

Malala Yousafzai

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- The person I admire the most is Malala Yousafzai, a girl from Pakistan who has received a Nobel Prize for fighting for women's rights especially in education.



Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. She has two younger brothers.



For the first few years of her life, her hometown remained a popular tourist spot that was known for its summer festivals. However, the area began to change as the Taliban tried to take control. These people's belief is that women should be under men and are not supposed to be educated.





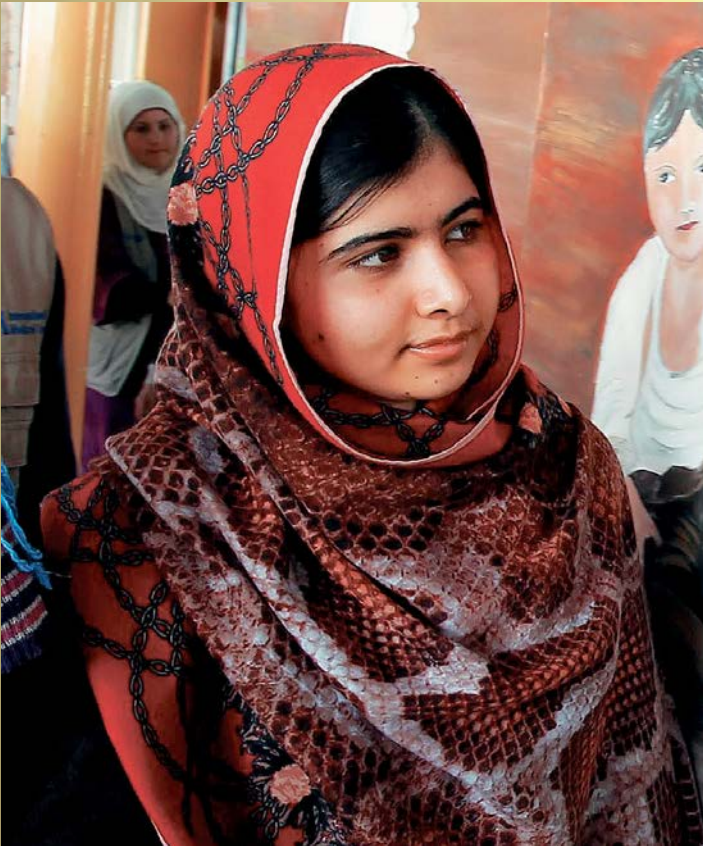
Yousafzai attended a school that her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, had founded. After the Taliban began attacking girls' schools in Swat, Malala gave a speech in Peshawar, Pakistan, in September 2008. The title of her talk was, "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?"



In early 2009, Malala began blogging for the BBC about living under the Taliban's threats to deny her an education. In order to hide her identity, she used the name Gul Makai. However, she was revealed to be the BBC blogger in December of that year. With a growing public platform, she continued to speak out about her right, and the right of all women to an education. Her activism resulted in a nomination for the International Children's Peace Prize in 2011. That same year, she was awarded Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize.



When she was 14, Malala and her family learned that the Taliban had issued a death threat against her. Although Malala was frightened for the safety of her father—an anti-Taliban activist—she and her family initially felt that these people would not actually harm a child.





On October 9, 2012, on her way home from school, a man boarded the bus Malala was riding in and demanded to know which girl was Malala. When her friends looked toward Malala, she was given away. The gunman fired at her, hitting Malala in the left side of her head; the bullet, then, travelled down her neck. Two other girls were also injured in the attack.

