

I AM MALALA

Bryan Chang P4

2014-2015

Dear Reader,

Three years ago, a teenaged girl was shot for going to school. She was only fourteen years old. She was hit in the head and shoulder, yet miraculously she has survived. This girl is named Malala, and her story is one of perseverance, strength, and equality. She represented and spoke for those who could not speak for themselves. She has inspired many and achieved much, more than many achieve in their lifetime, even despite her young age.

Her story begins in Pakistan, her birthplace, and what she considers her home, although due to recent events she lives in London, England. Malala grew up in a male centered society, yet she grew up with a father who did not believe in the traditional ways, and was not afraid to question the fairness of things, even age-old traditions. These characteristics followed his footsteps and became a very important trait of Malala. Her father gave Malala the will needed to become a firebrand. Her father also stressed the importance of education. Once again his personality shines through in Malala, who shuns social media outlets because it is a distraction from her studies, which is her main focus. Her convictions are the reason why Malala speaks so passionately about the importance of achieving equality in education through peace, not war. Her strength and steadfastness in her beliefs is what has made and allows Malala to be such a pivotal part of the movement towards equality everywhere.

I am inspired by Malala's story, and I want to share her story, so that she may continue to inspire many others. I want you to be able to experience what I have in learning about Malala. How she fights for everyone, girls and boys alike. Her story of overcoming challenges and adversity provides the epitome of an example of perseverance. I am looking forward to being given the opportunity to share through this project the work of Malala Yousafzai, the seventeen year old girl that has inspired me along with many others. Her story of local defiance up to winning the world's most prestigious peace award is one that I believe deserves to be shared with anybody. Her passion shines in her love for equality and education for everybody.

Sincerely,
Bryan Chang

Narrative Hero Poem: I AM MALALA

I am Malala, named by my father
Malalai of Maiwand
Champion of education
Fighting for girls
Malalai of Maiwand savior of our people
I am Malala

I am Malala, at home in the Swat
Malala, named for our savior
The girl who was saved
I am Malala

I am Malala, follower of true Islam
Worshiper of Allah
Lover of Muhammad
I am Malala

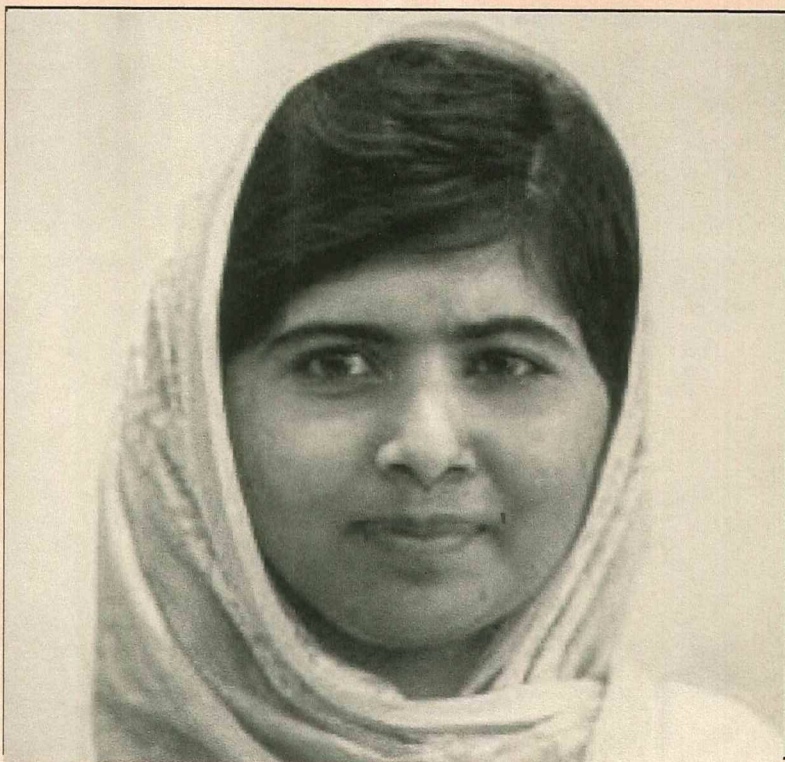
I am Malala, I have a right
A right to equal education
The one they tried to silence
I am Malala, who can't be broken
I am Malala

I am Malala, speaker for those unspoken
I am my sisters
Malala, who should not be rewarded
Fighting for a right
I am Malala

I am Malala, a survivor
The bullets could not stop me
The Taliban fear me
Living martyr
I am Malala

I am Malala, undeterred by the Taliban
I won't stand down
I will never give up
I am Malala

14 Year Old Girl Wins Nobel Peace Prize



At the age of 14, Malala Yousafzai is youngest person to have ever won the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Peace Prize is probably the world's most prestigious award in this category. There have only been 128 laureates in the past 113 years, and out of those 7 have been Muslim, 3 have been women, and only 1 girl. She won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for her work to achieve equality in education for girls and boys alike. She shared this prestigious award along with fellow children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi.

