



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 arts.

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 inspire young people who see the need for change in the world and serve as a launching pad for discussing 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. Share [Inspiring quotes by Malala Yousafzai](#). Discuss briefly as a class how these statements may impact others at any age. Students can create short stories or blog posts using Seesaw ([TeachersFirst review](#)), which 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, climate, population, and other characteristics of Mingora, Pakistan, and Birmingham, England. Create a graphic organizer using a resource such as Mindomo ([TeachersFirst review](#)), possibly including images, to facilitate discussions and journal writing. Use resources such as GETeach ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and the Encyclopedia Britannica ([TeachersFirst review](#)) for research.
6. Give students a blank world map and have them find and label: Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan; Birmingham, UK; and the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
7. On a large world map, mark countries with different colors showing countries where girls' education is limited.
 - a. Green: High access to education.
 - b. Yellow: Moderate access to education.
 - c. Red: Limited access to education. – Discuss reasons why this is (conflict, poverty, and gender norms).

8. Ask students, “If you had a magic pencil like Malala, where in the world would you use it and why?” Have students locate their place on

a map and write a paragraph explaining their choice.

Extension Activities:

1. Take a virtual tour of the [United Nations Headquarters](#) and a [behind-the-scenes tour of the UN General Assembly](#).
2. Create posters or infographics in Genially ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to promote education for all children worldwide.
3. Create comic strips showing an individual respecting others’ rights using Comic Strip Templates at Canva ([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 My Crossword Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Use an adapted version of this [ReadWriteThink 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.
7. Have the class create a timeline of significant events in Malala’s life. Use paper and pencil or an online option such as Canva’s Timeline Infographics ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
8. Create a side-by-side chart comparing and contrasting life in Mingora and in your community. Use paper and pencil or an online tool, such as the 2 and 3 Circle Interactive Venn Diagrams ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

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](#)