

I Am Malala

Part 5 (Chapters 23–24) and Epilogue

by Malala Yousafzai

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: besieged, bewilderment, concave, daunting, envoy, flitted, grimace, lamented, malign, solace

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. After the championship win, the players were **besieged** by reporters.

- A. warmly greeted and welcomed
- B. surrounded and overwhelmed
- C. closely watched and followed

2. She stared at the strange map in **bewilderment**.

- A. quiet amusement
- B. growing impatience
- C. confused uncertainty

3. The lens in the telescope was ground into a **concave** shape.

- A. curved inward
- B. perfectly round
- C. sharply angled

4. Climbing the steep mountain looked **daunting** to the new hikers.

- A. fascinating
- B. intimidating
- C. exhausting

5. The king sent an **envoy** across the border with a sealed letter.

- A. a trusted bodyguard
- B. an official messenger
- C. a hired translator

6. The butterfly **flitted** from flower to flower in the garden.

- A. buzzed loudly and angrily
- B. wandered slowly and idly
- C. moved lightly and quickly

7. When the dentist began drilling, a **grimace** crossed his face.

- A. a sudden blush
- B. a puzzled look
- C. a twisted expression

8. The whole town **lamented** the loss of its oldest tree.

- A. mourned deeply
- B. complained about
- C. puzzled over

9. Some people will **malign** anyone who becomes too successful.

- A. speak harmfully about
- B. secretly envy
- C. quietly avoid

10. After losing the match, she found **solace** in her closest friends.

- A. comfort and consolation
- B. advice and guidance
- C. energy and excitement

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

burqa — a full-body outer garment covering the face, worn by some Muslim women in public

purdah — the practice of screening women from public view, by veils or seclusion

madrassa — a Muslim school or college, especially for religious instruction

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	A
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 “I was on the way back to critical care after another CT scan, and flitted between consciousness and sleep until I woke properly.”

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

- A. slipped lightly in and out of awareness
- B. sank into a deep, unbroken sleep
- C. fought hard to stay fully awake

2 “Dr. Javid, who was there when I was brought around, says he will never forget the look of fear and bewilderment on my face.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as she came around, Malala felt...

- A. afraid and openly angry
- B. afraid but clearly aware
- C. afraid and deeply confused

3 “Sonia traveled to Peshawar immediately on hearing about my attack. She was a great solace to my mother.”

Which statement about Sonia’s visit is best supported by the passage?

- A. It eased the family’s money worries
- B. It comforted Malala’s distressed mother
- C. It brought the family urgent news

4 “Gordon Brown, the UN special envoy for education and former prime minister of Britain, had launched a petition under the slogan ‘I am Malala’ to demand no child be denied a school by 2015.”

According to the passage, Gordon Brown, the UN special envoy, supported Malala by...

- A. paying for her medical care
- B. reporting her story to the world
- C. lending official weight to her cause

5 “...my mouth tilted to one side as if it had been pulled down, so when I tried to smile it looked more like a grimace.”

In the excerpt, the comparison of her smile to a grimace mainly serves to...

- A. show she was in sharp physical pain
- B. show she was hiding her sadness
- C. convey how the attack disfigured her

6 “...they would be besieged by journalists, and they wanted to protect us at this critical stage in my recovery.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the family was housed away from the hospital because...

- A. they preferred living near students
- B. the press would have overwhelmed them
- C. the hospital had no spare rooms

7 “Now he lamented to my mother, ‘That beautiful symmetrical face, that bright shining face has gone; she has lost her smile and laughter.’”

Which choice best describes the father’s tone as he speaks of his daughter here?

- A. sorrowful over what she has lost
- B. proud of how she has changed
- C. hopeful she will soon recover

8 “He touched my head, which is our tradition, but my father was worried, as I had nothing but skin, no bone to protect my brain, and my head beneath the shawl was concave.”

In context, the word “concave” emphasizes that the area beneath her shawl was...

- A. swollen and rounded outward
- B. hollowed and curved inward
- C. flat and unusually smooth

9 “Standing up to address an audience inside the vast hall where so many world leaders have spoken before was daunting, but I knew what I wanted to say.”

Which choice best describes Malala’s attitude as she rises to speak at the UN?

- A. intimidated yet set on speaking
- B. reluctant and wishing to leave
- C. confident and entirely at ease

10 “He said the Taliban had attacked me not for my campaign for education but because I tried to ‘malign [their] efforts to establish the Islamic system.’”

The passage most strongly suggests that the Taliban commander blamed the attack on...

- A. her speaking against their movement
- B. her campaign for girls’ schooling
- C. her family’s political connections

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	
4	C	
5	C	Event comprehension. Her twisted look comes from facial paralysis, not pain felt in the moment.
6	B	
7	A	Character comprehension. The father had earlier boasted of her smile; here that pride gives way to grief.
8	B	
9	A	
10	A	The commander's stated reason runs counter to the widely held view that she was shot for her education campaign.

Teacher Context: Part 5 (Chapters 23–24) and Epilogue

Part Five ('A Second Life') recounts Malala waking in a Birmingham hospital far from home, her long recovery and surgeries, and the family's difficult adjustment to exile. The Epilogue, folded in here, reflects on their new life in England and Malala's resolve to continue her fight for education. Section runs to the end of the book.