

Educator Discussion Guide

MALALA: ACTIVIST FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

by Raphaële Frier

Illustrations by Aurèlia Fronty

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2019-2020

Grade 3-5

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Becoming the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize recipient comes with sacrifice. Malala has been an advocate for education since she was 11 years old. Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan into a family that has always been different. In Pakistan, boys are celebrated at birth, while girls do not get the same introduction into the world. Since the day Malala was born, however, her parents made sure she was treated the same way boys were and that she had access to the same basic rights that boys had. This was the fuel that Malala needed to become an advocate for the rights of girls in her Pakistani village.

Malala and her father vehemently spoke out about the treatment and policies against girls after the Taliban, who forbade girls from going to school, moved into their community. Malala was so successful in her activism that, after she was awarded for her work, the Taliban made a failed attempt to take her life. This only fueled Malala more. She spoke at the United Nations and won the Nobel Peace Prize at 17 years old. She was the youngest person ever awarded this honor. Malala's impact has been recognized internationally, and she is currently working for equal rights of girls around the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raphaële Frier is a French children's author and school teacher who was born in Lyon, France, in 1970. She spent her childhood in Bordeaux and later lived in the Paris suburbs where she studied Psychology and Education. She is currently a teacher in Marseille. She enjoys telling stories and has a lifelong love of children's literature. Because of this, she is the author of multiple children's books and enjoys crafting stories in notebooks that she collects and carries with her daily.

Biographical information taken from

<https://www.babelio.com/auteur/Raphale-Frier/140842/>

Accessed 20 September 2018.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

French illustrator and fabric design artist Aurèlia Fronty was born in France and throughout her childhood was inspired by the colors and fabrics of her family's home. After completing high school, she entered the Arts Appliqués Duprèe in Paris where she majored in textile designs. Fronty has designed for many major and successful companies such as Christian Lacroix's House of Design, L'île de la Tortue, and Bon Marché. She is currently an illustrator and creator of fabric design for Fragonard France at Djeco. As an illustrator, her work has been featured in publications in France, England, Japan, Spain, South Korea and the United States.

Biographic information taken from the illustrator's website at <http://www.aureliafronty.com/spip.php?article6>
Accessed 20 September 2018.

BOOK AWARDS

2018 Batchelder Honor Book

PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Pakistan: Culture and People

Ask your students what they know about Pakistan. Where is Pakistan located? What language is spoken in Pakistan? Discuss and display the geography of Pakistan in relation to where you are located and discuss that because of this, there are fundamental differences in culture. Play some Pashto Pakistani music (YouTube) and ask the students what they liked about what they heard compared to what they are accustomed to. Describe that Pakistan means "Land of the Pure" in Urdu, which is the official and national language of Pakistan. Describe that besides Urdu, there are other regional languages spoken in Pakistan. Explain that Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world by population. Explain that the dominant religion in Pakistan is Islam. Describe that a little over half of the population can read and write and that there are a lot more literate men than women. Explain that men have more rights than women in Pakistan and because of that women are often victims of violence, cannot speak out, wear what they want to wear or leave the house. Ask students how they feel about this and why it is important that everyone in a society has the same rights.

Famous Historical Figures (Malala's Inspiration) (pg. 42)

Talk about the historical figures mentioned in the book who are highlighted as Malala's inspiration, their accomplishments and why they are important. Talk about Malala, who is the most popular Afghan heroine (pg. 42). Ask the class if they know who Mahatma Gandhi is and his importance in history: what he did to help the poor, Indian women, and equality for people of all classes. Describe the work of Nelson Mandela, the sacrifices that he made, and briefly describe the history of apartheid in South Africa. Lastly, talk about the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States and compare the achievements of all the historical figures. Ask if the students believe that the work done by these figures was important. If so then why? Divide the class into groups according to each historical figure. Allow them to further research each figure in the groups and explain three things about that person that each group believed was interesting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it is important that Malala's father is proud Malala is a girl? Malala's father founded a school for girls; do you believe that is a reason why Malala thinks the way she does? Do you think that shaped her image of how things should be in her community? Explain.
2. Why do you believe Malala does not like the story of Shahida? Do you think it's important that Malala learn how to read and write, especially since her mother cannot read or write? Why?
3. Describe the Taliban. How do the people of Malala's town like the Taliban? Why do they feel this way?
4. What major event happens to Malala's region in 2005? Do you believe Fazlullah is wrong about blaming people for this event? Do you think Fazlullah means well? Why or why not?
5. Why do you believe people think Fazlullah is telling the truth? Because the people are afraid and dealing with tragedy, what do they do? If you lived in Malala's city, would you believe Fazullah saying that their sins caused the earthquake?
6. The Taliban becomes a stronger force in Malala's city. What do they do to people who do not obey them? How would you feel if your city or town was taken over by a group like the Taliban?
7. What does the Taliban announce at the end of 2008? Do you believe this is fair? Why?
8. Do you believe Malala's blog is important? Why or why not? Why does Malala use a "pseudonym"? Would you use your real name if you had to write a blog like Malala's? Explain.
9. Why do you think Malala's family is threatened by the Taliban? Explain why you believe it is necessary to speak up for what is right, even if it may seem scary.
10. Do you believe that Malala's father thinks she is special? Explain and give examples from the text.
11. Malala's father created a school for girls. Why do you think her mother never learned how to read and write if her father advocates for girls to learn?
12. Analyze at the cover of the book and pages 30 and 31 of the book. Why do you believe the bouquet Malala is holding is important?
13. Malala dreams of books and notebooks being accessible by all. If girls were allowed an education in Malala's city, do you believe she would still feel the same way? Do you think we only fight for things that we cannot have? Do you believe she would fight for the rights of other children who cannot go to school even if she could go to school in her town? Why or why not?
14. Malala is the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. If you were Malala, what would you do after receiving the prize?
15. Malala dreams of a world where everyone is treated equally and where children have the right to an education. She was almost killed because she fought for what she believed in. Do you think it is important for someone to stand up for the rights of themselves and others?
16. Have you felt passionately about something that happened around you and you wanted to make a difference and do something about it? Explain.

