

I Am Malala

Part 2 (Chapters 9–15)

by Malala Yousafzai

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abdicating, barbaric, charisma, edict, exodus, feudal, flogged, obliterated, pseudonym, seduced

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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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. After years of war, the tired king considered **abdicating**.

- A. reclaiming lost land
- B. strengthening the army
- C. giving up power

2. The dictator's **barbaric** treatment of prisoners shocked the world.

- A. coldly neglectful
- B. savagely cruel
- C. stubbornly unfair

3. The young senator's **charisma** drew huge, cheering crowds.

- A. magnetic personal charm
- B. a sharp sense of humor
- C. vast political knowledge

4. The new king issued an **edict** on his very first day in power.

- A. a public apology
- B. an official order
- C. a written prediction

5. The factory's closing triggered a massive **exodus**.

- A. a wave of protests
- B. an economic collapse
- C. a mass departure

6. The novel is set in a **feudal** kingdom centuries ago.

- A. centered on temple priests
- B. based on sea trade
- C. ruled by landowning lords

7. In the old navy, sailors were **flogged** for disobeying orders.

- A. beaten with a whip
- B. locked below deck
- C. fined a month's pay

8. The flood **obliterated** every house in the village.

- A. completely destroyed
- B. left half-buried
- C. badly damaged

9. The author published her first novel under a **pseudonym**.

- A. a casual nickname
- B. a false name
- C. an inherited title

10. The crowd was **seduced** by the speaker's bold promises.

- A. won over by temptation
- B. carefully informed
- C. left confused

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

haram — forbidden under Islamic law

vultures — scavenging birds that feed on the dead; here, a metaphor for people looting their own ruined town

chaff — the worthless husks of grain; here, helpless people crushed between two forces

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “People thought that he was a good interpreter of the Holy Quran and admired his charisma.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “charisma” most nearly suggests that Fazlullah had...

- A. a harsh, commanding voice
- B. a magnetic personal charm
- C. deep scholarly knowledge

2 “One of his favorite subjects was the injustice of the feudal system of the khans.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, under the feudal system, the khans...

- A. shared their wealth with the poor
- B. were chosen by village vote
- C. controlled the land and its workers

3 “Every day it seemed a new edict came. Fazlullah closed beauty parlors and banned shaving, so there was no work for barbers.”

The examples of closed beauty parlors and banned shaving primarily function to...

- A. describe Swat’s prewar economy
- B. explain why barbers admired him
- C. show the orders Fazlullah imposed

4 “One of my father’s friends told him he had seen three men publicly flogged after the shura had found them guilty of involvement in the abduction of two women.”

Which statement about the shura’s justice is best supported by the passage?

- A. It punished the abducted women.
- B. It beat offenders in public.
- C. It released those found guilty.

5 “This time they obliterated the Buddha’s face, which had watched over the valley since the seventh century.”

The author notes the Buddha had stood since the seventh century in order to...

- A. stress how much history was wiped out
- B. explain how the statue was carved
- C. suggest the statue had been forgotten

6 “It was as though everyone were in a trance. My father said people had been seduced by Fazlullah.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the people of Swat...

- A. were forced at gunpoint to obey
- B. openly resisted his message
- C. had been won over by his appeal

7 “Hai Kakar told me it could be dangerous to use my real name and gave me the pseudonym Gul Makai, which means ‘cornflower’ and is the name of the heroine in a Pashtun folk story.”

According to the passage, Malala was given the name Gul Makai in order to...

- A. hide her true identity
- B. please her radio audience
- C. honor a folk-tale heroine

8 “We had suffered barbaric public courts and violent justice and had lived in a constant state of fear.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the public courts?

- A. amusement at their methods
- B. horror at their savage cruelty
- C. respect for their swift justice

9 “Our American allies were furious. ‘I think the Pakistan government is basically abdicating to the Taliban and the extremists,’ said Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state.”

Which choice best describes the American allies’ attitude toward Pakistan’s government?

- A. anger at its surrender to the Taliban
- B. pride in its firm resistance
- C. sympathy for its difficult position

10 “Few people knew where they were going, they just knew they had to leave. This was the biggest exodus in Pashtun history.”

The passage most strongly suggests that conditions in Swat had become...

- A. unbearable for the whole population
- B. dangerous only for the wealthy
- C. peaceful enough for most to stay

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	C	
4	B	
5	A	Theme comprehension.
6	C	Character comprehension. 'Seduced' is figurative here — people were won over, not romanced.
7	A	
8	B	
9	A	
10	A	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Part 2 (Chapters 9–15)

Part Two ('The Valley of Death') traces the rise of the Taliban in Swat — the radio sermons of Maulana Fazlullah, the ban on girls' schooling, public floggings, and the spread of fear. Malala and her father begin speaking out for girls' education despite the growing danger.