I AM MALALA

* + "Why is education important?"
  + "Can you think of a person, either famous or someone you know personally, who has fought for an important cause?"



Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, a small town in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. From a young age, she was passionate about education, **encouraged** by her father, who ran a local school for girls. However, in 2007, the Taliban took control of Swat Valley and **banned** girls from attending school. Malala, only 11 at the time, spoke out against this **injustice** by writing a blog for the BBC under a **pseudonym**. She described the difficulties girls faced in getting an education in Pakistan.

In 2012, Malala’s **activism** made her a target of the Taliban. On October 9, 2012, she was shot in the head while riding a school bus. Malala was **critically** injured, but after receiving medical treatment in Pakistan and the UK, she **miraculously** survived. Instead of being silenced, the attack strengthened her **determination** to fight for the right of every child to receive an education. She continued her activism, giving powerful speeches and meeting global leaders.

In 2014, at the age of 17, Malala became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She **co**-**authored** the book *I Am Malala* and **founded** the Malala Fund, which supports girls' education worldwide. Today, Malala remains a symbol of courage, **willpower**, and the power of one voice to **inspire** change.

**Comprehension Questions:**

1. Where was Malala born, and what did her father do for a living?
2. Why did Malala start writing a blog for the BBC?
3. What happened to Malala in 2012, and how did she survive?
4. What did Malala do after surviving the attack?
5. What award did she win in 2014, and why is it significant?

**Activities:**

1. **Vocabulary Practice**: Define or give example sentences with the words in **bold.**
2. **Discussion**: In groups, discuss how Malala's story shows the importance of education. Why do you think education is still not accessible to everyone?
3. **Timeline Creation**: Create a timeline of Malala's life, highlighting key events such as the start of her activism, the attack, and the Nobel Prize award.
4. **Writing Activity**: Write a letter to Malala, telling her how her story has inspired you and what changes you would like to see in education worldwide.
5. **Role-play**: Imagine you are journalists. Interview Malala about her experiences, her goals, and her hopes for the future.