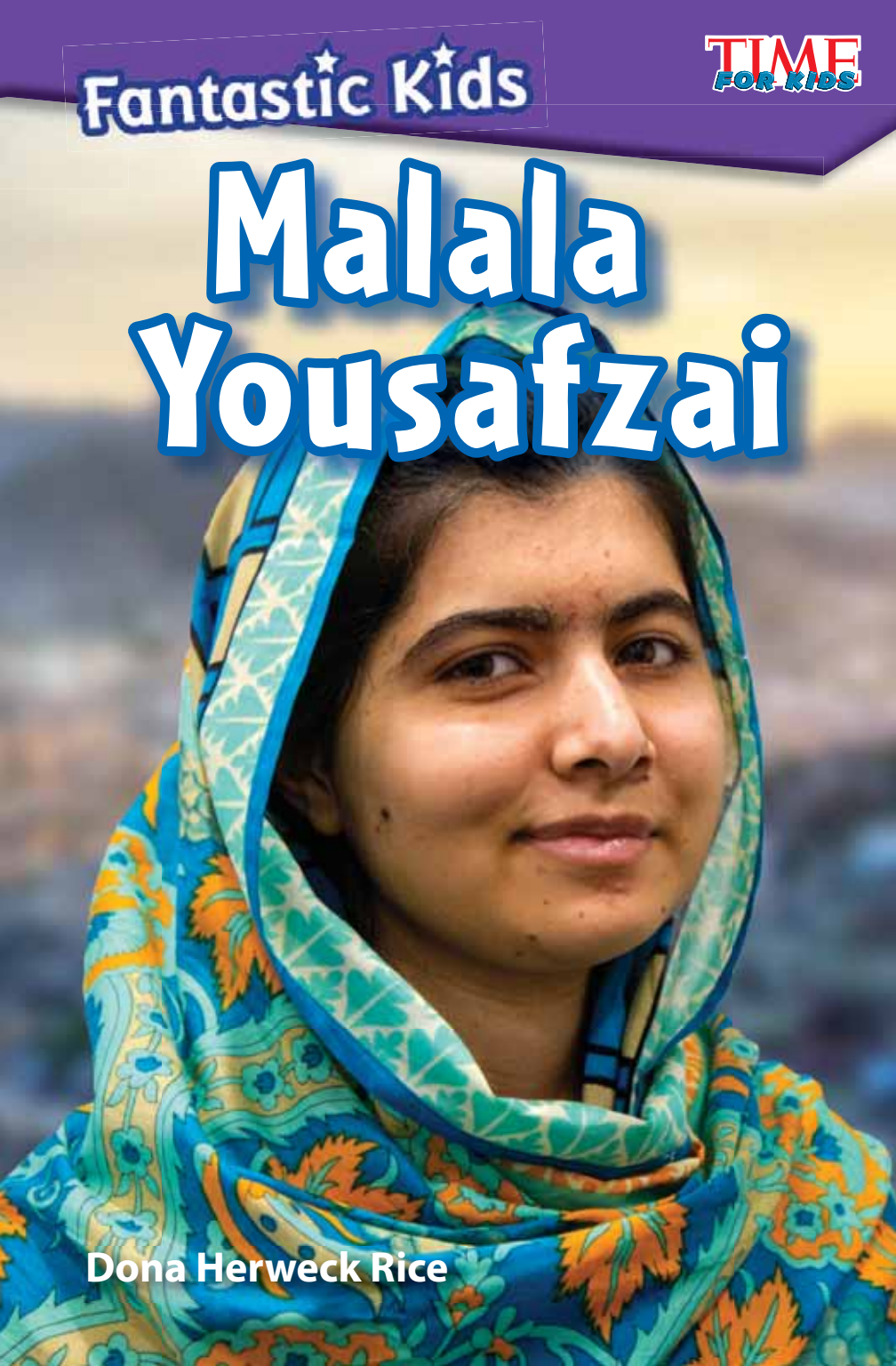
Fantastic Kids

TIME FOR KIDS

Malala Yousafzai



Dona Herweck Rice

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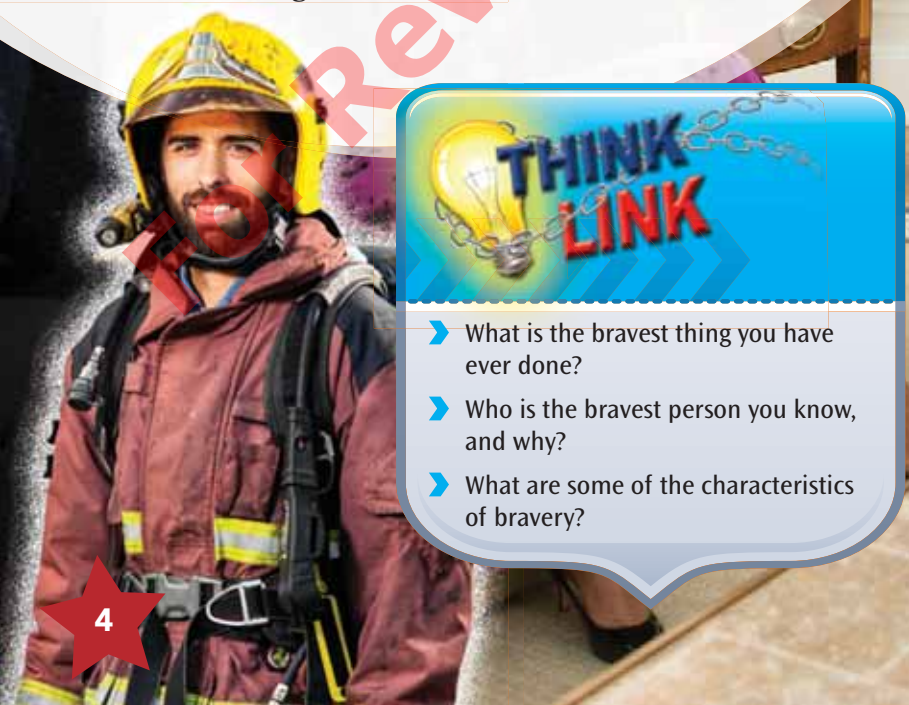
Do the Right Thing

How far would you go to defend what you believe is right? Would you stand up to bullies? Would you speak for the **oppressed**? Would you still do so even if you had to sacrifice your own comfort? *Would you risk your life?*

Every person is challenged at some point to do what is right, but not everyone is called to risk personal safety for the greater good. Doing the right thing takes courage no matter the situation; doing the right thing when your life is at risk is an **exceptional** act of bravery.

Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH-lah yoo-sahf-ZAY) demonstrated such bravery as a child—and nearly lost her life. But the positive **impact** she had is still **reverberating** around the world.

For Review Only



THINK LINK

- What is the bravest thing you have ever done?
- Who is the bravest person you know, and why?
- What are some of the characteristics of bravery?



Malala Yousafzai meets with President Barack Obama at the White House.

