



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

Malala's Magic Pencil

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 4–8

Grades: PreK–3 (read-aloud)

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Lexile Measure: 740L

Guided Reading Level: M

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 24

Content Areas: English/language arts, social studies (world cultures), and visual art.

Synopsis of Book

International education activist Malala Yousafzai tells her own story and journey of empowerment, describing her life in Pakistan and how the Pakistani Taliban tried to silence her (without sharing violent details). The ink and watercolor illustrations beautifully and gently bring the words to life. This story can serve as a global inspiration to young people who see the need for change in the world and a launching pad to discuss individual rights.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map and highlighting its various layers.
2. View [Malala Yousafzai's United Nations interview](#).
3. View [10 Inspiring quotes by Malala Yousafzai](#). Discuss briefly as a class how these statements may impact others at any age. Students can create blogs using Seesaw ([TeachersFirst review](#)) that can be made public at the teacher's discretion—this application has both text and voice recording capabilities. Students could create works of art in response to these quotes.
4. If appropriate for students' age and emotional development, view the documentary *He Named Me Malala* (available on DVD and some streaming services).
5. Research the elevation, climates, populations, etc. of Mingora, Pakistan, and Birmingham, England. Create a graphic organizer using a resource such as Draw.io ([TeachersFirst review](#)), possibly including images, to facilitate discussions and journal writing. Use resources like GETeach ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and CIA World Factbook ([TeachersFirst review](#)) for research.

Extension Activities:

1. Take a virtual tour of the [United Nations Headquarters](#) and [behind the scenes tour of the UN General Assembly](#).
2. Create posters or infographics with Genially ([TeachersFirst review](#)) that promote education for all children globally.

3. Create comic strips showing an individual respecting others' rights using Printable Comic Strip Templates ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or Make Beliefs Comix ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. Create a word search using vocabulary words from the story and other civil rights terms using Crossword Hobbyist ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Use an adapted version of this [Read Write Think lesson plan](#) where students demonstrate comprehension by reflecting through journal writing and illustrating after reading.
6. Visit [Kerascoët on Instagram](#) to view other illustrations. Students can select an image and write a response to that image.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Malala Fund](#)
- [Malala Yousafzai's speech at the Youth Take Over of the United Nations](#)
- *Free as a Bird* by [Lina Maslo](#) (an excellent book read-aloud for younger students).
- [A Message from Malala](#)
- "[My Daughter, Malala.](#)" a speech by Ziauddin Yousafzai.
- [5 Empowering Messages from Malala's Magic Pencil](#)