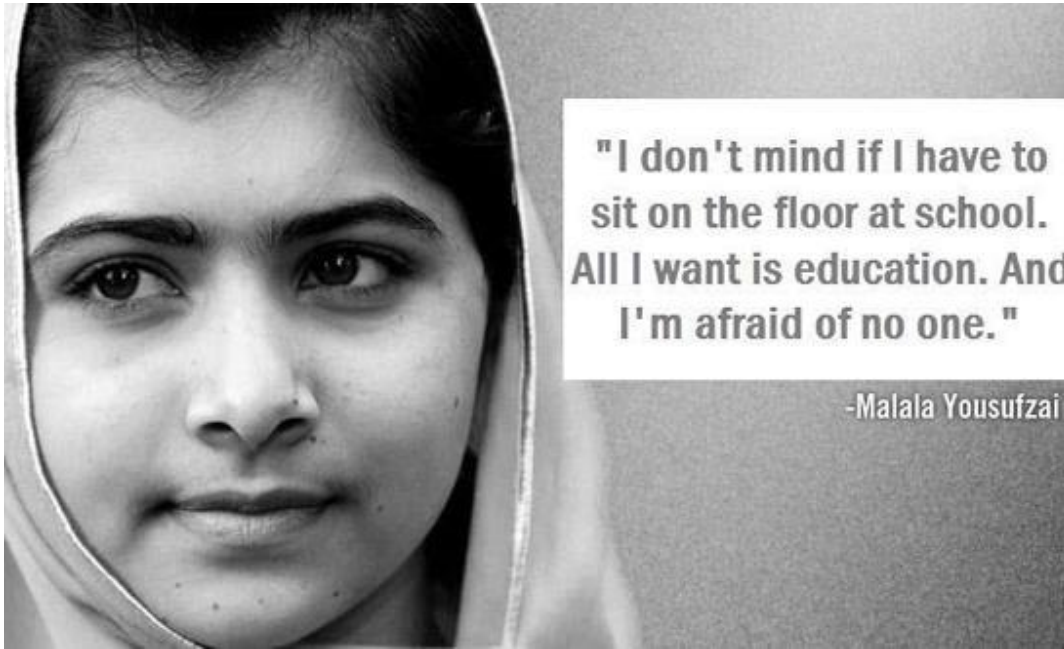


Text in Community Study Guide

I am Malala—Malala Yousafzai w/ Christine Lamb

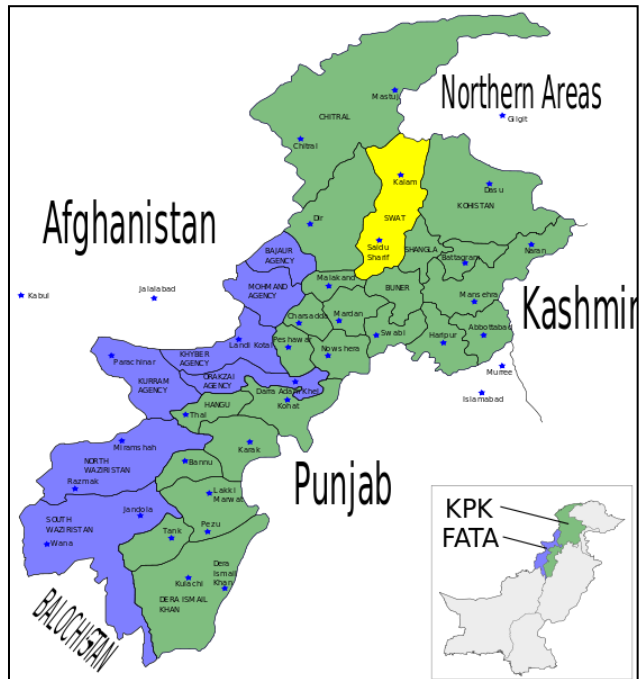
Created by—Dr. Michael K. Cundall, Jr., Darrell Hairston, and Anna Whiteside: University Honors Program



