

Malala's Magic Pencil



Author:
Malala Yousafzai

Illustrator:
Kerascoët

Awards

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards, Winner, 2018
Rise: A Feminist Book Project Top Ten, Commended, 2018
Junior Library Guild Selections, Nonfiction Selection, 2018
Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, 2018

Vocabulary

poverty, forbidden, chorus

Reviews

[Kirkus Reviews](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)

Summary

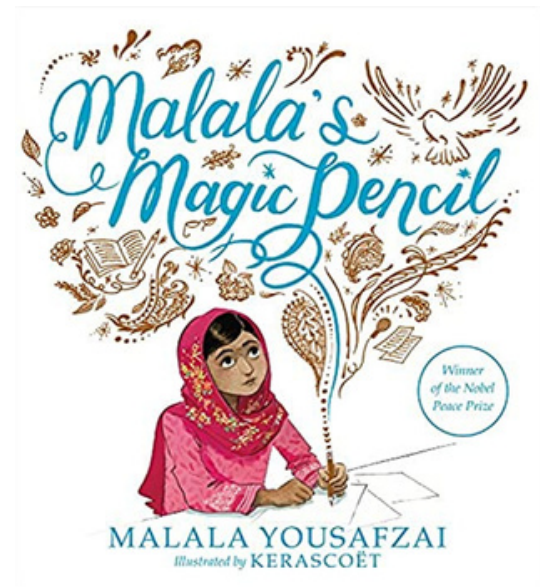
This poignant autobiography tells the story of Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace prize, who used writing to advocate for girls' right to attend school.

FAIR Standard

FR.3-5.16 I try to treat people equally by the same set of rules.

Discussion

1. When Malala saw the children working in the garbage dump, it made her worry, wonder why they were working there, and wish she could help them. Have you ever seen somebody or something that made you worry and wish to help?
2. After Malala saw the children working in the dump, she thought, *School was my favorite place. But I had never considered myself lucky to be able to go.* What do you feel lucky to do in your life? Why?
3. Malala wished for a magic pencil to make people happy in small ways, like giving her brothers a ball, and big ways, like erasing poverty. What do you notice about the illustrations coming out of her magic pencil? What would you do with a magic pencil to make someone happy in a small way? What would you do with a magic pencil to make others happy in a big way?



Discussion

4. How did Malala's wishes turn into actions as she got older? (Look for clues on pages 19-20.) What character traits did Malala have that helped her take action and make a change in the world?
5. Malala said, "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world." What do you think she means by this? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?

Activities

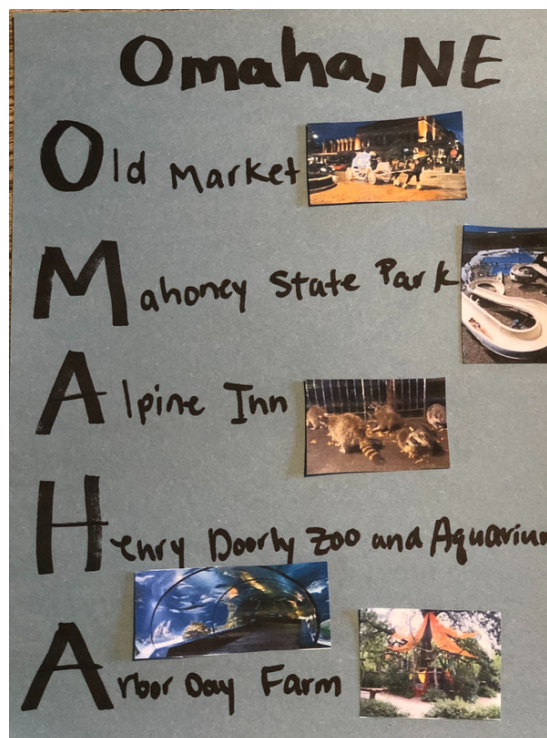
1. Look at the illustrations on pages 5-8. These are the things Malala wanted to draw for others. Pretend you have a magic pencil and use a shiny or bright color to draw all the things you would like to give to others. Write a sentence on the back for each item explaining who it's for and why you are giving it to them.
2. Malala saw the children working in the garbage dump and realized she was lucky to go to school. She felt grateful. What are you grateful for in your own community or where you live? Create an acrostic poem where each letter of the name of your city, community or neighborhood represents a thing or place you are grateful for.

Omaha, NE

Old Market
Mahoney State Park
Alpine Inn
Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium
Arbor Day Farm

San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Bay
Aquariums
Norman's ice cream
F line historic streetcar
Riding bikes across Golden Gate Bridge
Angel island
Noe Valley
City Lights Bookstore
In Chan Kaajal Park
Sea lions
Creativity Museum
Ocean Beach



3. Malala [shared her story](#) because she wanted girls to have the freedom to go to school. What is a freedom you wish everyone could have? There are many ways we can use our words to make a change in the world. Write a letter, song, or poem to help people understand more about the kind of freedom you would like to share.