Reporting from Oslo, Norway, an attendee stated: "Malala's work has been truly inspiring to all of us, and her passion for education and peace is a mindset that we should all strive to embody." Many other comments by attendees delivered similar messages about this young girl.

Malala Yousafzai truly inspired many in her efforts to create a just opportunity for education for all. She is but a young girl, yet she has achieved more already than some achieve in their entire life.

In her speech Yousafzai talked about how she was inspired by her father, who believed so strongly in education. Indeed it is notable that in a male oriented society, her father was a rarity, who encouraged her to get an education and become who she is today. In her speech, she also highlighted her determination to continue her fight citing that "there was still work to be done." "This is where I will begin, but it is not where I will stop. I will continue this fight until I see every child, every child in school." — Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Al Jazeera News, reporting from Oslo.

The Day the Taliban Came

I remember the day clearly. The morning I went to school to only not come back, the morning the man ran in front of the bus, the morning I would not forget, the morning that would not silence me. I remember the man coming to the bus, "Who is Malala?" With that question, my classmates pointed to me, we thought he was a reporter; instead he pulled out his gun and fired on me. I remember the bang of the bullets the impact, the pain, but then I fell out of consciousness.

I remember waking up, thinking "I'm alive," but then I learned that I had been in a coma for a long time to allow myself to heal. I am blessed that the bullet missed my brain, my organ for learning. I thank Allah for his kindness and grace. I wanted to see my family but they were not allowed to see me because I was still in a critical condition. I learned that I was now in England, transferred out of my home, Pakistan, for the conditions there did not suit the severity of my wounds. I wanted to see my parents, but the doctors told me "in good time."

I finally got to see my father. The doctors told me that any movement might make my condition worse, so I am forced not to run up to him, which took a lot of will power. I learned about the situation that I was in, and how the government in Pakistan was paying for this whole treatment. I was relieved and anxious, when I learned about the severity of my wounds and the complex operations that needed to be performed in order to treat me. I was afraid my father had to sell everything. Actually, it was one of the first thoughts to cross my mind when I woke up. Now that I can look back I realize that my time in that hospital was a sad time for me because I could not speak.

Later they had to operate on me once more because I the doctors were worried one of my nerves that allows me to smile had been damaged, or worse severed. Luckily it ended up being a success, but to this day I am not fully back to normal. Although, I am not concerned about them, these scars that I carry remind me of my fight, the fight for all girls, and for all children around the world to have their chance to get an education.

I am so very grateful for all of my supporters for backing me and giving me the strength to fight on, for my doctors who saved me and for my father who inspired me. I cannot thank them enough. They are my heroes.

Can CHANG the world

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Notes Page:

Poem:

- The repetition of the phrase “I am Malala” is also the title of her book. I use this phrase to emphasize her strength, passion, and perseverance, as well as her individuality and her uniqueness that has made her such an inspiration to so many people.
- The stanzas are formatted where both the first and last line use the phrase “I am Malala...” while the middle lines are all things that Malala is.
- In this poem the message that was trying to be conveyed is how because of her beliefs, Malala is making a difference, and through her humility in the phrase “who should not be rewarded” is about how she believes education is a right, and the fact that somebody has to fight for equal education is a shame and is not something that deserves a reward because it should already be in affect without the need of protest.

Image:

- In the collage, the main writing is a quotation of Malala Yousafzai on how simple things for education can change the world to make it a better, more peaceful place.
- The text in the background is cut outs from numerous articles on Malala Yousafzai. They all relate somehow to Malala and her story, as well as her fight for education.
- The burnt edges on the collage are used to symbolize how that even though she was attacked, and she has the scars, the flames could not destroy her, She only fought back and survived to preach her beliefs with even more passion and strength.