Prologue: The Day My World Changed/ Chapter 1: A Daughter is Born

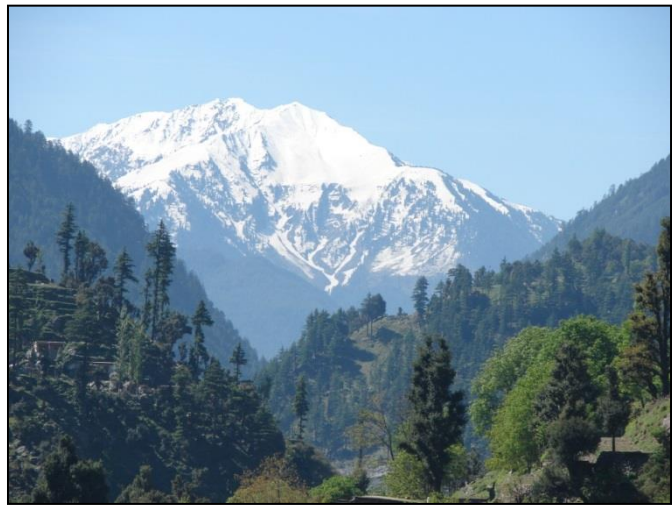
- 1) Why do so few people in Pakistan celebrate the birth of a baby girl? What is the attitude of Malala's father's toward the birth his daughter?
- 2) After whom is Malala named?
- 3) What are society's expectations of girls? What are the attitudes of Malala and her father about the role of girls in society?
- 4) Before she was shot, did Malala fear for her own life?
- 5) Why do you think the KPK is independent? Does this cultural and geographical independence from the main part of Pakistan mean anything for the rest of Malala's story?
- 6) What did Alexander the Great do when he reached the Swat Valley?
- 7) What are the various religions that have "ruled" the Swat Valley?

The Swat Valley, Malala’ Yousafzai’s hometown, is known for its mountains, meadows, and lakes. Tourists often call it “the Switzerland of the East.” The Swat Valley was the home of Pakistan’s first ski resort.



(Map Showing the Location of Swat District, Source: Pahari Sahib, Wikimedia Commons)

The SWAT valley’s population is mostly made up of ethnic Gujjar and Pashtuns. The Yousafzais are Pashtuns, a group whose population is located primarily in Afghanistan and northwestern and western parts of Iran.



(Ghabral, Swat Valley. Source: Isrum, Wikimedia Commons)



(Mahu Dan Swat Valley, Source: Isruma, Wikimedia Commons)



(Snow covered mountain in Sway Valley, Source: Isruma, Wikimedia Commons)

The Swat valley is home to several relics left over from the Buddhist Reign in the third century BC. Archaeologists have discovered more than 300 Buddhist sites in the Swat valley. However, the Taliban began to destroy Buddhist relics at the beginning of the 21st century.



(Statue of a Buddha seated on a lotus throne in Swat Valley, Source: Alexander E. Caddy/Public Domain)

Malala lived in the town of Mingora, the largest town in the Swat Valley. Mingora was a major tourist destination for skiers until the Taliban moved into the area.



(Taj Chowk, A Street in Mingora, Pakistan. Source: Alakazou 1978, Wikimedia Commons)

After she was shot, Malala and her family moved to Birmingham, England so that Malala could receive medical treatment. They now live in Birmingham, where Malala continues her treatments and goes to school.



(Birmingham (UK) skyline - Centenary Square 640, Source: Andy G., Wikimedia Commons)

And the hospital in Birmingham where Malala was taken, Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



(Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England. Source: Tony Hisgett, Wikimedia Commons)

Malalai of Maiwand, for whom Malala Yousafzai was named. Malalai is a folk hero of Afghanistan, who rallied local Pashtun fighters against the British troops in the 1880 Battle of Maiwand.



(Malala of Maiwand. Source: Akbar Khan89, Wikimedia Commons)

Chapter 2: My Father the Falcon

- 1) What issue did Malala's father overcome in his youth?
- 2) Was the "restricted" life of women always the case in Malala's home region?
- 3) What events ushered in this more restrictive time?
- 4) Was Malala's father a jihadi?
- 5) Why is Malala's father called a falcon?
- 6) What values and principles did Malala get from her father?

