

Penguin



Readers

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

MALALA YOUSAFZAI



Contents

People in the book	4
New words	5
Note about the book	6
Before-reading questions	6
Chapter One – Who is Malala Yousafzai?	7
Chapter Two – Malala in the Swat Valley	12
Chapter Three – The war begins	23
Chapter Four – Living under the Taliban	29
Chapter Five – Going home	37
Chapter Six – Malala speaks to the world	42
Chapter Seven – Living in England	50
During-reading questions	56
After-reading questions	57
Exercises	58
Project work	61
Glossary	62

CHAPTER ONE

Who is Malala Yousafzai?

Malala Yousafzai **was born** on 12th July 1997 in the beautiful Swat Valley in the north of Pakistan.



Malala's father was a teacher and he and Malala's mother always wanted her to do very well at school. Malala loved learning about everything, and she was always one of the best students in her class.

Malala was a very happy little girl. She often played with her friends and her two younger brothers in the green Swat Valley.



But then a group of **Islamist extremists** called the Taliban came from Afghanistan to Malala's valley and a war began. After this, everything changed.

The Taliban wanted to stop girls going to school and this made Malala and her father very angry. They thought that this was very **unfair** and spoke about it to many people. Malala was very **brave**. She did not stop going to school, but every day she went there **in secret**.



A Taliban soldier

After some time, the Pakistan army fought the Taliban. The Taliban left Malala's town and Malala and the other girls of the Swat Valley could go to school again.

Many people around the world heard about Malala and the Taliban. "Girls must be able to go to school," Malala always said.



Then one day, two men from the Taliban **shot** Malala on the bus home from school.



Malala was in hospital for a very long time, but after this she **became** famous across the world. She was a very brave and kind young girl, and she later got the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

But let's go back to the start and little Malala in the Swat Valley . . .

CHAPTER TWO

Malala in the Swat Valley

The Swat Valley is very beautiful and many people visit this part of Pakistan every year. For a long time Malala's family were poor, but they lived in a wonderful place. Near their little village there were clean rivers, green trees, tall **mountains** and beautiful bright colours. Malala often tells people, "We lived in the most beautiful place in all the world!"

