

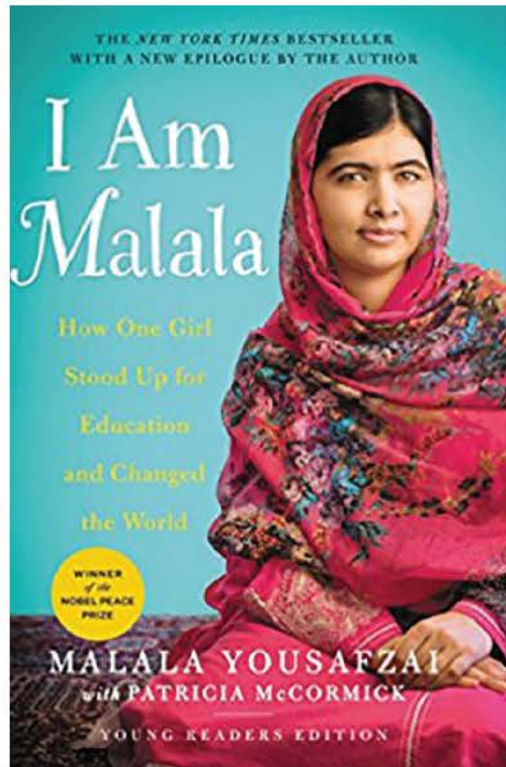
# Reading <sup>with</sup> Relevance<sup>®</sup>

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

***I Am Malala***

A memoir by Malala Yousafzai  
with Patricia McCormick



This workbook belongs to:

# About the Book

## *I Am Malala*

### Story Summary

**This memoir tells the story of Malala** — a brave, intelligent, 15-year-old girl who fights for girls' rights in her country, and nearly dies for her cause. We chose this book for its careful exploration of powerful social and emotional themes: gender oppression, access to education, violence, family, and bravery. This curriculum will inspire students to build connections between Malala's inspirational life story and their own.

Malala Yousafzai was born in 1997 in Mingora, which is a town in the Swat District of Pakistan. Her activism began in 2009 when she wrote about life under the Taliban for a BBC blog under a pseudonym. In 2011, she won the first National Youth Peace Prize in Pakistan for her activism for children's rights. Shortly after she received this honor, the Taliban labeled her a threat and decided to kill her. In 2012, Malala was attacked for going to school. This vicious act of violence launched her into international fame. After she recovered from her injuries, she continued to perform activist work. In 2014, Malala became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She donated all of her prize money (nearly \$500,000) to the creation of a secondary school in Pakistan. *I Am Malala* was originally published in 2013 for an adult audience. The young readers version was published a year later. Malala continues to fight for every child's right to attend school.

### About the Author





# Session 1

## Theme: *Making Connections*

**Guiding Question:** *In this book you will be meeting a young woman who lives very far away. Despite this fact, Malala describes herself as an ordinary girl with thoughts, desires, and opinions just like any other girl. What do you already know about Malala and her story? How do you think that reading about her life will help you connect with her and her story?*

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Write a complete sentence for each of the following vocabulary words. Use the definitions provided to make sure you are using these words correctly!



## Vocabulary

**reprimand** (pg. 15): v., scold

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**linger** (pg. 17): v., to stay awhile

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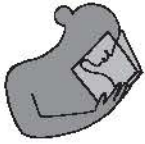
**devout** (pg. 18): adj., religious

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## Story Setup

*I Am Malala* is a memoir about Malala Yousafzai, a young woman who fights for the educational rights of girls and women. *I Am Malala* is her story, told from her perspective. Through the book, Malala describes how Pakistan changed when the Taliban rose to power and how that impacted her ability to receive an education. Malala is now a well-known activist and feminist.

# Read pages 1-20



## While You Read:

As you read, keep track of unfamiliar words, inspiring quotes, and questions you have.

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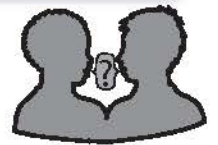
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**Reading Context:** Consider an image search to review photographs of this place of worship.  
mosque (pg. 3): a place where Muslims worship

## Discussion Questions



Write your response to each question below using a complete sentence.

- How would you describe Malala?

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- Why do you think Malala's father puts her name on the family tree?

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- How does Malala live her life differently than the other girls and women around her?

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Choose one of these prompts to respond to in at least one full paragraph of writing.

CONNECTIONS

In the opening chapter, Malala describes herself as "a girl like any other." She also shares a bit about her family and herself with her readers.

**What are some similarities that allow you to connect with Malala, a girl who lives so far away?**

- » How do your talents, hobbies, and interests intersect with hers?
- » In what ways are your lives really different?
- » Is there anything you have in common that surprises you?