Pictured below is with President Ronald Reagan. Muhammad Zia ul Haq staged a coup in Pakistan in 1977, during which he arrested and then had executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Zia is largely responsible for the "Islamization of Pakistan."



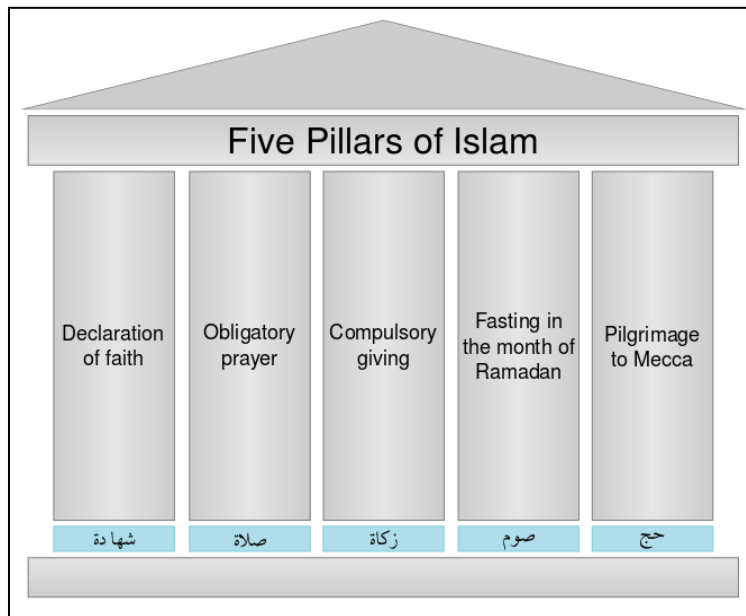
The US government, and in particular Ronald Reagan's administration, supported Zia's regime, believing them to be the "front line" ally of the United States in the fight against the spread of communism. Under General Zia, women could be sent to prison for being raped if she could not produce four male witnesses to prove it was a crime and women could not open bank accounts without a man's permission.

When the Russians invaded Afghanistan in 1979, Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan, where the Pakistani military trained them to fight against Russians and the spread of communism, garnering support from the US, the UK, Saudi Arabia, and notably, a Saudi millionaire named Osama Bin Laden. Fighters from this movement later spun off to create the Taliban. Pictured below are Afghani mujahideen fighters crossing over the border from Afghanistan to Pakistan.



(Mujahideen crossing in from Pakistan border, Afghanistan. Source, Erwin Franzen, Wikimedia Commons)

Though General Zia treated Jihad as though it were a pillar of Islam, it is not. Here are the five pillars of Islam:



(Source, Xxedcxx, Wikimedia Commons)

Chapter 3: Growing Up in a School

- 1) Is Malala's mother educated?
- 2) What were some of the initial obstacles Malala's father faced when he wanted to attend the university?
- 3) Why does Malala's father believe that education is so important to Pakistan?
- 4) Who is Benazir Bhutto? And why is she important?
- 5) Who is Mohammed Naeem Khan? Why is he important to Malala's father?
- 6) For whom is the Kushal school named?
- 7) How well did the schools Malala's father started fare?

Malala's father "believed that lack of education was the root of all of Pakistan's problems. Ignorance allowed politicians to fool people and bad administrators to be re-elected." Malala and her father are pictured below.



(September 2, 2013 - Source: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images Europe)

Around the time Malala's father began college, General Zia was killed in a plane crash, which many suspected to have been caused by a bomb. Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of the prime minister who was executed following General Zia's coup, was elected president, becoming the first female prime minister of Pakistan and the first in the Islamic world. When Bhutto was elected, much of Zia's Islamization efforts were rolled back. Benazir Bhutto would be assassinated in a bombing in 2007.

Malala's father named his school the Khushal school, after his hero Khushal Khan Khattak, the "warrior poet" from Akora. Khattak, like the Yousafzais, is Pashtun, and he worked to unify Pashtuns in the area that is now Afghanistan and Pakistan.



(Source: Muhammad Tahir Kanay, Wikimedia Commons)

Below are Pakistani wedding bangles like the ones Malala's father had to sell to support himself and his wife, as well as the school.



