

# Malala Yousafzai

## Who is Malala?

Malala is a young Pakistani Human Rights Activist who fights for the rights of girls and women to receive an education. She risked her life for the cause and has changed history.

## Malala's Home and Family

Malala was born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. She grew up with her two younger brothers, mother and father and practises the religion of Islam.

## Losing the Right to Go to School

Many Pakistani girls did not attend school. However, Malala's father was a teacher who ran a school for girls, which Malala attended. She loved school and had big dreams of becoming a teacher, a doctor or a politician. When the Taliban (a movement of religious students from Pashtun) began to take control of the area where Malala lived, they demanded that all girls' schools be shut down. Women were no longer allowed to vote, or to have jobs. All women and girls were to stay home unless wearing a burqa (a garment that covers the head, face and body) and accompanied by a man.

## Diary of a Pakistani Schoolgirl

In 2009, Malala began to write a blog about the destruction and closure of more than 100 girls' schools in Pakistan. She became famous for writing her blog and began speaking out, in public, against the Taliban. Despite the Taliban threatening to kill her, she bravely continued fighting for the rights of girls and women to receive an education in Pakistan.



## The Most Courageous Voice

In 2012, Malala was on her school bus when a masked gunman got onto the bus and asked "Who is Malala?" He said he would shoot everyone on the bus if they did not tell. When Malala's scared friends looked her way, the gunman shot Malala.

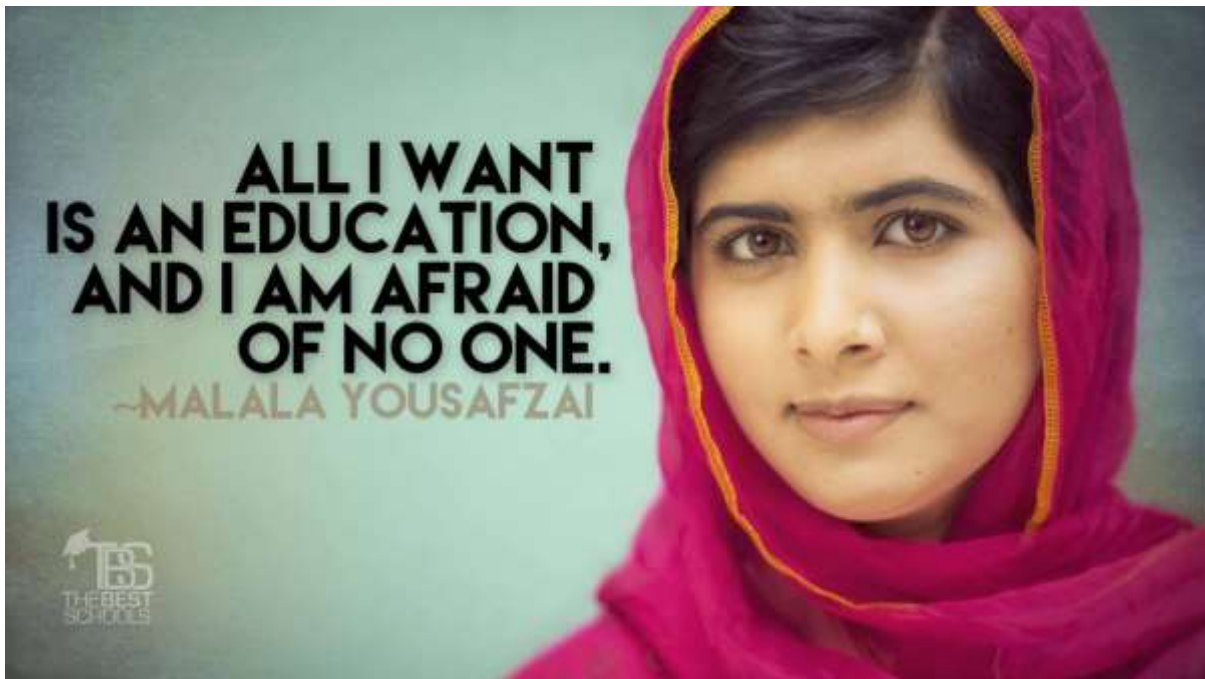
The bullet passed through her head, missing her left eye and her brain.

While in hospital, in intensive care, the world outside was supporting her cause. Malala survived. She continues to fight for peace and equality. Malala Yousafzai is the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Malala says:

**"I tell my story not because it is unique, but because it is not. It is the story of many girls."**

## International Women's Day



- Who is Malala?
- Where was she born?
- Do most Pakistani girls attend school?
- What did the Taliban force girls to do?
- How did she make herself heard?
- What was she fighting for?
- What happened to her on a bus in 2012?
- What has she won and why is it so special?