**Malala Yousafzai**

**Question Book:**
Year 6, pages 18-19

**Author / Source:**
www.biographyonline.net

**Genre:**
Non-fiction — biography

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**Introduction**

The true story of Malala Yousafzai and her fight to uphold human rights whilst living under the Taliban is inspirational. This biography explores Malala’s early activism, when she wrote an anonymous blog for the BBC and became increasingly critical of the Taliban’s regime in Pakistan. The extract is an ideal springboard for wider discussions about the importance of education and gender equality.

**Answers**

1. E.g. Because if the Taliban found out who she was then she’d be in danger.
2. E.g. Because she didn’t want to give in to pressure from the Taliban. She might also have been scared to move away from her friends and family.
3. E.g. She might have felt happy because her work was becoming more well known, but also scared because it would be easier for the Taliban to find her and prevent her from speaking out against them.
4. E.g. harsh; bold
5. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because if Malala hadn’t written the blog then she wouldn’t have become such a well-known opponent of the Taliban, so they probably wouldn’t have shot her. OR E.g. No, because the blog allowed Malala to raise awareness of the cruelty of the Taliban’s regime and win the International Children’s Peace Prize. Her father’s decision helped her to become an international hero.
6. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because she has experienced a lot of hardship and pain. She has been persecuted and was nearly murdered by the Taliban. OR E.g. No. Although some terrible things have happened to her, she has also achieved some amazing things and never seems to have given up hope.

**Extra Activities**

- The extract ends on a cliffhanger. Ask pupils to research what happened to Malala after she was shot, and write up the information in the form of a biography.
- Malala was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. Ask pupils to research other Nobel Peace Prize winners and choose one that they find particularly inspirational. Divide the class into pairs. Pupils should imagine they’re going to interview their chosen winner and create a list of questions they would like to ask them. Get pupils to swap questions, research the answers and complete their partner’s interview.
- As a class, discuss why pupils think Malala was willing to take such risks for education. Is the right to go to school something worth fighting for? Ask pupils to think of something they would fight for (e.g. gender equality, freedom of speech, racial equality) and get them to write their own blog post about it. Tell pupils that their blog post doesn’t have to be based on personal experience.
- Ask pupils to identify Pakistan on a map. Point out the location of the Swat Valley, where Malala grew up. Explain that a huge river runs through the area. Give pupils a list of key terminology to do with rivers, e.g. source, mouth, tributaries, valley. Pupils should create an informative poster about the River Swat, which uses each word on the list.

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Key Stage 2 Comprehension — Year 6