(Source: Bharat Moms, <http://www.bharatmoms.com/blogs/85668/posts/189991-latest-model-bangles-for-bridals>)

Below, Malala and her father and brothers in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as she recovers from her gunshot wounds.



(Queen Elizabeth Hospital/University Hospitals Birmingham/AFP/Getty Images)

Chapter 4: The Village

- 1) Why did Malala visit her familial village?
- 2) Do you think Malala's childhood is much different than yours? Why?
- 3) Why is Malala annoyed with the Pashtun code of conduct for women?
- 4) What's her overall view of her family and culture?

Twice a year, Malala's family would visit their family village for Eid, riding a flying coach that would have looked like this.



(Traditional Pakistani Bus waiting in the Cholistan desert. Located in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. Source: Bhawalpuri, Wikimedia Commons)

Eid is an important Islamic holiday, marking the end of the Ramadan month of fasting. In Pakistan, Eid is celebrated with feasts and new clothes.



(On left, Celebrating Eid in Tajikistan, Source: Steve Evans, Wikimedia Commons; On Right, Eid in Indonesia, Source: Gunawan Kartapranata, Wikimedia Commons)

The houses in Malala's family village would have probably looked something like this:



(Punjabi Home, Source: Kahlid Mahmood, Wikimedia Commons)

Villages in Pakistan are still based heavily on agriculture.

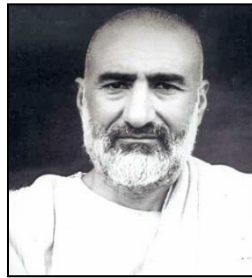


(Abdul Khaliq, a farmer from Mahool Baloch village in Loralai District, gathers part of his abundant harvest from drought-tolerant wheat. Source: Kaukab Jhumra Smith, USAID)

Chapter 5: Why I Don't Wear Earrings and Pashtuns Don't Say Thank You

- 1) What did Malala learn about stealing? Do you think this was an important lesson for her?
- 2) How did Malala's father deal with her after the incident?
- 3) Did the lesson she learned help her later on in life?
- 4) Why don't Pashtuns say "Thank You?"

One of Malala's heroes is Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the "frontier Gandhi" who introduced the philosophy of non-violence to Pashtun Culture. Along with Gandhi, with whom he was close friends, he advocated for the subcontinent (the area that currently includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Nepal) to be independent from British rule.



When Malala was two, in 1999, the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, tried to fire army chief General Pervez Musharraf. Instead, Musharraf staged a coup and took over the country, forcing Nawaz Sharif into exile.



Musharraf remained in command until 2008, serving as the chief executive of Pakistan from 1999-2001 and as the president from 2001-2008. By 2008, he had fallen out of favor and was impeached.

Chapter 6: Children of the Rubbish Mountain

- 1) Why was Malala so taken with the plight of the Rubbish Children?
- 2) What's a ghost school and why do you think Malala's father was so annoyed with them?
- 3) What is the relation between the ISI and the Taliban?
- 4) What brought about the American intervention and influence near Malala's home?

Malala was startled to see scavenger children collecting waste to sell at the dump. This is a common practice for children in many poor countries – not just Pakistan. In the first picture below, children in Indonesia scavenge through the waste pile. In the second, people in Brazil collect trash. While a 1988 World Bank study estimated that 1-2% of the world's population consists of waste pickers, a more recent study estimates that there are 1.5 million waste pickers in India, alone. Many of these are children.



Slum Life, Jakarta Indonesia, Source: Jonathan McIntosh, Wikimedia Commons)



(Source: Marcello Casal Jr. /Agência Brasil)

