

Gold reading:

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is an inspirational human rights activist who is best known for fighting for women to receive an education, both in her homeland of Pakistan and around the world. She is currently studying at university while campaigning for girls' education.

Early Life

Malala Yousafzai was born on the 12th of July 1997 in Pakistan. She lived with her parents in a city called Mingora in the Swat Valley. She loved going to the local school, Khushal Girls High School, which was set up by her father.



Fighting for Education

Malala stands up for women and girls and fights for their lives to be better. When she was only 11 years old, she gave her first speech about schools for girls in Pakistan being closed. She began to write a blog describing what life was like. She used a secret name and wrote over 35 pieces in three months. Her work caused people to pay attention to what was happening in Pakistan.

In 2012, when Malala was only 15 years old, she was injured as she travelled home from school. She was flown to Birmingham, England, to be treated in hospital. People were outraged by what happened to her and began to read about and support what she believes in. This meant that people began to help women and girls in Pakistan. In 2013, less than a year after her injury, Malala gave a speech in front of many powerful leaders about her beliefs.



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What Awards Did She Get?

Malala continues to live and go to school in England and works hard to support causes around the world. She worked with an organisation to support and fight for every girl's right to 12 years of free, safe and quality education. The organisation helped her to set up a school in Lebanon for refugees in Syria. Malala has won many awards to recognise her courage and determination. The president of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, created an education fund in her honour and she also achieved Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize. The award was later renamed the National Malala Peace Prize. In 2013, she won the United Nations Human Rights award and in 2014, she won the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the youngest person to do so.



Questions

1. What is Malala famous for? Tick **one**.

- being from Swat Valley
- writing a blog online
- being a human rights activist
- studying at university

2. What was Malala's speech about when she was 11? Tick **one**.

- Schools for girls were being closed.
- Men could only work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Women were not allowed to work.
- Children were not allowed to play outside.

3. Why do you think Malala used a different name to write her blog?

4. Find and copy a phrase which shows Malala was brave.

5. What did President Asif Ali Zardari do for Malala?

6. Would you rather make speeches or write a blog to tell people about something you are passionate about? Explain your reasoning.

7. In your own words, sum up what Malala campaigns for.

8. Do you think Malala was brave when she was 11? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