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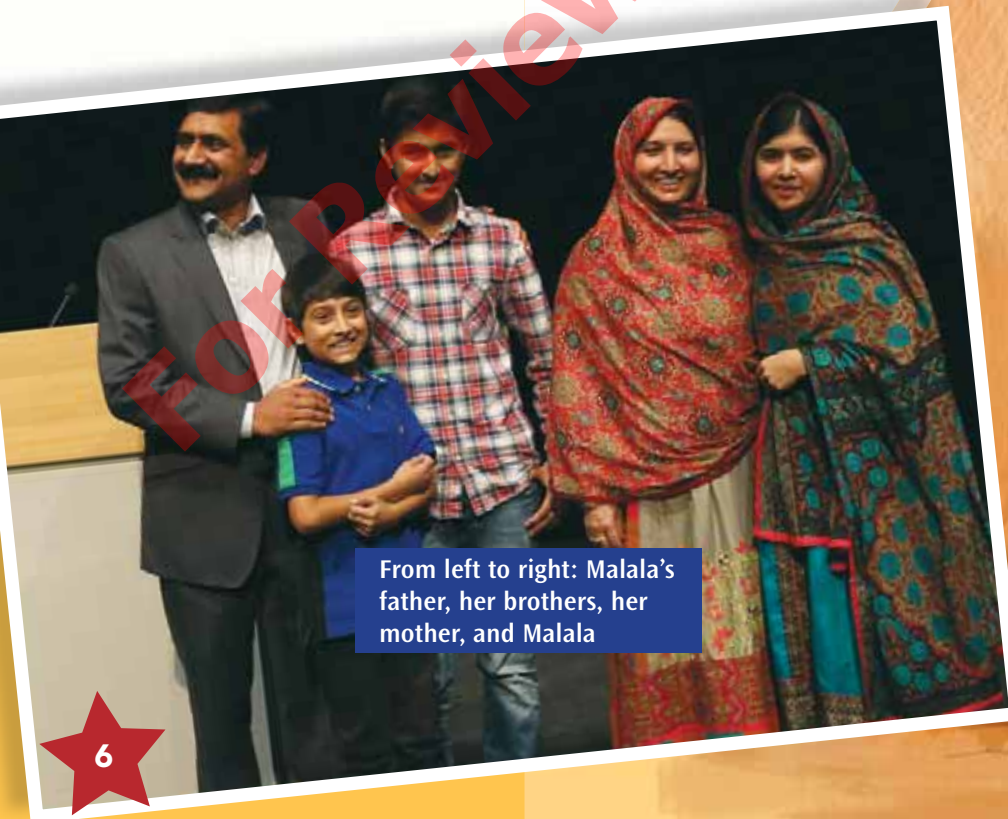
Now a Woman

Malala was born in 1997 and is now an adult. The actions that make her extraordinary began when she was just a young girl.

Just a Girl

On July 12, 1997, a little girl was born to Toor Pekai (TORE peh-KAY) and Ziauddin (zee-ow-DEEN) Yousafzai. The baby—who they named Malala—was born at home in the Swat Valley in a city named Mingora in the country of Pakistan.

Like many people there, Malala and her family lived in **poverty**. But they were happy. Her home was filled with love. Her parents had jobs that satisfied them. The landscape around her home was beautiful. There was a warm **culture** of food, art, and music. The girl was born into this welcoming family.



From left to right: Malala's father, her brothers, her mother, and Malala

For Preview Only



Malalai

Malala was named for a famous **heroine**—Malalai of Maiwand. In 1880, Afghanistan was under British attack. Malalai waved her veil while she sang to the soldiers to inspire them. The soldiers won the battle. Sadly, Malalai gave her life for the cause.

Malalai of Maiwand leads Afghan soldiers into battle

Pashtun

Malala and Malalai are both Pashtun (PUHSH-toon). The Pashtun live in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are known for adhering closely to the **traditions** of their culture. They mainly practice **Islam**.

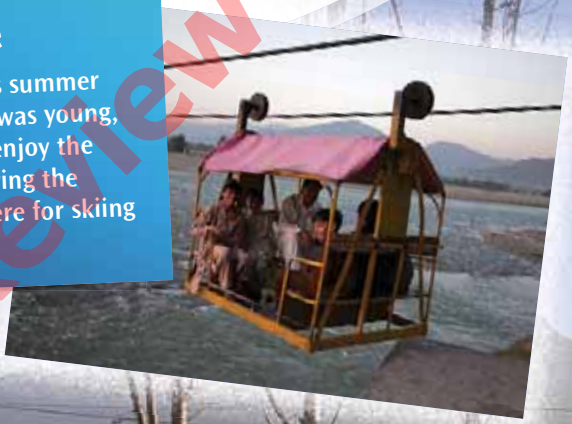
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As welcoming as Malala's world was, there was a marked difference between her life and a boy's life. When a baby boy is born, the people in her community offer congratulations, food, and gifts. They do not do these things for a baby girl. When Malala's two younger brothers were born, the neighborhood celebrated. They did not celebrate Malala's birth.

