

I Am Malala

Introduction, Prologue, and Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

by Malala Yousafzai

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: atrocities, chivalry, commiserated, compulsion, eloquent, embroiled, frenzy, reciprocate, subservient, treacherous

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Introduction, Prologue, and Part 1 (Chapters 1–8) · Malala’s early years in Swat Valley

Section 2 · Part 2 (Chapters 9–15) · The Taliban arrive in Swat

Section 3 · Part 3 (Chapters 16–20) · Coming home to a changed Swat

Section 4 · Part 4 (Chapters 21–22) · The frantic race to the hospital

Section 5 · Part 5 (Chapters 23–24) and Epilogue · Waking up far from home

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



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(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The history book described the **atrocities** of the long war in painful detail.

- A. daily hardships
- B. extremely cruel acts
- C. major battles

2. The old knight was admired for his **chivalry** toward everyone he met.

- A. honorable conduct
- B. open generosity
- C. perfect honesty

3. We **commiserated** with our neighbors after the storm wrecked their home.

- A. inspected the damage
- B. argued over the damage
- C. shared in their sorrow

4. He felt a strange **compulsion** to check the locked door again and again.

- A. an irresistible urge
- B. a sense of duty
- C. a nagging fear

5. She gave an **eloquent** toast at her sister's wedding.

- A. fluent and persuasive
- B. loud and forceful
- C. brief and to the point

6. The two families became **embroiled** in a bitter argument over the property line.

- A. openly hostile
- B. publicly embarrassed
- C. deeply entangled

7. The crowd worked itself into a **frenzy** when the band finally took the stage.

- A. wild excitement
- B. polite applause
- C. nervous panic

8. After all their help, we wanted to **reciprocate** in some meaningful way.

- A. remember their kindness
- B. return the favor
- C. express our gratitude

9. The manager expected his staff to be completely **subservient** to him.

- A. honest and dependable
- B. submissive and obedient
- C. loyal and hardworking

10. The hikers crossed the **treacherous** mountain path slowly, watching every step.

- A. steep and narrow
- B. long and winding
- C. full of hidden dangers

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

midday — the middle of the day; noon

shaheen — a falcon (Pashto/Urdu); used as a symbol of someone who rises high

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “When I was born, people in our village commiserated with my mother and nobody congratulated my father.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “commiserated” most nearly suggests that the villagers...

- A. shared in the mother’s sorrow
- B. rejoiced with the family
- C. scolded the mother harshly

2 “My father longed to be eloquent with a voice that boomed out with no stammer ...”

In the passage, Malala’s father is characterized as a man who...

- A. yearned to be a fluent speaker
- B. cared little for words
- C. had always spoken with ease

3 “He tried desperately not to think about the treacherous consonants lying ahead of him, just waiting to trip him up and stick in his throat”

The author most likely calls the consonants “treacherous” in order to...

- A. stress how they threatened his speech
- B. explain he disliked certain sounds
- C. show the words were hard to spell

4 “When I heard stories of the atrocities in Afghanistan I felt proud ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that the “atrocities” in Afghanistan were...

- A. ordinary hardships of daily life
- B. the Taliban’s cruelty toward women
- C. battles between opposing armies

5 “At first stealing gave me a thrill, but that did not last long. Soon it became a compulsion. I did not know how to stop.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Malala kept stealing because...

- A. she truly needed the items
- B. she still enjoyed the thrill
- C. she felt an urge she couldn’t control

6 “we believe a Pashtun will never forget a good deed and is bound to reciprocate at some point ...”

According to the passage, Pashtuns rarely say “thank you” because they...

- A. seldom receive help from others
- B. find spoken thanks embarrassing
- C. repay a good deed with another

7 “His family became embroiled in a dispute with their cousins over a small plot of forest.”

Which statement about Sher Zaman’s family is best supported by the passage?

- A. They quickly settled the dispute
- B. They were drawn into a deadly feud
- C. They stayed out of the quarrel

8 “Our people are used to being subservient because under the wali no criticism was tolerated.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. describe the region’s geography
- B. praise the wali’s fair rule
- C. explain why the people grew obedient

9 “They whip themselves into a bloody frenzy with metal chains or razor blades on strings until the streets run red.”

In context, the word “frenzy” emphasizes...

- A. how calm and orderly it was
- B. how wild and uncontrolled they became
- C. how briefly the ritual lasted

10 “For us a turban is a public symbol of chivalry and Pashtun-ness, and for a man to lose his turban is considered a great humiliation.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, for Pashtuns, the turban represents a man’s...

- A. honor and dignity
- B. religious authority
- C. wealth and rank

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	Character comprehension.
3	A	'Treacherous' is figurative here – the consonants personify the danger his stutter posed to fluent speech.
4	B	Event comprehension. The atrocities are the Taliban's oppression of women and girls' schools described nearby, not battlefield combat.
5	C	
6	C	
7	B	Event comprehension.
8	C	
9	B	The "frenzy" is Shia self-flagellation in mourning during Muharram, not a celebration.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Introduction, Prologue, and Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

An added Introduction catches up with Malala's life as a seventeen-year-old refugee in Birmingham and her education activism; the Prologue then recounts the morning she was shot on her school bus. Part One ('Before the Taliban') goes back to the beginning — her birth, her family, and her childhood in the Swat Valley, where her father builds a school and nurtures her love of learning. The Introduction and Prologue are folded in here ahead of Part One's eight chapters.