

BY MYRA FAYE TURNER

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

EDUCATION ACTIVIST





TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

Who Is Malala Yousafzai? 5

CHAPTER 2

Life Under the Taliban 11

CHAPTER 3

Early Life 19

CHAPTER 4

Finding Her Purpose 25

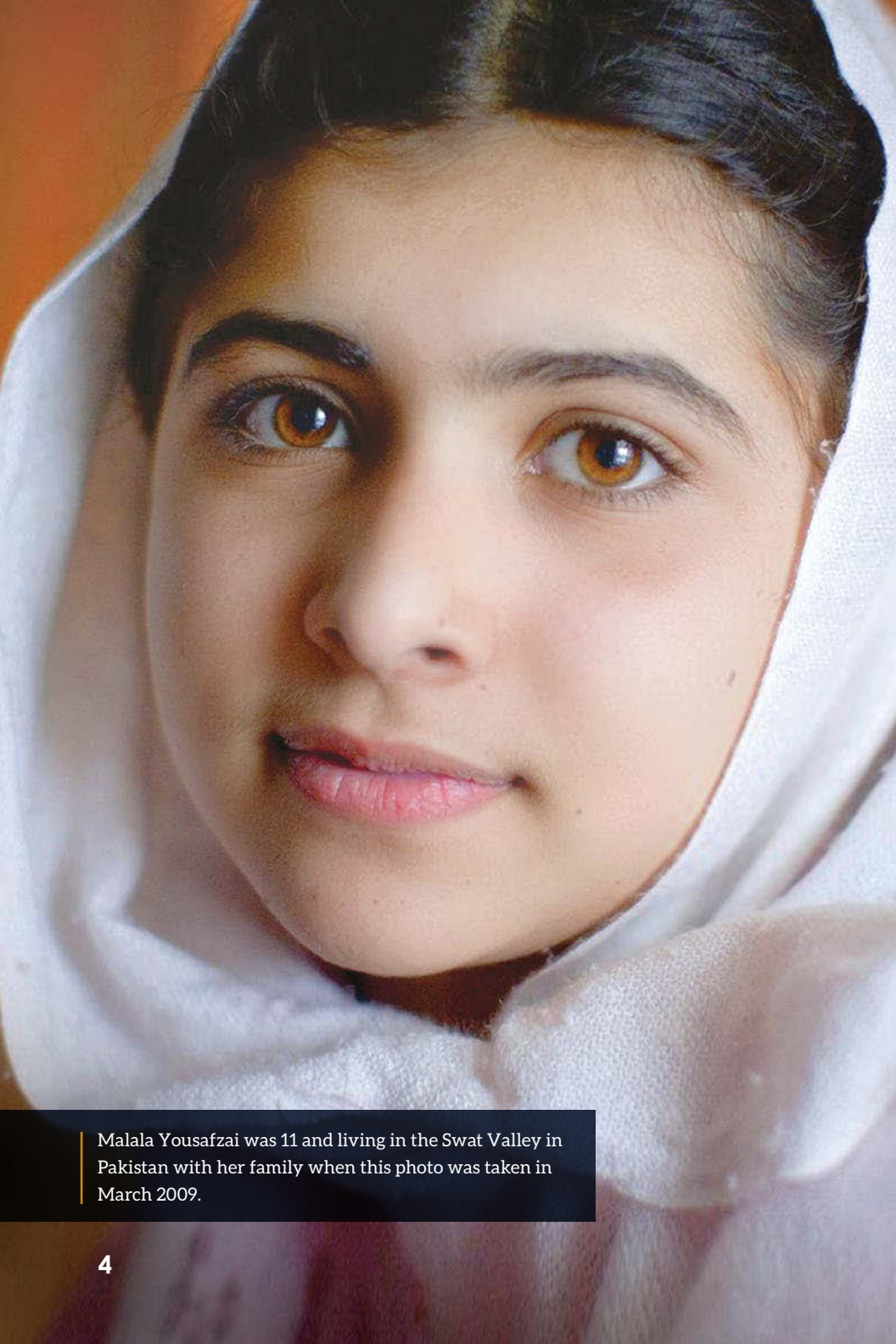
CHAPTER 5

Refusing to Be Silenced 33

CHAPTER 6

Malala's Impact 39

GLOSSARY 44



Malala Yousafzai was 11 and living in the Swat Valley in Pakistan with her family when this photo was taken in March 2009.

CHAPTER 1

Who Is Malala Yousafzai?

It was December 2008. An announcement came over the radio. “After the 15th of January, no girl, whether big or little, shall go to school,” it said.

Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH-lah yoo-sahf-ZIGH) couldn’t believe her ears. The 11-year-old wondered if it was possible. *Could one person really stop all girls from going to school?*

At the time, Malala didn’t know she would become a famous **activist**. By her 16th birthday, people around the world would recognize her by her first name. Millions would hear her message. Some would try to silence her. But in that moment, she wanted only one thing. It was to continue going to school.

Malala was born in Pakistan. When she was ten, her world was turned upside down. An armed group took control of her village. The group is called the Taliban. It has **strict** rules.

Many adults were afraid to **criticize** the Taliban. But Malala wasn't. Soon after the group arrived, she gave her first speech. This was at a school assembly. Then she wrote about life under the Taliban for a news blog. Malala used a fake name to do this. It was for her safety.

Eventually, the Taliban found out who Malala was. They ordered her to stop. Her life was **threatened**. But she continued to speak out. Education was important to her. She wouldn't give up.

Then tragedy struck. When Malala was 15, a man got on her school bus. He shot Malala in the head. She survived. Her recovery was hard. Still, she kept fighting.



Armed Pakistani militants stood at a police station in Matta in the Swat District on November 6, 2007.



Pakistani hospital workers carried 15-year-old Malala on a stretcher after she was shot.



On a 2012 flight, a Pakistani airplane passenger read a local newspaper that featured a story about Malala.



President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and their daughter Malia met with Malala in the Oval Office of the White House on October 11, 2013.

Today, Malala is an activist. The young woman **advocates** for a free, safe education for all girls. She has earned many awards. Her story has been in magazines and newspapers. Crowds gather to hear her speak. Malala has met many famous people too. Queen Elizabeth of England is one. Former president Barack Obama is another.

Malala stands up for what she believes in. It almost cost the activist her life. But she won't be silenced. "One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world," she said.



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Growing up in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai's life was turned upside down by the Taliban. It forbade girls her age from going to school, but Malala refused to accept this. Speaking out nearly cost the young activist her life. Still, she didn't give up. Today, Malala continues to fight for a free, safe education for all girls around the world.