This was the culture that Malala was born into. Boys would one day grow up to be leaders of their families. Girls would grow up to support men.

A Pleasant Place

Mingora is known for its summer festivals. When Malala was young, many tourists came to enjoy the music in her town. During the winter, people went there for skiing vacations.



A local man pushes a cart into Mingora.

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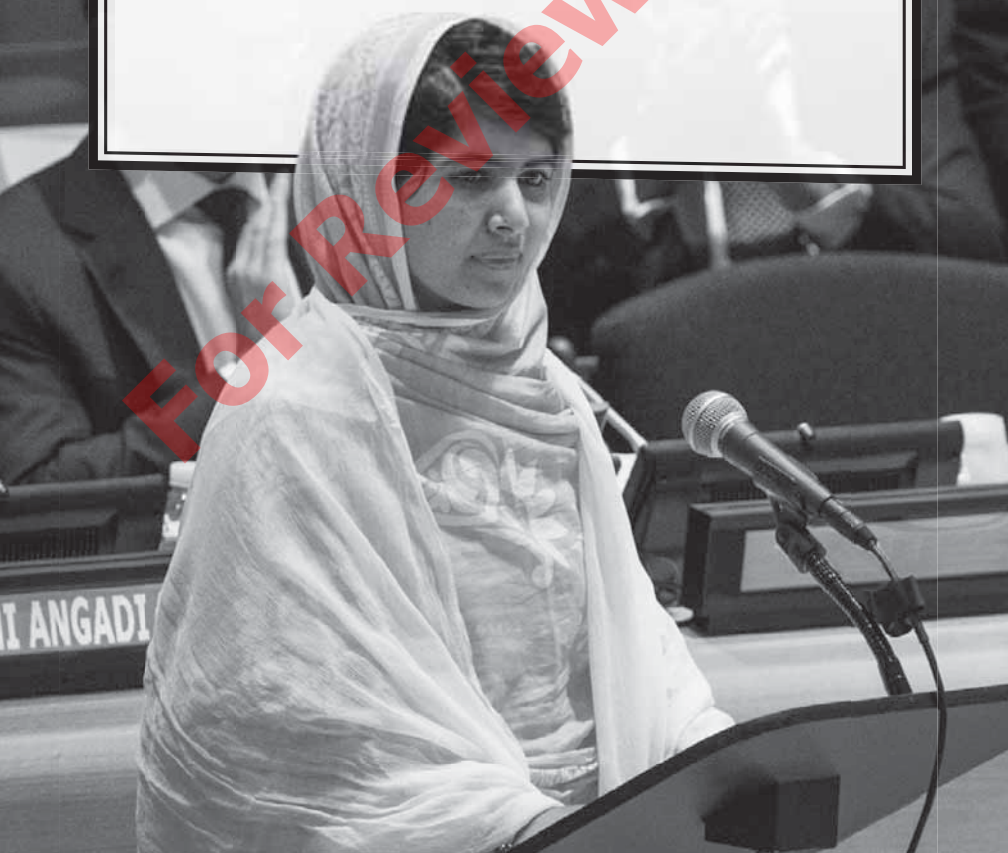
The Gift of Children

Malala's grandfather—her father's father—was a **devout** Muslim. He taught his son, Ziauddin, that all children—boys and girls—are sacred gifts from Allah, or God. He thought that all children should be cared for, taught, and respected.

For Review Only

Reader's Guide

1. Why is Malala considered a hero?
2. How did Malala's parents influence her act of bravery?
3. Would it have made a difference in the story if Malala had been a boy? How?
4. What value, such as education, would you fight to protect? Why?



For Review Only