

Journeys in Film (Lesson 2)

This lesson introduces students to the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize: Malala Yousafzai. Through either the viewing of her documentary or the reading of her book, students will learn about her courageous fight to bring awareness to her cause. She presents a young women's message of freedom to eradicate child illiteracy and the courage to stand for women's rights and human rights in Pakistan in the face of religious and political intolerance. Her message advocates for a tolerant country that values critical thought and the courage to stand up for one's fundamental rights even in the face of violent extremism.

Summary:

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I Am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I Am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world. (From the publisher.)

This lesson will require the rental of the film version of this story. Parents can access the film rental through Amazon Prime or Youtube. Your student can also opt to read the novel written by the author herself, *I am Malala*.

Link on film on Amazon Prime:

[He Named Me Malala](#)

Link to film on Youtube:

[He Named Me Malala](#)

Link to book on Amazon (also available in ebook format):

[I am Malala](#)

Note: the Forest Charter School and Nevada County Library have copies of this book.

Guiding/Discussion Questions:

Students can have the choice to write to the questions below or discuss them with a parent. They each offer jumping off points for reflective journaling. The best kind of stories offer readers places to make connections, and hopefully students will find Malala an inspiring figure.

1. Research Nobel Peace Prize winners and compare and contrast their contributions to peace and education with Malala's work.
2. Malala's father was a strong influence in her life--he was a mentor and a teacher. Think of a teacher, family member or friend who has influenced you. How has this person recognized your strengths and helped you develop them?
3. What are your strengths? How can you use your strengths to nurture, influence and teach others?
4. How does Malala's struggle inspire you as a student?
5. How did the Taliban change the lives of women and men in Pakistan? Did education make a difference in what people came to believe? Find and cite one information source that supports your position.