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A Girl Who Changed the World

Nobody took notice when the school bus stopped. In northern Pakistan, such stops were common. Suddenly, a man wearing a mask jumped onto the bus and asked, "Which one is Malala?" No one dared to reply, but some students couldn't help but look at Malala. Without another word, the man shot her right in the head.

The beautiful city where Malala grew up came under Taliban rule in 2008. From then on, girls were not allowed to attend school. However, Malala's father, a school principal, urged her to stay in school. He also encouraged her to discuss education and politics—subjects usually reserved for boys. Because of this, Malala came to believe that no one could take away anyone's right to education.

Malala started writing a blog about her life in 2009 when she was twelve. After that, she became a voice for equality for female students. However, her story annoyed Taliban leaders and they threatened to kill her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman got on her school bus and shot her in the head. Luckily, Malala survived and eventually recovered after

several surgeries.

Malala's story attracted the world's attention. Over two million people signed a statement calling for equal education in Pakistan. This helped persuade the Pakistani government to provide equal educational rights for boys and girls. Soon after, the Malala Fund was established to support girls' education worldwide. In 2014, 17-year-old Malala became the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

During a speech Malala delivered to the United Nations, she said, "Let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world!"