

Malala's Magic Pencil

Written by Malala Yousafzai and illustrated by Kerascoët

Activities:

Research and discuss Nobel Peace Prize winners. Malala was the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize at 16 when she won in 2014, who has won after her? Why were they chosen?

Create a pattern like the one found on the end pages.

Malala liked the show “Shaka Laka Boom Boom” about a boy who could make anything by drawing it with a magic pencil. The boy, Sanju, would get into trouble, but he was also a little hero, protecting people who needed help. Discuss TV shows your students watch now with people who protect others.

What would you draw if you had a magic pencil? This could be writing prompt or art activity.

Malala notices peers sorting trash and fishing for metal in the dump nearby her house. Go around the classroom with a magnet (on a string) and find out what is magnetic.

In the book, Malala threw away potato peels and eggshells. Make potato pancakes with potatoes and eggs. What else could you make with potatoes and eggs?

Write or discuss the pros and cons of school uniforms.

Malala's voice became so powerful that dangerous men tried to silence her. They failed. Talk about why a student would end up going to the hospital.

Malala first started writing for BBC Urdu about life under the Taliban using the pen name Gul Makai. Discuss why authors would want a pen name. If your students wanted to write under a different name, which name would they choose? Discuss other authors with pseudonyms, like Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel), Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler), J.K. Rowling (Joanne Rowling.)

Malala is passionate about education for girls and shared her story on television. Have students create a video about something they are passionate about.

Find Swat Valley, Pakistan and Birmingham, UK on a map or globe. What continents are they on? (Asia, Europe) What is the capital of these countries? (Islamabad, London)

Compare Pakistan to Vermont. The area of Pakistan is 307,374 mi². The area of Vermont is 9,616 mi². The population of Pakistan is 200,813,818. The population of VT is 623,960. Which is larger?

Visit www.malala.org for pictures of Malala and to see Malala's interview on “The Daily Show.” She also blogs about other girls who are making a difference with lots of photos.