

NONFICTION: "Malala the Powerful" • SKILL: Reading Comprehension, page 1 of 3

# Read, Think, Explain

## Identifying Nonfiction Elements

Use this activity sheet with "Malala the Powerful." See *Scope's* "Glossary of Nonfiction Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

### Before Reading: Text Features

1. Read the **headline**, or title, on pages 4-5. Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Study the image on pages 4-5. What words describe Malala's expression or the mood of the photograph?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the "As You Read" box on page 5 tell you to think about as you read?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Look at the map on page 6 as well as the photos and **captions** on pages 7 and 8. From them, you can infer that this article is about a person or events in what country? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Consider the infographic on page 8. Write a sentence summarizing what type of information it contains.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Read the quote under the photo on page 9. You can infer that Malala is passionate about what issue?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## During Reading

7. Consider this sentence from page 6: "Those who live in areas under Taliban control are forced to follow oppressive religious rules."

A. Check the box next to the definition of *oppressive*. (Check a dictionary if you're not sure.)

- cruel or harsh without just cause       ancient or old-fashioned       discouraging

B. Instead of *oppressive*, the author could have chosen another word with a similar meaning. Why do you think she chose *oppressive*? What does her choice suggest about her attitude toward the Taliban?

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8. Answer the following question after you read the section "A Powerful Weapon."

The **text structure** of the section "A Powerful Weapon" could be described as Problem and Solution. Two problems for which the section describes solutions are listed below. For each, write the solution.

**Problem:** Malala wanted to do something about the Taliban's taking her freedoms away.

**Solution:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Problem:** It was dangerous for Malala to speak out against the Taliban.

**Solution:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## After Reading

9. An **objective summary** of a text . . .

- . . . is short (3-5 sentences).
- . . . gives only the main points or ideas.
- . . . does *not* include the opinions of the person writing it.
- . . . answers the question "What is the article about?"

On the next page is a sample of an objective summary of "Malala the Powerful." It contains some information that it shouldn't—some of the writer's opinions and details that are not necessary to tell the main ideas. Read the paragraph, then cross out any information that should not be included. We've crossed out one piece of unnecessary information for you.

This heartbreaking yet inspiring article is about how, when the Taliban took over the Swat Valley area of Pakistan in 2007, a girl named Malala Yousafzai took the risk of speaking out against them. She was particularly upset by the Taliban's order to close all girls' schools. Maybe that was because her father owned a school, or maybe she just realized how important it is to get an education. Sometimes I complain about having to go to school, but this article made me realize how lucky I am. Malala began blogging for the BBC, drawing the world's attention to what was happening in Pakistan. In 2012, the Taliban attempted to murder Malala by shooting her in the head. Two gunmen shot Malala while she was on a bus. The article says that the hours after Malala's shooting were "a nightmare." Though seriously injured, Malala survived and is now living in England, where she continues to crusade for the right of all children to go to school. I think Malala is amazing. Most people would be too afraid of the Taliban to speak out.

10. Below is a **central idea** of "Malala the Powerful." Three of the pieces of supporting evidence listed support that idea, but one of them does not. Cross out the one that does not.

**Central idea:** Malala Yousafzai is a crusader for the right of all children everywhere to go to school.

**Evidence #1:** "Malala was helping to focus attention on what was happening." (p. 7)

**Evidence #2:** "And indeed, fear was her constant companion." (p. 7)

**Evidence #3:** "Malala's crusade empowered her and other girls." (p. 8)

**Evidence #4:** "Today, Malala has become a powerful symbol of the struggle so many kids face." (p. 8)

11. Look at the chart on page 8. Then read the claim below. Decide whether the claim is true or false. Then explain your answer by providing the **supporting evidence** that proves the claim true or false.

**Claim:** In South and West Asia, and in North Africa, more girls than boys do not attend school.

This claim is  true  false (check one).

**Supporting piece(s) of evidence:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_