Chapter 7: The Mufti Who Tried to Close Our School

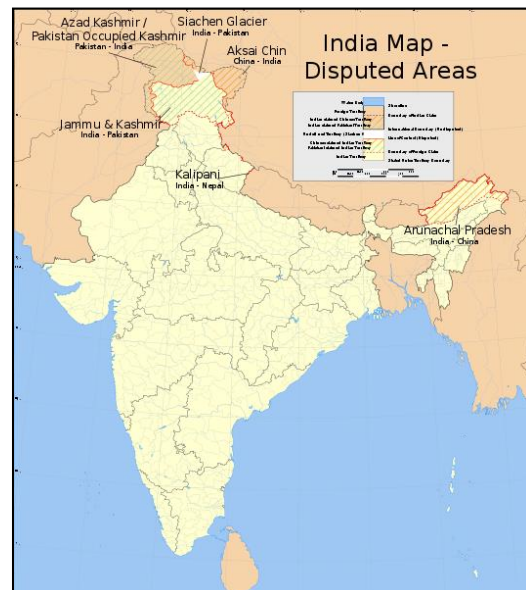
- 1) Why did the mufti try to close the Kushal School?
- 2) What tensions does Malala find in her religion? What is confusing to her?
- 3) What ultimately happened to satisfy those who wanted to close the school?
- 4) Who is the MMA and what did they attempt to do in Pakistan?
- 5) What does the mufti's activities indicate about the changing culture in Malala's homeland?

Purdah is a religious and social practice of female seclusion that is prevalent in Muslim communities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It requires women to cover their bodies and to be segregated from men. The usual purdah garment is a burqa.



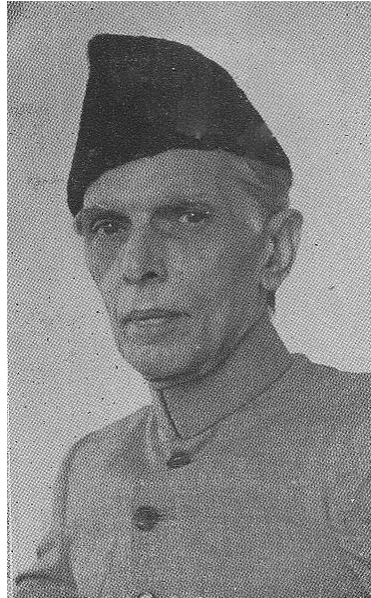
(Source:
<http://gemini.info.usaid.gov/photos/index.php>
,USAID)

The following is a map that shows the disputed territory between Pakistan and India. The dispute resulted from territory divisions after British colonization ended, which left ethnic and religious groups cut in half.



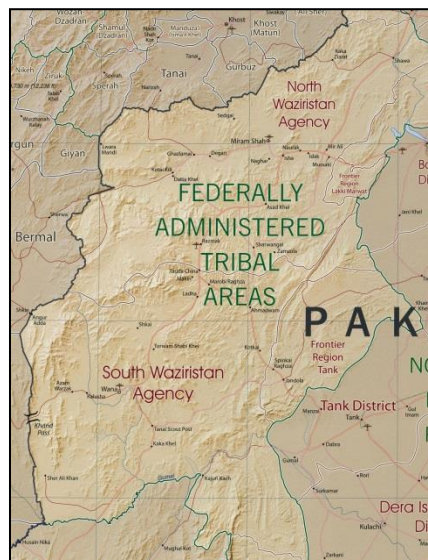
(Source: *w:user:Planemad, Wikimedia Commons*)

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan wanted a land of tolerance but died of tuberculosis a year after his election and was unable to see this dream through.



“We Muslims are split between Sunnis and Shias,” Malala tells us. “We share the same fundamental beliefs and the same Holy Quran, but we disagree over who was the right person to lead our religion with the Prophet died in the seventh century.” Sunni Islam, the largest branch of Islam, holds that the companions of Mohammed were the best Muslims; Shia Islam holds that leadership should have stayed within the prophet’s family.

