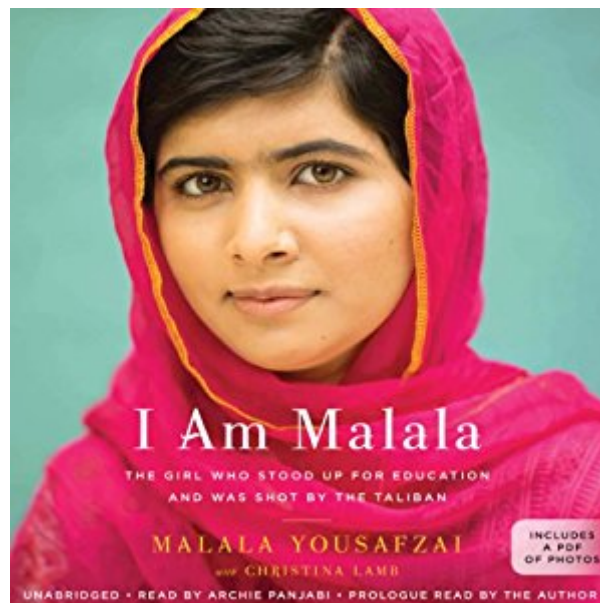




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I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education And Changed The World



Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Biography/Memoir, 2014 When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. *I am Malala* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *I am Malala* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My 11-year old son read this and was so touched and inspired by Malala's story. He normally only likes to read sci-fi, so I was shocked when he came back to me after reading the book with tears in his eyes, saying how grateful and inspired this book was for him. Nothing has ever moved him the way this story did. I highly recommend this story to any Tweens and teens. It is sure to inspire empathy and understanding.

Wonderful, informative read. It was fully accessible to my 3rd-grader as a read-aloud, and we were thrilled to be reading it when the announcement came that she'd won this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The text is clear and engaging, and the photos are beautiful and informative, too. I've heard a few brief interviews with Malala, and her voice comes through loud and clear in the text. Both mother and son came away with a new appreciation for struggles others face in the world.

I have been meaning to read this book for a few years now and finally got around to it for Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage month this year (I'm just a bit late getting the review posted). This is a book that I feel like everyone should read, but the people who should read it the most are the people least likely to do so, probably. Malala's life is fascinating, even without her having been shot by the Taliban, although I imagine fewer people would care about her story without that detail (I know I never would have heard of her without it). I was astonished by the details about her homes and school. It seems like she was basically living in poverty, at least by American standards, but the way she talks about it, it seems like they were pretty well off by Pakistani standards. It was just a bit of a disconnect for me. I was both intrigued and horrified by her account of how the Taliban took over her beloved Swat valley. I know that we Americans, in general, wonder what would make Muslims turn to and/or support the Taliban, but after reading Malala's account, it makes sense. I imagine if the government and Red Cross had ignored the needs of the residents of New Orleans after Katrina, and the Taliban came in with food, bottled water, and lumber to start repairing the damage for the poor most affected, you'd find a fair few of them supporting the Taliban today, too. Nowhere close to a majority, but enough that getting the Taliban out of New Orleans would be difficult, especially if the National Guard wasn't really trying. It's easy to criticize the Muslims that don't speak out against radical Islamic groups, but it's harder to do that when you put yourself in their shoes, like this book does. Overall I give *I am Malala* 5 out of 5 stars.

I Am Malala is a beautifully written memoir recounting the violent relationship of the Taliban with the people of primarily Pakistan. This relationship is akin to that of an abusive domestic one, as the militant group seeks to isolate, control, and terrorize its mostly unwilling subjects. Malala describes an idyllic existence in Pakistan's Swat Valley prior to the arrival of the Taliban. Her words slowly take apart her beloved homeland, as militants destroy important ancient landmarks and attempt to rewrite history and infiltrate Pakistan's rich culture. Named for Malalai of Maiwand, Pakistan's version of Joan of Arc, Malala is a special girl who is very close with her family, especially her

father, the founder of the school she attends. Malala and her friends find respite from the near constant bombings and shootings on the streets of their city at school six days per week. Unfortunately, Malala's school and father are under threat from the Pakistan Taliban to close the school's doors, as its values do not coincide with those of Sharia Law. Following in the footsteps of her beloved father, Malala began speaking out against militancy and championing the right of girls to be educated and giving interviews to various news outlets at age eleven. Amid suicide bombings and the mass blasting of schools, Malala perseveres, continuing to attend school despite constant threats to cease her education. The Taliban virtually takes over Pakistan, while authorities stand idly by, merely allowing mass killings, all in the name of Sharia. Malala bravely asserts in an interview that the Taliban "are abusing our religion." In October 2012, Malala was targeted and brutally shot by a member of the Taliban, along with two girls sitting on either side of her, due to her standing up for the education of girls and speaking out against terrorism. Miraculously, Malala and her two classmates survived the attack and escaped Pakistan. Malala is the youngest person ever to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and continues to advocate for universal education through her personal fund. I never thought I would be interested in reading Malala's whole story, but I was captivated by her words. Not only am I in awe of Malala's accomplishments and good deeds, I am amazed and deeply saddened by the destruction of her homeland and culture. Malala tells her story in such a way that makes it easy for the reader to empathize with her and her situation. As I read *I Am Malala*, I imagined what it would be like if my home country, the US, were overrun by terrorists who want to destroy everything that I love and believe in. I admire Malala's courage very much and truly hope she is able to one day return to her beloved Pakistan.

My daughter needed to dress up as a book character on her parade day but it had to be someone that she admires as having strong character. Immediately we thought of Malala but we couldn't find the book in our local bookstores (she has to read the book and write a summary to read to the audience) So since we had some time to spare, I ordered the book and it came in time for her to read the book and represent with confidence. She was impressed with Malala and she herself can identify with some traits of hers (my daughter loves to read, she values education and is very focused in her studies). Buy the book, not many can do what this brave heroine did and last but not least, value education, sometimes the things we have freely, we take for them granted, while others are fighting tooth and nail for these same things.

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I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers

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