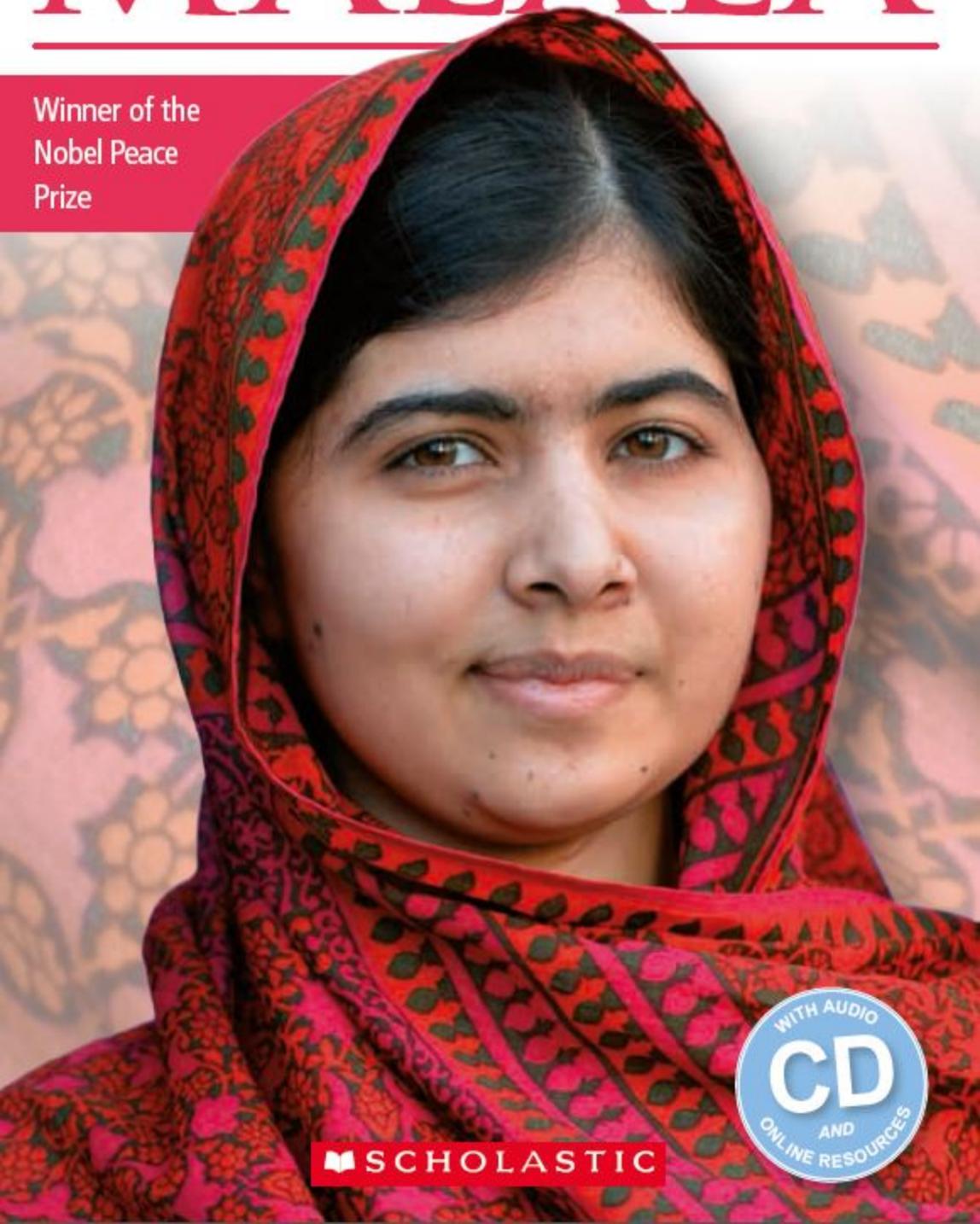


THE GIRL WHO CAMPAIGNED FOR EDUCATION
AND WAS SHOT BY THE TALIBAN

MALALA

Winner of the
Nobel Peace
Prize



 SCHOLASTIC

CONTENTS

PAGE

Malala

4–33

People and Places

4

Taliban shoot 15-year-old schoolgirl

6

Chapter 1: A girl in Swat Valley

7

Chapter 2: The laws of God

10

Chapter 3: A BBC blogger

14

Chapter 4: Without a home

18

Chapter 5: 'We can't stop now'