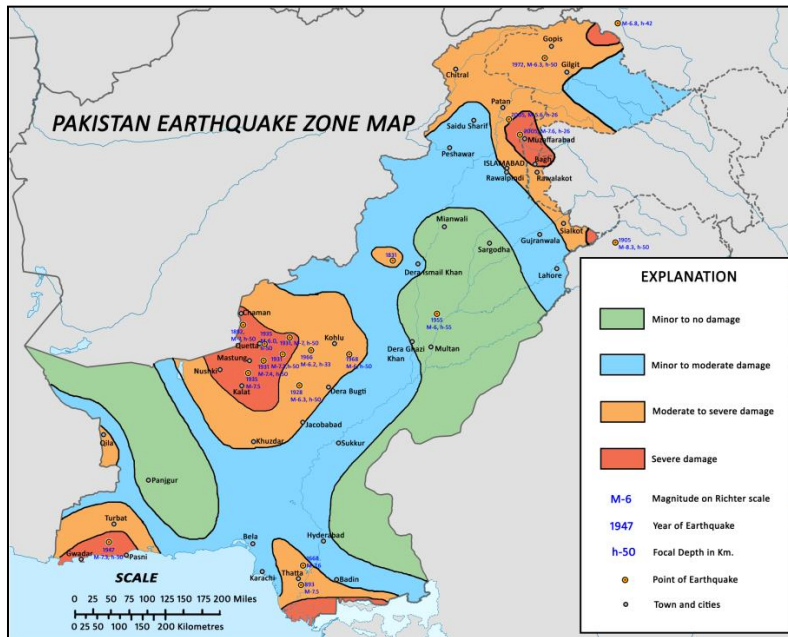
Below is a map of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, where the US believed that al-Qaeda had fled. The US conducted drone strikes in the area, killing civilians.



Chapter 8: The Autumn of the Earthquake

- 1) What happened on October 8th, 2005 in her homeland?
- 2) What were the immediate effects of this disaster?

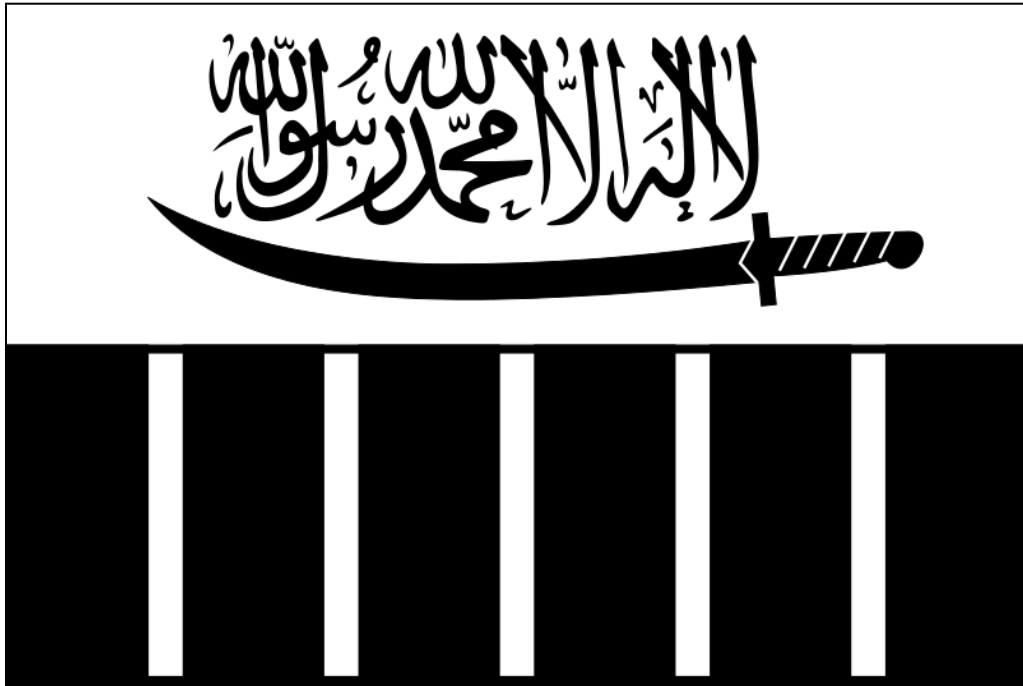
Although Mingora was largely spared the destruction of the earthquake in October of 2008, many other places in Pakistan were devastated.



(Source: Nomi887, Wikimedia Commons)



Below is the flag of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Islamic militant group that sent volunteer groups to set up relief areas in places hit by the earthquake. LeT advocates attacking India in order to regain Kashmir.



(Source: Arnold Platon, Wikimedia Commons)

Many of the boys who were orphaned by the earthquake were taken by the LeT and put into madrasas. Although "madrasa" means "religious school," not all madrasas teach only religion. In Pakistan, however, many madrasas teach only Islam and no other subjects. Some of these attract jihadists.