SUPPORTIVE FATHER

Malala says that she is the apple of her father's eye — a rare thing for a Pakistani girl. He allows her to live free as a bird, and encourages her to follow her dreams.

**What makes Malala's relationship with her father so unique and special?**

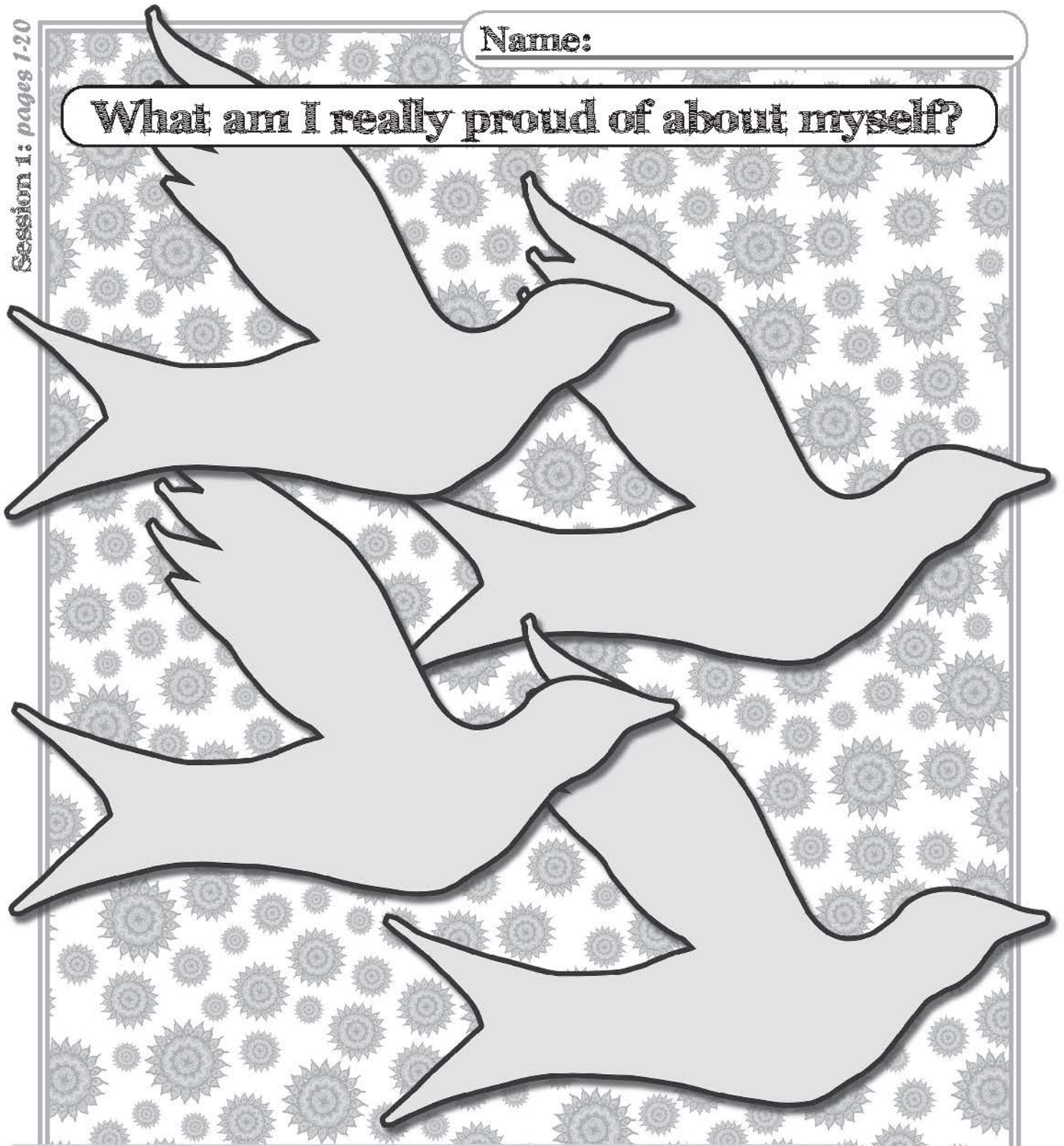
- » What have you learned about Malala's father so far?
- » How does Malala's father show his love for his daughter?
- » How does her father's support impact Malala's sense of self?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

