

# MALALA YOUSAFZAI

## Lesson Plan

### A Path to Activism

Lesson Plan for *Malala Yousafzai*  
Grade 4

#### Objective

To help students understand how a person's situation and connections can impact or inspire that person's actions.

#### Things Needed

- *Malala Yousafzai* book
- Access to the “Malala Yousafzai” web page on the Pop! website: <https://popbooksonline.com/amazing-young-people/malala-yousafzai/>
- Paper and pencils

#### Before the Activity

Have students read the *Malala Yousafzai* book. Open the “Malala Yousafzai” web page in your internet browser. Pull up the “Watch a Video” tab.

#### Activity

Malala Yousafzai is an activist who works to help girls go to school. To learn more about her work, play the video and ask a volunteer to read its caption. Then ask the following questions:

- Where did Malala grow up? (Answer: in Peshawar, Pakistan)
- Why were some girls in this area unable to go to school? (Answer: Some girls lived in places with lots of violence. Others were part of families that didn't believe girls needed to be educated.)

When the Taliban took over part of Pakistan, they made many strict rules about what girls and women could not do. Choose a student to read the text on page 7 of the *Malala Yousafzai* book.

Then ask the following questions:

- What did the Taliban do to make sure people followed the rules? (Answer: Soldiers killed people who broke rules. The Taliban also shut down or bombed schools.)
- How did many people react? (Answer: They were afraid.)



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Despite the danger, Malala chose to speak out. Click on the “Learn More” tab and invite a different student to read this caption. Ask the following questions to help students explore how Malala became an activist:

- Who inspired Malala to become an activist? (Answer: her father)
- How did he help girls be educated? (Answer: He ran a school both boys and girls could attend. He encouraged Malala to study and speak up for what she believed in.)

Ask students to think about the place where they grew up. What is one thing they would like to change about it? It could be a problem, a danger, or an inequality. It can be big or small. Invite students to think of a person whose work or ideas they admire. This can be someone who is working to solve the problem or someone who students want to be like. Finally, have students imagine what they would like to do in the future to make change in their community.

Give students a few minutes to brainstorm, inviting them to write notes about their ideas on a sheet of paper. Then ask each student to write a short paragraph. The paragraph should identify the problem the student would like to solve, describe the person who inspires or influenced them, and explain what the student would like to do in the future to make change.

### **Evaluation**

Collect the paragraphs and give each student up to 10 points:

- 2 points for identifying a problem to solve
- 2 points for describing a person who inspires or influences
- 2 points for explaining how the student would like to make change
- 2 points for organizing this information in a way that’s easy to follow
- 2 points for using good spelling and grammar

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.9), and writing standards, grade 4 (4.1).