Part 2. The Valley of Death

Ch. 9

- 1) How old was Malala when the Taliban became a presence in the Swat Valley?
- 2) Who was the group's leader at the time?
- 3) How did the Taliban initially communicate with the people of the Swat Valley? Why do you think they were effective in convincing people with their message?
- 4) What was the Taliban's message?
- 5) What do you think is the proper role of religion in making laws for civil society?
- 6) How would you respond to the events Malala was dealing with?
- 7) Do the actions of Malala's mother seem to be consistent with the Taliban's view of women, or is it at odds with it? What does Malala think?
- 8) Does the Taliban's message change from the beginning of the chapter to the end? If so, how?
- 9) The rule of the Taliban seems repressive to us, but why does the group become so influential and why does it become popular?

Ch. 10



- 1) Why did the Taliban destroy the Buddhas?
- 2) What is the climate like in and around Malala's home? What are some of the things that made her so uncomfortable?
- 3) What sorts of the extant "culture" were the Taliban trying to remove? Why?
- 4) Was the Operation Silence a good thing? Should the Pakistani government have tried another tactic?
- 5) Who is Benazir Bhutto and why is she important?
- 6) What was the outcome of the attack on Benazir Bhutto?

Ch. 11

- 1) Why do you think the girls continued to go to school?
- 2) Is the Pakistani Army preferable to the Taliban? Why or why not?
- 3) Why are schools being targeted by the Taliban? Does this have anything to do with the Taliban's outlawing of CD's, dancing, etc? Why would they choose this approach?
- 4) What is the Qaumi Jirga? Why is it important?
- 5) Do you think that doing the interviews that Malala did was a good thing? Why?
- 6) Add in a couple of links to Malala's early interviews.

Ch. 12

- 1) Who is Shabana and why was she killed?
- 2) Malala says the Pashtuns love the shoes but hate the cobblers. What does this mean and how is it related to Shabana's death?
- 3) What is the overall effect of the increase in violence on Malala, her father, mother, and siblings? What would you have done?

Ch. 13

- 1) What is the diary that Malala became the author of? How is participating in this important for her development as an education rights leader? Was it a good idea to do this?
- 2) Read excerpts of the diary [here](#).
- 3) How was Malala feeling at the end of her term?
- 4) When she was faced with the thought of losing school completely, what did she do?

Ch. 14



- 1) What is the big change that extends Malala's education? Why did the Taliban relent on this issue?
- 2) Who is [Fazlullah Maulana](#)?
- 3) Should the Pakistani government have created the truce with the Taliban? Why was the US government so unhappy with it?
- 4) Was the peace/truce worthwhile?
- 5) Do you think [the video](#) (video may be disturbing) of the beating the Pashto teenage girl was fake or real? Why?
- 6) Does this debate tell you anything about the importance of media coverage?
- 7) Malala ends the chapter, p. 174, by critiquing the US involvement in Pakistan being more about securing nuclear weapons than about human rights. Is she correct in her concern?

Ch. 15



- 1) Why does Malala and her family leave the Swat Valley?
- 2) What is an IDP and how long was Malala and those like her considered an IDP?
- 3) Why did Malala's father split from them? Do you think he was right to do so?
- 4) Why do you think Malala was so happy to see Moniba?

Part 3 Three Girls, Three Bullets

Ch. 16



What is Churchill's Picket?

What happened to allow Malala and her family to return to the Swat Valley?

What was the state of many of the villages in the Swat?

Why would both the Pakistani Army and the Taliban destroy the areas they were trying to control?

What is the status of Fazlullah at this point?



Why did the girls visit Shiza Shahid in Islamabad?

What did they do while they were there?

What was this visit's effect on Malala?

How did Malala help her father restart the school?

What did the monsoons do? Why do you think this natural disaster was so much more destructive than if it had happened when there was no conflict to precede it?

Ch. 17

- 1) Is it odd to you that a girl so stalwart in her defense of education was so worried about her height?
- 2) Besides being a school leader, what else did Malala's father do especially as it related to [lost or missing individuals](#)?
- 3) What does the Asia Bibi incident and all its related events indicate about society in Pakistan?