First-Person Memoir:

- In this first-person memoir, I tried to capture the scene in which the Taliban on her way home attacked Malala from school, and her shock about why somebody would inflict harm on somebody who was just trying to learn and get an education.
- I also wanted to illustrate Malala’s perseverance in her recovery, and her gratitude in those who have helped her.
 - I added the part specifically about her father to illustrate his importance to Malala, and Malala’s feelings towards her father, whom without she would probably be stuck in an arranged marriage, illiterate and with many children at a young age. Her father is who she is most grateful for having.

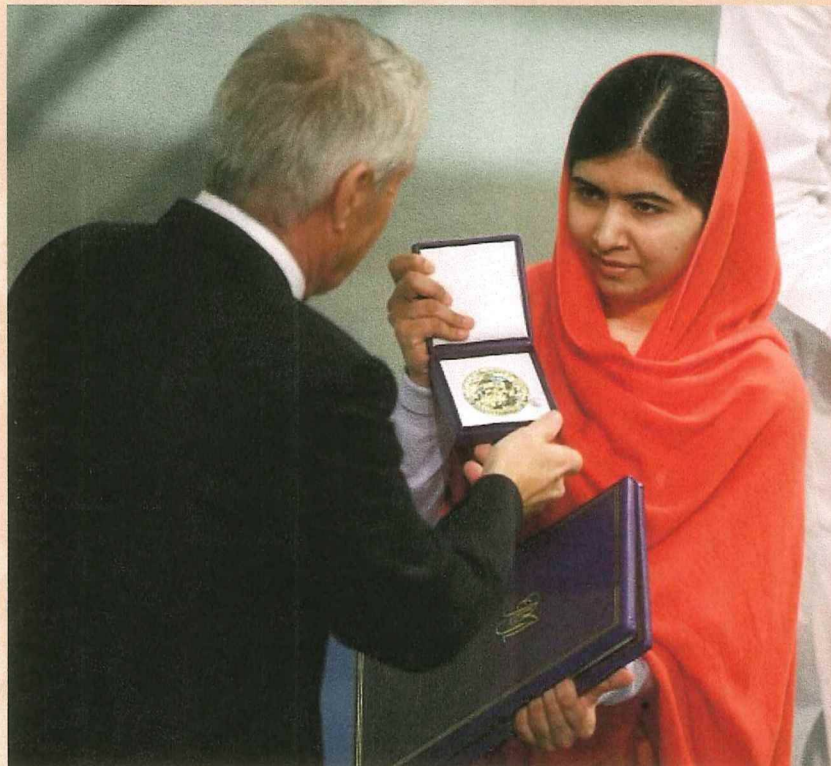
Newspaper Article:

- I chose the newspaper Al Jazeera because they are a trusted source run by Muslims and based in the Middle East. They are a trusted source and were

given many awards for giving sides on cases and illustrating in an unbiased way, the different viewpoints on topics.

- I used a worn looking paper design to illustrate the poverty and distress found in Malala's home of Pakistan, and how her home country has been ravaged by corruption, terrorism, and unrest.

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Bryan Chang
 E. Chapman
 Pre-AP English 1
 February 2, 2014

Malala Yousafzai: واحدة وال حازم (The Determined One)

Malala Yousafzai is a courageous, determined, young woman, who fought for her dream of girls having an equal opportunity for education as boys with an unwavering, constant focus against insurmountable odds. No matter what were to be her personal consequences, Malala was not afraid to stand up for her beliefs, a quality she learned from her parents. Malala was inspired to pursue her goals with uncompromised determination and through her efforts she continues to make a great impact on girls in her community and throughout the world.

Malala Yousafzai took a lot of inspiration from her parents, especially her father. She lived in a male oriented society as a child, but her father treated her the same way he would have treated a son. He named Malala after Malalai of Maiwand, a figure who was the Pakistani version of Joan of Arc. He would always sing to her:

"O Malalai of Maiwand

Rise once more to make Pashtuns understand the song of honor,

Your poetic words turn worlds around,

I beg you, rise again"

---Rahmat Shah Sayel of Peshawar (Famed Poet)