17. Malala speaks about Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr. in her speeches. Why do you believe she talks about them? Do you think that their work influenced her? Do you feel like you have been influenced by their work? Why or why not?

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Health and Physical Education:

Malala and her brother are illustrated in the book flying kites as young children. After discussing the dynamics of flying a kite, a physical education class can be constructed to instruct the learner how to set up, launch and fly a kite while performing maneuvers such as the “box” or “staircase.” Use the following lesson plan to assist with creating the activity.

<https://www.pecentral.org/preschool/equipment/kite.html>

Art:

Malala and her brother love to fly kites while playing outside in their village in North Pakistan. Turn to page 9 in the book, which shows an illustration of the kind of kites that Malala and her brother flew when they were younger. After, have the kids create their own kites by following this template and instructions:

<https://andrewrachelashmore.blogspot.com/2011/04/kids-kite-craft-tutorial-free-printable.html>

Language Arts:

Malala works as a blogger with a pseudonym to inform the world about the injustices that the Taliban were placing on the people of her village. Malala also speaks a lot about how Gandhi, Mandela, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were an influence on her. Assign a figure to each student. After they research the person who they are assigned to, ask the student to write a blog post regarding an event that was spearheaded by the person they learned about. Ask them to imagine themselves as that person and write about their feelings during this event. Lastly, ask the student to write in first person narrative form, such as the blog posts that Malala wrote.

Science:

Malala grows up around the mountainous region of Northern Pakistan. Show the “Where do Mountains Come From?” video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd_XqYE2BWY and discuss how the movement of plates on the earth’s crust form mountains. Discuss different mountain ranges on the earth and their sizes. Discuss the current movement of Mount Everest.

Math:

When Malala was shot and injured in Pakistan, she was sent to a hospital on the SWAT valley of north-west Pakistan. She was then sent to a hospital in Birmingham, England for treatment. Research the distance between the two places and create word problems for the class regarding time spent traveling to each location, the distance from each

location to other locations, and how fast could one could travel from SWAT to Birmingham in a specific amount of time.

Social Studies:

Although Malala was born and raised in Pakistan, she began to fight for the rights of girls around the world. The book talks about the different countries that she has spoken of and worked with for children’s educational rights. Research countries that Malala has worked for and discuss three things about each country.

- The countries are Yemen, Pakistan, and Nigeria.
- Discuss and compare the language(s) spoken in each country.
- Locate each country on a map and identify which continent each country is in.
- Discuss one interesting fact that each student learned about each country.

Vocabulary:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Tradition | Interpretation | Executed | Prestigious |
| Village | Resist | Militant | Triumph |
| Pollution | Opportunity | Condemn | Social Class |
| Abundant | Pseudonym | Assassination | Persecution |
| Conservative | Assembly | Emphasizes | Activist |

RELATED WEBSITES

Oddizzi Pakistan Geography Resource

<https://www.oddizzi.com/teachers/explore-the-world/places/asia/pakistan/>

Facts and images about Pakistan for young readers.

Pashtuns in Pakistan

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14256/PK

A page dedicated to information regarding the Pashtun people of Pakistan—the group that Malala belongs to.

Malala’s Nobel Lecture

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2014/yousafzai/lecture/>

A video and transcript of Malala’s Nobel Lecture, facts about Malala and mini-biography.