

Malala: Nobel Laureate

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai was announced as the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her advocacy work for children's education around the world. At age 17, she was the youngest person to receive the award.

Read the following excerpt from Yousafzai's Nobel Lecture in Oslo, Norway, then respond to the questions and prompts on the following page.



Malala Yousafzai

“ Education is one of the blessings of life —and one of its necessities. That has been my experience during the 17 years of my life.

In my paradise home, Swat, I always loved learning and discovering new things. I remember when my friends and I would decorate our hands with henna on special occasions. And instead of drawing flowers and patterns we would paint our hands with mathematical formulas and equations.

We had a thirst for education, because our future was right there in that classroom. We would sit and learn and read together. We loved to wear neat and tidy school uniforms and we would sit there with big dreams in our eyes. We wanted to make our parents proud and prove that we could also excel in our studies and achieve those goals, which some people think only boys can.

But things did not remain the same. When I was in Swat, which was a place of tourism and beauty, it suddenly changed into a place of terrorism. I was just ten when more than 400 schools were destroyed. Women were flogged. People were killed. And our beautiful dreams turned into nightmares.

Education went from being a right to being a crime.

Girls were stopped from going to school.

When my world suddenly changed, my priorities changed too.

I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed.

I chose the second one. I decided to speak up. ”

— Malala Yousafzai

Date _____

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