

## TEACHER'S CHEAT SHEET

# MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala used her personal story to illustrate the fate of millions. She directed the spotlight onto others by showing that her story wasn't unique. She humanized a global issue.

**Where:** Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan –  
**When:** 2009 – 2014

**Context:** Taliban takeover of Swat

**Challenge:** Forbidden from going to school

### KEY EVENTS

**2009 January:** Malala (11 years old) starts to blog anonymously on the Urdu language site of the BBC. **May:** Malala is forced to leave her home and seek safety hundreds of miles away (internally displaced person). On her return, she resumes her campaign for her right to education. **December:** she decides to reveal her identity and gives interviews (television and a documentary for the New York Times).

**2010–2012** She becomes known throughout Pakistan for her determination to give all Pakistani girls access to free quality education.

**October 9, 2012:** Malala (15 years old) is shot by the Taliban.

**Method/tool:** Freedom of expression, both written and oral: blog, speech, documentary, biography, hence raising awareness and pressuring governments to act.

2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Kailash Satyarthi "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education".

**2013 March:** After months of treatment and therapy, Malala is able to begin attending school in Birmingham (UK).

**July 12th:** on her 16th birthday, Malala speaks at the United Nations.

**2014 July:** through the Malala Fund, Malala traveled to Jordan to meet Syrian refugees, to Kenya to meet young female students, and finally to northern Nigeria in support of the girls who were kidnapped earlier that year by Boko Haram, a terrorist group which, like the Taliban, tries to stop girls from going to school. **December:** Malala becomes the youngest Nobel laureate at the age of 17.

**2021** Malala graduates from Oxford University.

### KEY DEFINITIONS

**Freedom of expression:** the right to express one's opinions without censorship, restraint, or legal penalty. It also includes seeking, receiving, and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. Freedom of Expression is not absolute and has certain limitations regarding, for instance, pornography, discrimination or incitement to violence.

**Taliban:** brutal, fundamentalist religious group based in Afghanistan that has been condemned around the world for its support to terrorist groups and its violence against many people, particularly Muslim women and girls.

**Malala Fund:** international, non-profit organization that advocates for girls' education. Co-founded by Malala and her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai. Its goal is to ensure 12 years of free, safe and quality education for every girl. It funds and supports education projects with local partners in Afghanistan, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey.

**Social medium:** interactive technology that facilitates the creation and sharing of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression through digital communities and networks. Specific social media platforms include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, TED, YouTube...