21

Chapter 6: Birmingham

23

Chapter 7: Together again

26

Chapter 8: Taking the campaign
to the world

30

Fact File: Girls for change

34–35

Self-Study Activities

36–39

New Words

40

MALALA

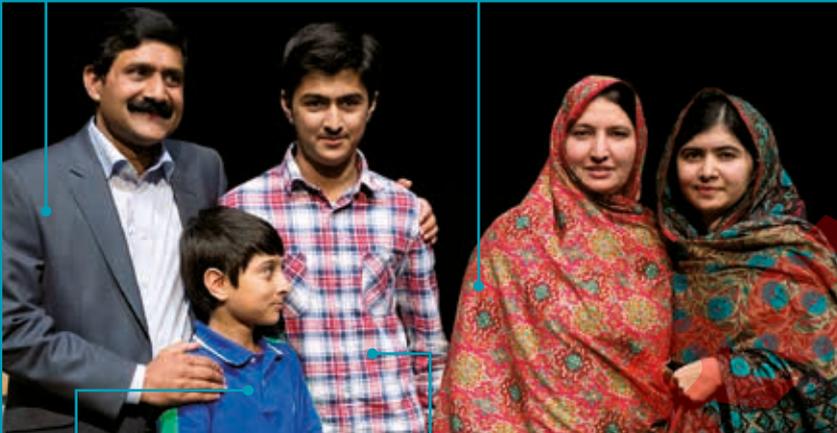


MALALA YOUSAFZAI is from Pakistan. In October 2012, the Taliban shot her on her school bus because she is a campaigner for girls' education.

MALALA'S FAMILY live with her in Britain.

Malala's father, **ZIAUDDIN**, is also a campaigner for girls' education. In Pakistan, he owned a group of schools.

Malala's mother, **TOR PEKAI**, didn't have much education as a child. Now she is learning to read, write, and speak English.



Her brother, **ATAL**, is seven years younger than her.

Her brother, **KUSHAL**, is two years younger than her.

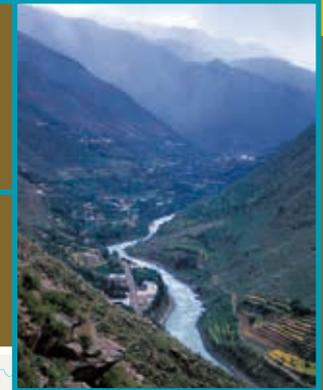
THE PAKISTANI TALIBAN is an Islamic political group. Its leaders want to lead Pakistan. It does not believe in education for girls.



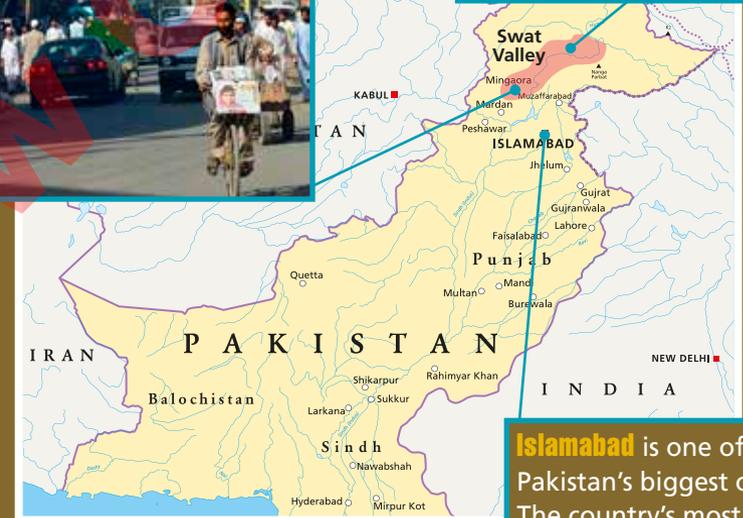
MAULANA FAZLULLAH was the leader of an Islamic political group, the TNSM. He is now an important man in the Pakistani Taliban.

PLACES PAKISTAN

This is **Swat Valley** in Pakistan. Before the war there, a lot of Pakistanis liked going to this beautiful place for their holidays.



Malala lived in **Mingora**, a city in Swat Valley, before she moved to Britain.



Islamabad is one of Pakistan's biggest cities. The country's most important politicians live and work here.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham

The doctors at this hospital in the British city of Birmingham saved Malala's life.

Kushal School is a school for girls in Mingora. Malala's father, Ziauddin, owns the school, and Malala went here for many years.



MALALA

TALIBAN SHOOT 15-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLGIRL



It was October the 9th, 2012. Fifteen-year-old Malala walked out of her school in Mingora, Pakistan, and onto the bus. As it drove her home through the busy streets of the city, she talked with the other girls on the bus about the test at school that day. Then they started singing a song.

