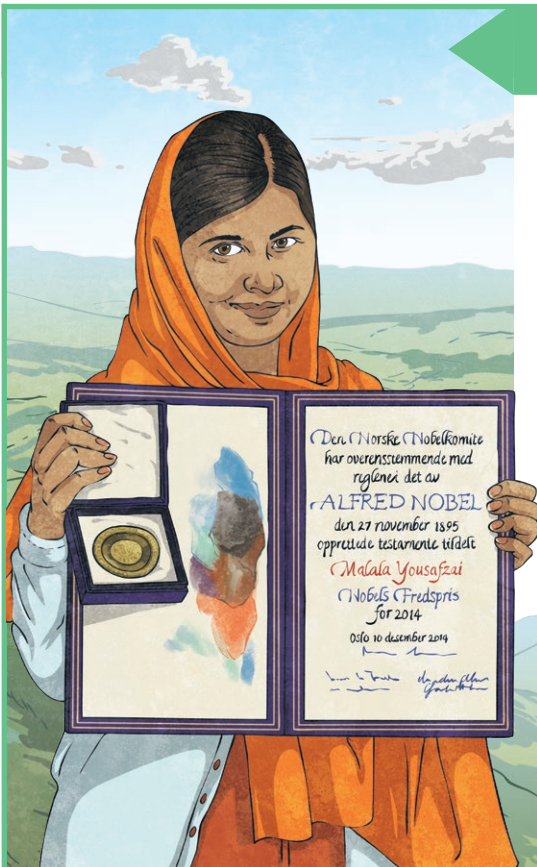


Education was highly regarded in Malala's family and her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai (a poet and the principal of a girls' school) was a firm believer in equal rights for boys and girls. Malala calls her mother, Toor Pekai Yousafzai, 'brave and courageous' for supporting her husband's dreams and ambitions, as well as taking care of the family and their home.

Malala has two younger brothers, Khushal and Atal, and her parents were determined to ensure that she, unlike many of her peers, was afforded the same education and opportunities as them. Malala loved school yet, at the time in Pakistan, all schools for girls were being ordered to close: Malala was unable to go to school as her brothers had.

Early Activism

Malala began to write an anonymous blog about her experience of the unequal treatment of girls in Pakistan: a risky topic for a young girl to speak about at the time. To protect her identity, she wrote using the name, Gul Makai. Having just given her first speech on rights to education, Malala no longer wanted to hide her identity. Her blog became very popular and she was even interviewed for a documentary. As her popularity grew, she went on to win several peace awards and she attended a lot of prestigious events.



Early Activism

Some people did not agree with what Malala had to say; they did not want her views to become well known. Due to this, Malala was injured as she travelled on a bus home from school. She was flown to Birmingham, UK, to treat the wounds that she had suffered. Despite being very ill, Malala made a miraculous recovery and was released from hospital less than three months later.

Messages of sympathy and support for Malala flooded in from around the world, with a host of celebrities and famous politicians offering messages of support. The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, created an education fund in honour of Malala.

Continuing Activism

Malala was determined to continue her activism in support of the right to education for all. Only nine months after her injury, Malala took to the stage at the United Nations (the organisation which aims to ensure world peace and security) on her 16th birthday. She stated clearly that nothing had changed and that she had more strength, power and courage than ever. "My dreams are the same," she bravely stated. The United Nations named the day, 'Malala Day'.

Regardless of the views of others, Malala continues to campaign for equal rights in education. At the age of 17, she was the youngest person in the world to receive the Nobel Peace Prize: a prestigious award given annually to people who do outstanding work to contribute to world peace.

Malala currently lives in England and is studying for a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at university. Malala considers Benazir Bhutto, the first female president of Pakistan, to be her role model. She says her dream is to be a politician: a job where she can help to make a difference. With the help of her father, Malala has started a charity called The Malala Fund, which aims to support girls from around the world to be able to learn and lead.



Malala says Benazir Bhutto is her role model.



Awards and Honours

Here are just a few of Malala's many awards and achievements:

Award/Achievement	Nominated or Won?	Year
International Children's Peace Prize	Nominated	2011
Mother Theresa Award for Social Justice	Won	2012
International Children's Peace Prize	Won	2013
Philadelphia Liberty Medal	Won	2014
Nobel Peace Prize (shared)	Won	2014
Order of the Smile	Won	2016
United Nations Messenger of Peace (youngest ever)	Won	2017



Questions

1. Which of the following did Malala write anonymously when she was 11 years old?

Tick **one**.

- ☐ a newspaper
- ☐ a blog
- ☐ a magazine
- ☐ a book

2. How old was Malala when she won the Nobel Peace Prize? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 11 years old
- ☐ 15 years old
- ☐ 16 years old
- ☐ 17 years old

3. In what year was Malala nominated for the **International Children's Peace Prize**?

4. What is the name of Malala's mother?

5. What is the United Nations?

6. Look at the paragraph beginning **Regardless of the views of others...**

Find and copy **one** word which shows that the Nobel Peace Prize is significant and highly respected.

7. Why do you think Malala considers Benazir Bhutto to be her role model?

8. **Her parents aptly named her after Malala of the Maiwand.**

Explain what the author meant by this statement.

9. **Malala was unable to go to school like her brothers had.**

Explain how you think Malala might have felt about this. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. Discuss why you think Malala won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Answers

1. Which of the following did Malala write anonymously when she was 11 years old?

Tick **one**.

- ☐ a newspaper
- ☒ a blog
- ☐ a magazine
- ☐ a book

2. How old was Malala when she won the Nobel Peace Prize? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 11 years old
- ☐ 15 years old
- ☐ 16 years old
- ☒ 17 years old

3. In what year was Malala nominated for the **International Children's Peace Prize**?

Malala was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize in 2011.

4. What is the name of Malala's mother?

Malala's mother's name is Toor Pekai Yousafzai.

5. What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is the organisation which aims to ensure world peace and security.

6. Look at the paragraph beginning **Regardless of the views of others...**

Find and copy **one** word which shows that the Nobel Peace Prize is significant and highly respected.

prestigious

7. Why do you think Malala considers Benazir Bhutto to be her role model?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Benazir Bhutto was the first female president of Pakistan. Malala also wants to become a politician and is a firm believer in equal rights for women. This means that Benazir has done something that Malala wants to emulate.

8. **Her parents aptly named her after Malala of the Maiwand.**

Explain what the author meant by this statement.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Like Malala of Maiwand, Malala Yousafzai was also courageous because she spoke out about a risky topic during a difficult time. Both women care about their own people and were willing to stand up for their beliefs: Malala Yousafzai wants to improve education for girls in Pakistan and beyond and Malala Maiwand helped to protect her local villagers from invasion.

9. **Malala was unable to go to school like her brothers had.**

Explain how you think Malala might have felt about this. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala loved school. Her father was a principal and encouraged her to learn so she would have likely felt disappointed and frustrated about not being able to attend school.

10. Discuss why you think Malala won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Malala has never given up fighting for what she believes in: equal rights in education. She has shown great courage and determination since a young age, at a time when many others didn't agree with her. Despite getting injured, she has continued to speak out publically about her beliefs. She is an excellent role model for other young people throughout the world.