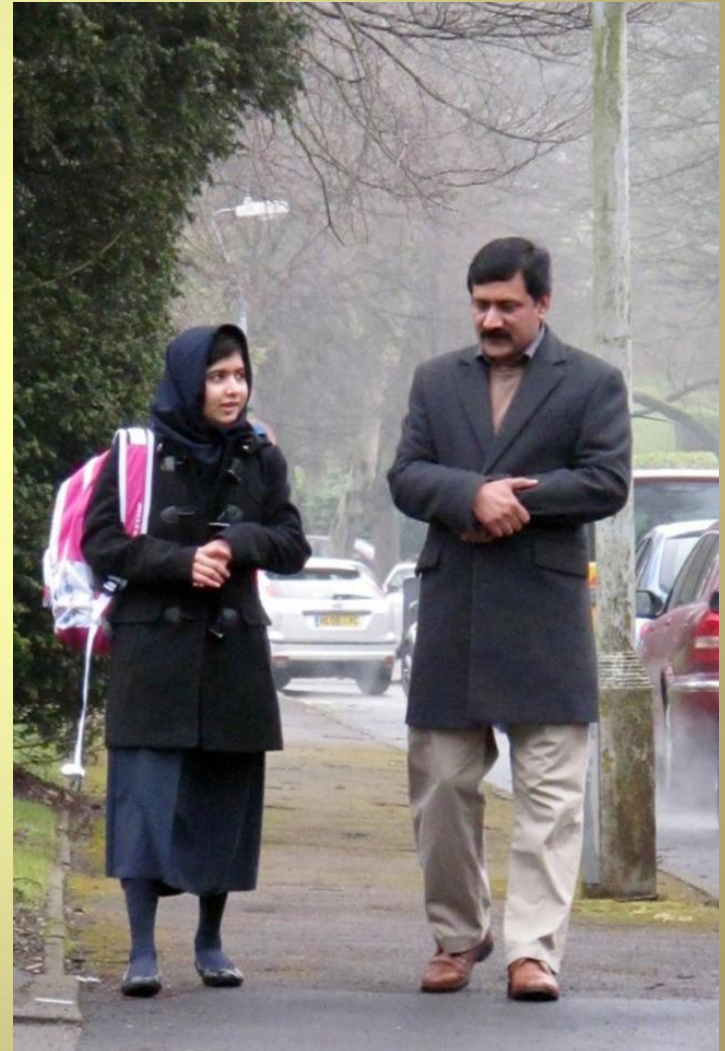




The shooting left Malala in critical condition, so she was taken to a military hospital in Peshawar. A portion of her skull was removed to treat her swelling brain. To receive further care, she was transferred to Birmingham, England.

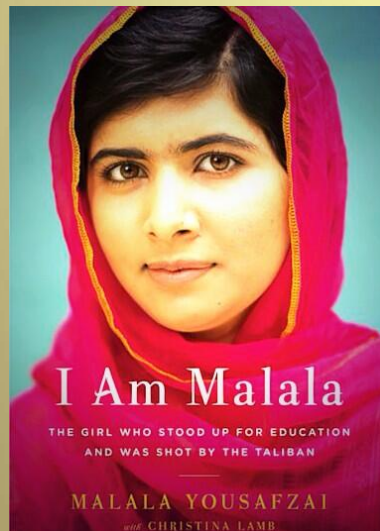


Once she was in the United Kingdom, she was taken out of a medically induced coma. Though she would require multiple surgeries—including repair of a facial nerve to fix the paralyzed left side of her face—she had suffered no major brain damage. In March 2013, she was able to begin attending school in Birmingham.





The shooting resulted in a massive outpouring of support for Malala, which continued during her recovery. She gave a speech at the United Nations on her 16th birthday, in 2013. She has also written an autobiography, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, which was released in October 2013.





On October 10, 2013, in acknowledgement of her work, the European Parliament awarded her the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. That same year, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. She didn't win the prize, but was named a nominee again in March 2014. In August of the same year, LeanIn. Org held a live chat on Facebook with Sheryl Sandberg and Yousafzai about the importance of education for girls around the world. She talked about her story, her inspiration and family, her plans for the future and advocacy, and she answered a variety of inquiries from the social network's users.



The reason why I admire Malala is because she has fought for her beliefs and chose to defy the Talibans in order to maintain her right to have an education.

