

NONFICTION: "Malala the Powerful" • SKILL: Central Ideas and Supporting Details, page 1 of 2

Malala's Big Ideas

A **central idea** is a main point that the author is making. It can always be supported with details from the text. To decide whether an idea in a text is a central idea, ask yourself, "Does this idea come up again and again throughout the article?" If the answer is yes, it's probably a central idea! On the other hand, if the answer is no—if it's something the author mentions just briefly—it's probably not a central idea.

In this activity, you will identify central ideas and text evidence in "Malala the Powerful."

1. Identify text evidence.

Read the central idea below. Then place a check by the four pieces of text evidence that support it.

CENTRAL IDEA: Malala is a crusader for the right of all children to go to school.

TEXT EVIDENCE:

- 1. Malala was "... not only a 15-year-old girl; she was also a crusader for girls' right to go to school." (p. 6)
- 2. In 2009, Malala started blogging for the BBC. She wrote about "her fierce determination to get the education she needed, no matter what the Taliban did or how afraid she was." (p. 7)
- 3. Fewer than half the girls in rural Pakistan were able to receive any education. (p. 7)
- 4. Malala gave "powerful speeches to Pakistani kids" about the right to an education. (p. 8)
- 5. On a Pakistani talk show, Malala talked about the Taliban, saying, "Even if they come to kill me, I will tell them what they are trying to do is wrong, that education is our basic right." (p. 8)
- 6. Some 132 million children and teens around the world do not attend school. (p. 9)

2. Identify a central idea.

Read the text evidence below. Then decide which of the ideas listed below is the central idea this evidence supports. Place a check by it.

TEXT EVIDENCE:

1. People around the world read Malala's blog. (p. 7)
2. "Malala was helping to focus attention on what was happening in Swat. Outrage grew, and many in Pakistan and around the world criticized the Pakistani government for allowing the Taliban to become so powerful." (p. 7)
3. "It seemed that by trying to silence her, the Taliban had unwittingly helped thousands more find a voice of their own." (p. 9)

CENTRAL IDEA (place a check by one):

- Many girls in Pakistan do not have the opportunity for an education.
- The Taliban is an oppressive organization.
- Malala has had an impact on the world.
- Malala wrote a blog about her experiences in Pakistan.

3. Find text evidence.

Write two more pieces of text evidence for the central idea below. Use the text evidence we provided in sections 1 and 2 as a model for how to paraphrase (put into your own words) text evidence and how to quote it directly (copy it exactly as it appears in the article). Be sure to include page numbers.

CENTRAL IDEA: The Taliban is an oppressive organization.

TEXT EVIDENCE:

1. The Taliban killed people and left them on the streets as warnings to anyone who might disobey them. (p.6)

2. _____

3. _____

