

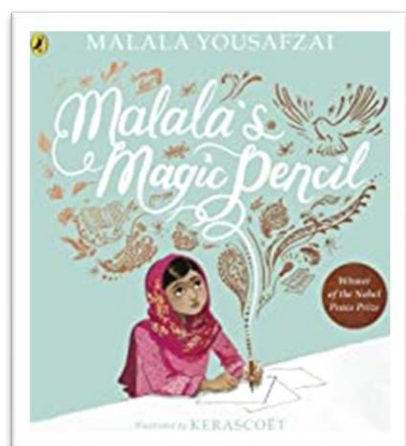
# Read for Pleasure

## Malala's Magic Pencil

By Malala Yousafzai



johnmurraycpd.co.uk



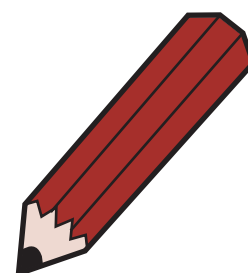
The true story of one girl's wish for a better world.

Warm, tender and brave, this is a book that every parent should read to their children

### Title Talk

The title of this story is: *Malala's Magic Pencil*.

- What might be magical about Malala's pencil?
- What might this magic pencil draw or write down?
- Where might this magic pencil take Malala?



### Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- What is Malala holding?
- What do you think Malala is about to draw or write about?
- Look at the golden images that flow from Malala's magic pencil. What might these things represent? Discuss each one in turn.
  - \* A microphone together with two loose pieces of paper
  - \* An open book and pencil
  - \* A flying dove
  - \* Beautiful flowers and ornate leaves
  - \* A pair of glasses

### **Page 1-2**

- What question are we asked on page 2?
- What is Malala holding?
- What begins to float from Malala's notepad? Why might this be?
- Malala is also carrying a rucksack. Where do you think she is going?
- Why might she consider this to be an important place to go?

### **Page 3-4**

- Here we see Malala watching TV with her family. What programme are they watching?
- How might such a programme have inspired Malala to want to write? Discuss.

### **Page 5-6**

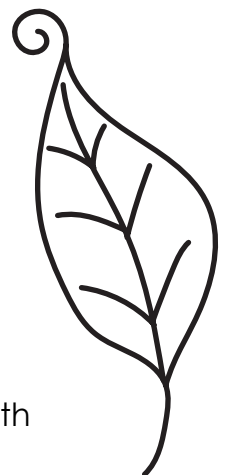
- If Malala had a magic pencil, what would she use it to do?
- If you had a magic pencil, what would you use it to do?
- We are told on page 6 that she would ERASE the smell of the rubbish dump near to where she lives. What do you think this word means and why do you think it was used?

Remember, lots of pencils include a rubber at one end so that you can rub out (or erase) any mistakes you have made.

- What might this suggest about where Malala lives?
- What does Malala draw that would erase such a horrible smell? Would you have drawn the same things?

### **Page 7-8**

- What else would Malala draw in order to make OTHERS happy:
  - \* Her mother?
  - \* Her father?
  - \* Her brothers?
- The fact that her brothers play football with an old sock filled with rubbish, tells us what about Malala's family?



### **Page 9-10**

- Malala would go to bed each night wishing for her very own magic pencil. Each morning she would wake to find the magic pencil was not there. How did this make her feel? Discuss.

### **Page 11-12**

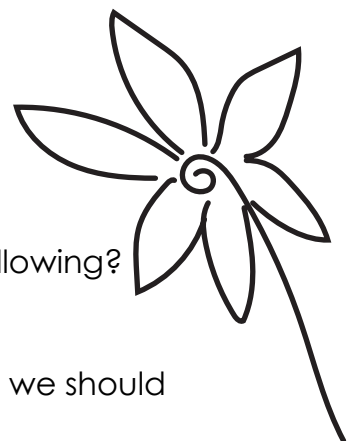
- How dirty was the rubbish dump Malala and her family lived near?
- Why was Malala going to the rubbish dump?
- Who did she see there? What were they doing?
- Why would the girl Malala spotted, be sorting rubbish into piles?
- Why would the boys Malala spotted, be FISHING for metal scraps?
- How is this depicted on page 12?

### **Page 13-14**

- Why do you think Malala told her father about what she had seen at the rubbish dump? Discuss.
- Why would this have saddened Malala's father?
- What question does Malala ask her father?
- How does he answer? Why do you think he did not answer straight away? What might this tell us about her father?
- Focus on the words of Malala's father. Why had Malala not seen either the girl or two boys in her school?
- How does this make Malala feel? Why?