He cherished Malala, and instead of being sad of not having a first-born son, he was ecstatic to have a child. Malala's father cherished the value of education, and believed that it was so important to a person's success. For that reason he started a school and made sure that Malala would always get an education. Malala's father had a progressive outlook on life compared to other Pashtuns. He did not believe in arranged marriages, he was not one to seek revenge, rather to forgive, and he believed in educating everyone, he had an outlook of equality that was uncommon in their culture at the time. Luckily for Malala, because her father was so open, she was allowed to blossom under him. "Thank you to my father for not clipping my wings and for letting me fly" (Malala Yousafzai to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee) Her father believed that "the pen is mightier than the sword" and was really steadfast in his beliefs. Malala told the story of her father going to college, explaining that her grandfather refused to pay for and send her father to college. As a result of this her father was determined to get a good education. Her father stood for his beliefs and received his education at a very respectable Pakistani college. Her father's goal in life was to create a school, and after facing many monetary trials, he succeeded in creating a primary school, a boys' secondary school, and a girls' secondary school. He believed that education was so important that he gave away free places at his schools to those who could not afford the tuition and fees. Malala learned from her father compassion, determination, forgiveness, and generosity. Her mother was equally important in her upbringing. Although illiterate, she taught Malala inner strength and courage. Malala described her as a very strong woman, and she hoped that her strength would rub off on Malala. In her parents, Malala found inspiration and from her parents Malala learned to be herself, and to follow her beliefs.

One of the most distinguishing characteristics of Malala is her determination. Nothing can stop her from her goal of girls' equal rights to education. Through this unwavering determination, Malala has achieved so much. I cannot think of anybody who has endured so much at such a young age, in order to stand up for her beliefs. Facing death threats, natural disasters, economical struggles, and oppression, Malala Yousafzai displayed incredible acts of

bravery and perseverance. When they were poor, and a flood struck their home and school, Malala and her family persevered through the hard times. Even though they lost a vast sum of money, she looked on the bright side of things and maintained her optimism, and did not give up on her goals. In doing so Malala Yousafzai showed strength and courage. Even after the Taliban came to her village and banned girls from receiving an education and going to school, beating those who were in school, bravely, Malala Yousafzai continued to go to school in secret. Her actions showed incredible determination to follow her passion for learning. After receiving death threats for her activism from the Taliban, Malala was still not deterred. She continued to speak for equal rights and her dream. As a result of her determination, the Taliban attempted to assassinate her, and on October 9th, 2012, Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head on her way to school, luckily she survived. "Dear Friends, on the 9th of October 2012, the Taliban shot me on the left side of my forehead. They shot my friends too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came, thousands of voices. The terrorists thought that they would change our aims and stop our ambitions but nothing changed in my life except this: Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage were born. I am the same Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. My dreams are the same."-(Malala Yousafzai to the United Nations General Assembly.) Malala Yousafzai was lucky to survive the attempted assassination, but because she was so determined, it only made her stronger. For that reason I truly admire the heroism and determination of Malala Yousafzai.

Despite being only 17 years young, Malala has made a great impact not only on the community around her, but on the entire world. She has become the role model to many young girls around the world and her achievements for someone so young is incredible. Through her compassion towards others and her strength in her beliefs, Malala Yousafzai has brought awareness of the problem of girls' education to a global scale. "This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change. I am here to stand up for their rights, to raise their voice. It is not time to pity them. It is time to take action so it becomes the last, the last time, so it becomes the last time that we see a child deprived of education." (Malala Yousafzai to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee). Malala has made an impact on all of those girls' lives by fighting for them. Her impact on society is not for own self, it is for the other girls who do not have a voice as she seeks to lend them hers while they are building the strength in their own.. She fought for her cause through non-violence and while promoting peace with her voice. She believes that lasting decisions are never brought by violence. "Even if there is a gun in my hand and he stands in front of me. I would not shoot him. This is the compassion that I have learnt from Muhammad-the prophet of mercy, Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha. This is the legacy of change that I have inherited from Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This is the philosophy of nonviolence that I have learnt from Gandhi Jee, Bacha Khan and Mother Teresa. And this is the forgiveness that I have learnt from my mother and father." (Malala Yousafzai to the United Nations General Assembly). This quotation from her speech to the United Nations, in which she explained her outlook on violence, exemplifies her commitment to her believe in non-violence, her compassion, and shows her true impact on the world. She was able to overcome the Taliban through nonviolence. Her impact has surpassed just basic education; Malala now fights to give everyone a secondary education. She wants to reach not just girls but also all girls and boys in developing countries all around the world and has pledged to never give up until her cause has been reached. At such a young age, Malala Yousafzai is already

the winner of the most prestigious award in the world, the Nobel Prize for Peace. Malala's impact to the world is peace, opportunity, and education for all.

Malala Yousafzai has already lived up to her namesake Malalai of Maiwand was a hero who sacrificed herself for others, and that is exactly the type of person that Malala Yousafzai has become. Although she is far too modest and humble to ever admit to it in person, I consider, and I am sure that the entire world considers her a hero.

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