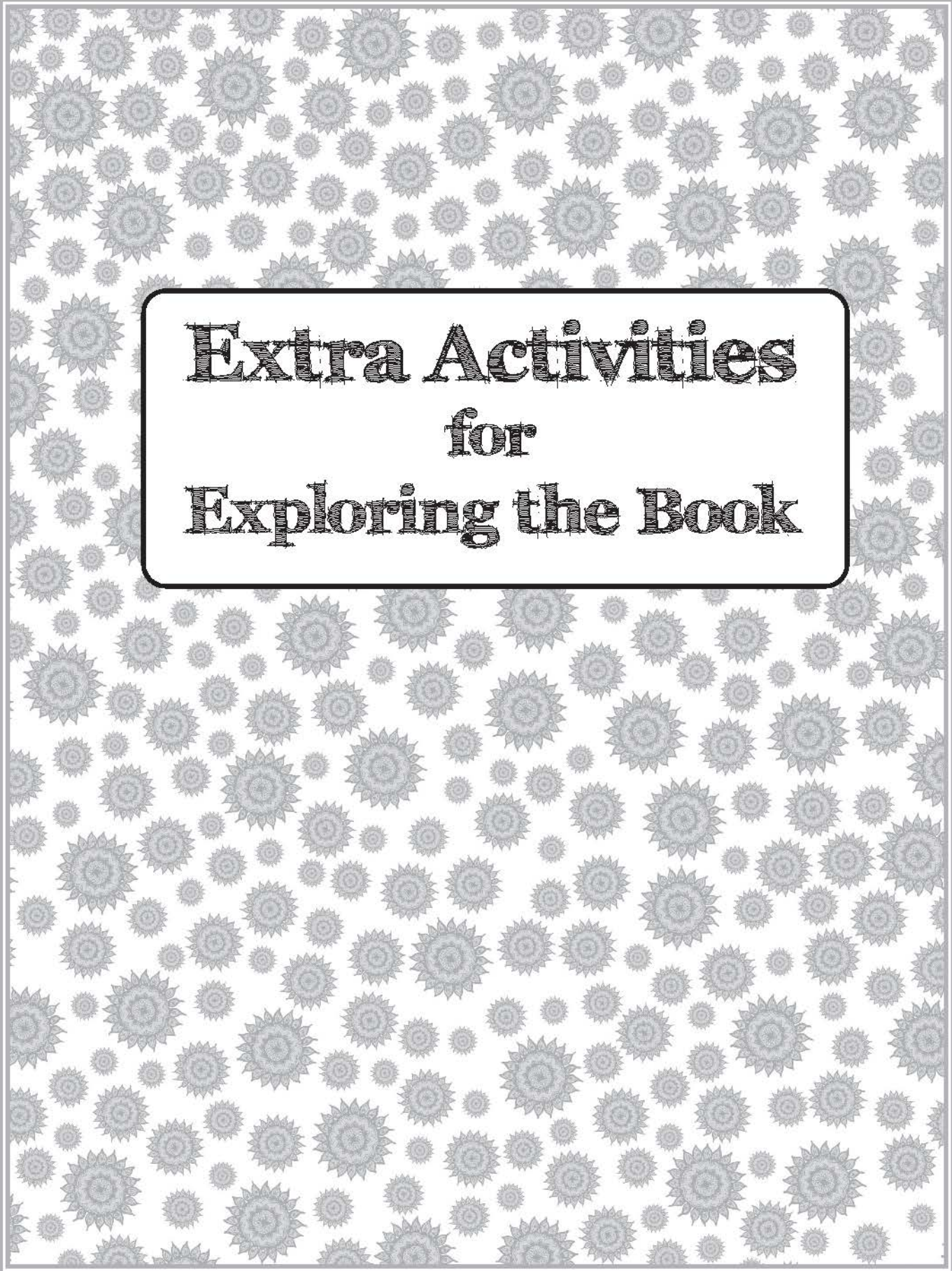
**What am I really proud of about myself?**



Malala's father brags about her to his friends. He says, "Malala will live free as a bird," and he claims she is "destined for the skies." It feels good to have others brag about us, but it is more important to be able to recognize the aspects of our character and our accomplishments that are worthy of attention and respect. In this activity, use this handout to write statements about accomplishments or qualities you are particularly proud of. Even if it's hard to brag about yourself, this is your moment! What makes you so amazing?

## **Bragging Rights**





**Extra Activities**  
**for**  
**Exploring the Book**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# USING MY VOICE

**My cause:**

**Why this cause is important to me:**

**One way I can make a difference:**

**I am going to let people know about my petition by:**

Malala uses the internet, television, and speaking engagements to express her opinion about girls' right to receive an education. You can also find ways to use your voice. Today, you'll craft a petition around a specific cause that is important to you (local or global). Make sure you come up with a specific idea about how to make change.

## Using My Voice