### **Page 15-16**

- What do you think was meant when Malala's father the following?  
*"Malala will live free as a bird."*
- What does Malala think about that night? Is this something we should think about from time to time? Why might this be?
- Can you see Malala on page 16? Who is she watching? What are they doing? How would this have made Malala feel?
- How does this make YOU feel? Discuss.



### **Page 17-18**

- From this moment on, what does Malala say she would do if she had a magic pencil?
- How does this differ from what she would have used her magic pencil for on pages 6-8? How so?
- What would she do first? What would she do next?
- Interestingly, she begins to illustrate a better world in which they could live. Compare the picture she imagines on page 18 with the harsh reality on page 17.

### **Page 19-20**

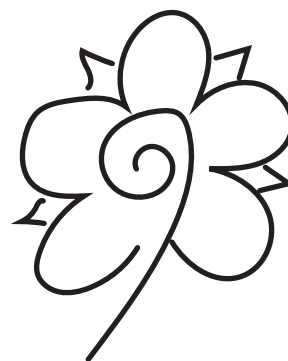
- Years pass and Malala continues her education. She no longer wishes for a magic pencil. Why might this be?
- Instead of dreaming about a better world, what does she now focus on? Discuss why this might be.

### **Page 21-22**

- During this time, who walked the streets carrying weapons?  
Can you see them on page 22?
- What did they declare? Why might they have declared this?
- What would this have meant for Malala?
- How dangerous would it have been if she had been caught going to school?

### **Page 23-26**

- Why do you think the majority of girls stopped going to school during these dark and dangerous times?
- What does Malala resolve to do? Why do you think she wants to do this? Discuss.
- What exactly did she write about?
- How brave was she to do this?



### **Page 27-28**

- Why does Malala start travelling around her country and speaking to the media?
- What does she talk about when she is doing this?
- What do you think she means when she says...  
*"I spoke for all the girls in my valley who couldn't speak for themselves."*
- Why is this important?

### **Page 29-30**

- What colour is page 29?

Knowledge: black is a colour we often associate with dark times, of fear and death. Teacher discretion should also be had when dealing with how certain people tried (and failed) to silence Malala.

- On the opposite page, we see Malala stood looking out from her hospital window. What might she be thinking at this time? Discuss.



### **Page 31-32**

- These pages are joyful and show us how Malala's voice (and message) continues to be heard loud and clear.
- Look at how others have joined her to speak up for education, especially the education of girls. Go through each sign that is being waved and talk about the INSPIRATION Malala and her true story is.
- How does this help us view the world as being one FAMILY?

### **Page 33-34**

- What question is asked on page 33? Have we seen this question before? If so, where?
- Why does Malala now believe in the magic of her words and the spreading of her message of HOPE.
- What do you think Malala means when she writes the following?  
*"I had at last found the magic I was looking for - in my WORDS and in my WORK."*

## Page 35-36

- What does Malala now wish for?
- Is this something that we too might wish for and work towards?
- The following message, a message that is filled with hope, is one that I have put on my home page and is one that should adorn each and every classroom. Why might this be? Discuss.

“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.”

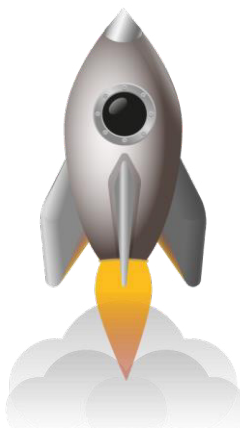
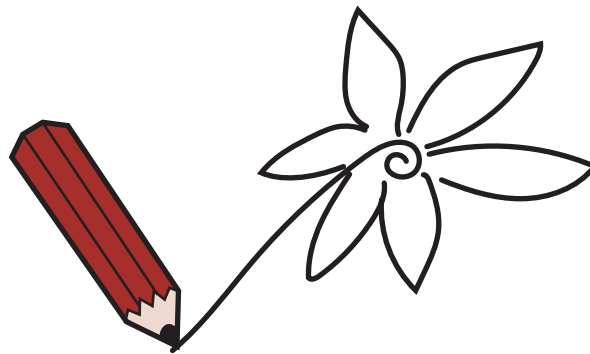
Malala Yousafzai

Should you wish to, you can listen to Malala's speech to the United Nations [an event that is depicted on these final two pages] on Youtube.

## Think about the book as a whole

How important is it that we view education as a human right?

Is such a right worth fighting for? Discuss.



The perfect companion to  
Reading Rocketeers: **Unit 4.20**

## **John Murray**

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John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

“You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

Paul Sweeney