Asia Bibi

(<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/asia-bibis-case-not-heard-no-official-reason-provided/1222>)

- 4) What sorts of questions or issues does the death of Bin Laden raise for Malala? Does hearing her view or perspective change how you appreciate what that event did relative to our country?
- 5) What [awards](#) did [Malala](#) win?

Chapter 17

- 1) Case of mistaken identity: What were the consequences? How common was it for military men to go missing? What were the familial ramifications if not found?
- 2) In the case of American Raymond Davis, believed to be a CIA agent, can you sympathize with Malala and other Pakistanis and their negative perceptions of the American government?
- 3) Malala gives a very detailed recollection of bin Laden's capture and murder. What do you recall about this historic event?
- 4) Do you see any similarities in how some Pakistanis view their army and how some Americans view our military?

Chapter 18

- 1) As Malala talks about the city of Karachi, what other cities and images come to mind? If you've flown on an airplane, what do you remember about your first flight and the overall experience?
- 2) What events does Malala point to that labeled Pakistan an unlucky country?
- 3) Malala holds a great deal of respect for Jinnah, Pakistan's founder. What does she think would be his view of today's Pakistan?
- 4) What is the overarching reason Malala feels Muslims have been led astray?
- 5) How does Malala feel about the threats and negative things said about her on the internet?

Chapter 19

- 1) Throughout the book, Malala received death threats and warnings. How did she handle propaganda about her school and the subsequent danger?
- 2) What is the significance of Malala's fourteenth birthday? What milestone birthdays have you had and/or anticipate? Why?
- 3) What was Malala's father's overall view of security for himself and his family? What changes did he make?
- 4) How did Malala's father show protection for her as it relates to boys interested in her?

Chapter 20

- 1) What is the significance of giving rice to others? Do you see it as a religious practice or a superstition?
- 2) Malala states that the time of year she and her friends prayed the most was during exams? Do you have a particular time of year that your stress level increases? How do you handle it?
- 3) Malala is very detailed about the day she was shot. What thoughts and images do you have as you read about her life changing event?

Chapter 21

- 1) As Malala describes how she was rushed to the hospital and the media circus that surrounded it, what do you think was the collective feeling of Pakistani citizens, specifically Swat residents?
- 2) Even in the midst of Malala's serious injury, what was the connection with the military, its hospital, and views about their role/impact?
- 3) What was the general message sent by the Taliban in their statement about Malala's shooting? Do you believe it was honest?
- 4) After the British physicians visited Malala in the hospital, what concerns were raised? Do you think that was a pivotal point in her recovery? If so, why?

Chapter 22

- 1) Describe Dr. Fiona's background and strong connection to Malala.
- 2) Once moved to a second military hospital, security was at an all-time high. Would it have been any different for high ranking government officials or dignitaries?
- 3) What other countries and leaders offered assistance to Malala?
- 4) What was the tough decision faced by Malala's father upon being notified she would be flown to the United Kingdom? How was it resolved?

Chapter 23

- 1) Have you ever woken up the day after traveling to a new town, state, or country? How did that compare to Malala waking up in England's Queen Elizabeth Hospital?
- 2) Why was Malala so concerned with money once she was in QEH?
- 3) What did Malala say was her only regret about being shot?
- 4) What role did political asylum play in the delay for Malala's parents to join her in England?
- 5) Describe how Malala stayed busy during the ten days away from her parents.
- 6) What major role did the "second Fiona" play in Malala's recovery?

Chapter 24

- 1) Malala stated "It was as if all the weight had been lifted from my heart." What was she referring to?
- 2) What parallel do you see in The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and Malala's story?
- 3) What major decision did Pakistani President Zardari make regarding Malala's father?
- 4) What are some of the observations/comparisons that Malala makes about life in England vs. Pakistan? Weather? Architecture? Clothing? Social interactions?
- 5) As Malala summarizes her story and its impact, what thoughts do you have about your life's purpose?
- 6) Pervasive themes in the book were: Fear, Family, and Faith. What roles, if any, do these play in your life? If so, in what ways?