

# Young Heroes

ANNE FRANK & MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Mom: (shaking Ella's shoulder) C'mon, Ella. It's time to get up.

Ella: (groaning) I hate Mondays. Can't I stay home from school today?

Mom: Nope. You're going to school. There are girls in the world right now who would love to be in your shoes, heading off to school.

Ella: I know... it's not that I want to quit school for good. I just want to take a day off.

Mom: If you need a day off, think of Malala Yousafzai. She was almost killed because she was speaking out for the rights of girls to attend school.

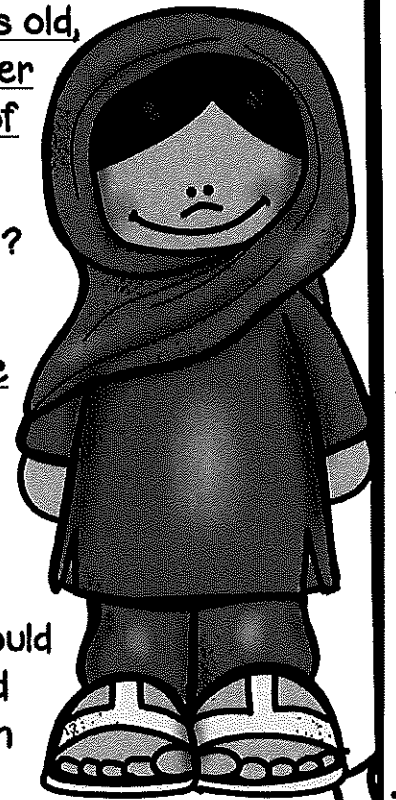
Ella: Who tried to kill her?

Mom: Well, Malala grew up in Pakistan, where a group called the Taliban tried to ban girls from attending school. When she was eleven years old, she began to speak out against the unfairness of it, which made the Taliban quite angry. When she was 15 years old, a gunman boarded her school bus, asked for her by name, and then shot her three times. One of the bullets hit her on the left side of her face.

Ella: Oh my goodness! That's horrible! She didn't die?

Mom: Miraculously, she survived. She continued to advocate for children's rights, and she became the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize. She even wrote a book called *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban.*

Ella: Wow... Malala was so brave! I don't know if I could have risked my life, just for the right to attend school. The next time I am tempted to complain about going to school, I'll try to think of Malala.



## Young Heroes (continued)

Mom: Good idea. Now you better get ready for school. I don't want you to be late.

Ella: One more thing, Mom. I was thinking... Malala's story kind of reminds me of the story of Anne Frank.

Mom: How so?

Ella: Well, she had to face hatred and unfair treatment, too. She lived in Amsterdam with her family during World War Two, when the Nazis tried to gather up all of the Jews, ship them to concentration camps, and kill them. She and her family managed to hide from the Nazis for two years, but she was eventually found.

Mom: That's right. Anne Frank's story doesn't have the happy ending that Malala's does, though, does it?

Ella: *(shaking her head sadly)* No. She didn't survive. She was killed by the Nazis at a concentration camp when she was 15 years old, just a few weeks before the war ended.

Mom: Her father was the only person in her family to survive, right?

Ella: Yes. When he returned to Amsterdam, he found Anne's diary, and was amazed by what she wrote. He arranged for parts of the diary to be published as a book. Our teacher read part of it to us at school. It's called *Diary of a Young Girl*. It is so sad, Mom.

Mom: I remember reading it when I was about your age. It can be heartbreaking to think about the hardships some people have had to face based only on their race.

Ella: I believe all people should be treated equally, regardless of whether they are a boy or a girl, or what their race or religion is.

Mom: I agree, Ella.