When they were about five minutes from Malala's home, the driver stopped. There were two men with guns in front of the bus. They had long white clothes. They were Taliban!

The men walked onto the bus and shouted, 'Who is Malala?'

The girls said nothing, but some gave Malala a frightened look. That was enough for the men.

One of them walked close to Malala and shot her in the head.

CHAPTER 1 A GIRL IN SWAT VALLEY

When Tor Pekai Yousafzai had her first child, her friends were sad for her. The child was a girl. It was 1997 and Tor Pekai lived with her husband Ziauddin in Mingora, the biggest city in Pakistan's beautiful Swat Valley. When there's a new little boy in Swat Valley, the father asks friends and family to a big lunch. People give the baby clothes and money. But when a little girl arrives, the father doesn't tell anyone. It's a sad day for the family.

Luckily for Malala, her father was different from other men in Swat Valley. He was very happy with his daughter. A son, Kushal, arrived two years later, and a second son, Atal, five years after that. But her father always loved talking to Malala and teaching her things.



Children playing on the streets in Mingora

A lot of girls in Pakistan didn't go to school.

'They're going to cook and clean for their husband when they're older,' said their fathers. 'They don't need an education.'

Malala's mother, Tor Pekai, never learned to read or write as a child. But Ziauddin wanted more for his daughter, Malala, and for the other girls in Mingora. He was the owner of a school, and girls' education was very important to him.

Malala enjoyed her lessons at her father's school, and playing games in the street with her brothers and friends. When she was eight, the family had enough money to buy a TV. Malala loved it, but she and her brother Kushal always wanted to watch different things.

There were often a lot of people at their home: people from the other houses in the street, friends of her father, and family. Her mother's and father's brothers and sisters often came to stay there with their children, sometimes for days, sometimes for months.

The women were usually at the back of the house. While they cooked, they talked about clothes, food and friends. In town, they always had a *hijab* over their head, or were in a *burqa*.

Hijabs and *burqas* are an important part of life for women in Pakistan. It isn't possible to go out without one.



A woman wearing a burqa (left) and a hijab (right).

At the front of the house, the men had tea and talked about politics. Malala liked taking tea to the men and listening to them. She loved hearing about the world away from Swat Valley.

EARTHQUAKE HITS SWAT VALLEY

There were often earthquakes in Pakistan, but the one in October 2005 was worse than all the others. Nothing terrible happened in Mingora, but in other places in and around Swat Valley, 75,000 people died. Many more people had no homes or food after the earthquake. They waited for help from their leaders in Islamabad, or from the American army not far away in Afghanistan. But for a long time, only one group was there to help: a political group called the TNSM.

The TNSM opened roads and helped to build houses. There were TNSM doctors. Other TNSM people gave food to hungry families and homes to children without mothers or fathers. They did a lot of good work.

But the TNSM was an Islamic* political group, and its people weren't only there to help.

'This earthquake came from God,' they said. 'He is angry with us. We need more Islamic laws in Pakistan, or something much worse is going to happen.'

People were very frightened after the earthquake, and many of them believed the TNSM. It was the start of a terrible time for Swat Valley.

* Islamic laws and ideas come from the teaching of Mohammad and the Quran (the book of Islam).

CHAPTER 2

THE LAWS OF GOD

A few months after the earthquake, an Islamic lawyer came to Malala's home with six other men. 'Your school for girls is against the laws of God,' he said to Malala's father, Ziauddin. 'You must close it.'

Ziauddin often read the Quran with his family and tried to follow the teaching of Mohammad. He didn't believe that there was anything in this great book against girls' education.

Malala's father,
Ziauddin Yousafzai



He and the Islamic lawyer talked and talked. After a long time, the lawyer decided that the biggest problem with the girls' school was the door. Girls went into the school through the same door as men.

'From tomorrow, the girls can use a different door,' said Ziauddin, and the school stayed open ... for now.

One day, after school, Malala heard a man on the radio. 'Don't smoke,' he said. 'Don't listen to music. Don't dance or watch films. God doesn't like these things.' The man started crying. 'Please live a good life, or there are going to be more earthquakes.'

Malala knew from school that earthquakes didn't happen because of smoking or music. But many people believed the man on the radio. When he cried, they cried too.

His name was Maulana Fazlullah and he was in the TNSM. He talked on the radio every evening, each time with more listeners. People liked his ideas.

'Our political leaders in Islamabad only want to be rich,' they said. 'They don't care about good laws. Maybe the laws of God are better for Pakistan.'



But Fazlullah wanted a lot of changes. 'Women can only go out of the house when a man from their family is with them,' he said. 'And girls mustn't go to school.'