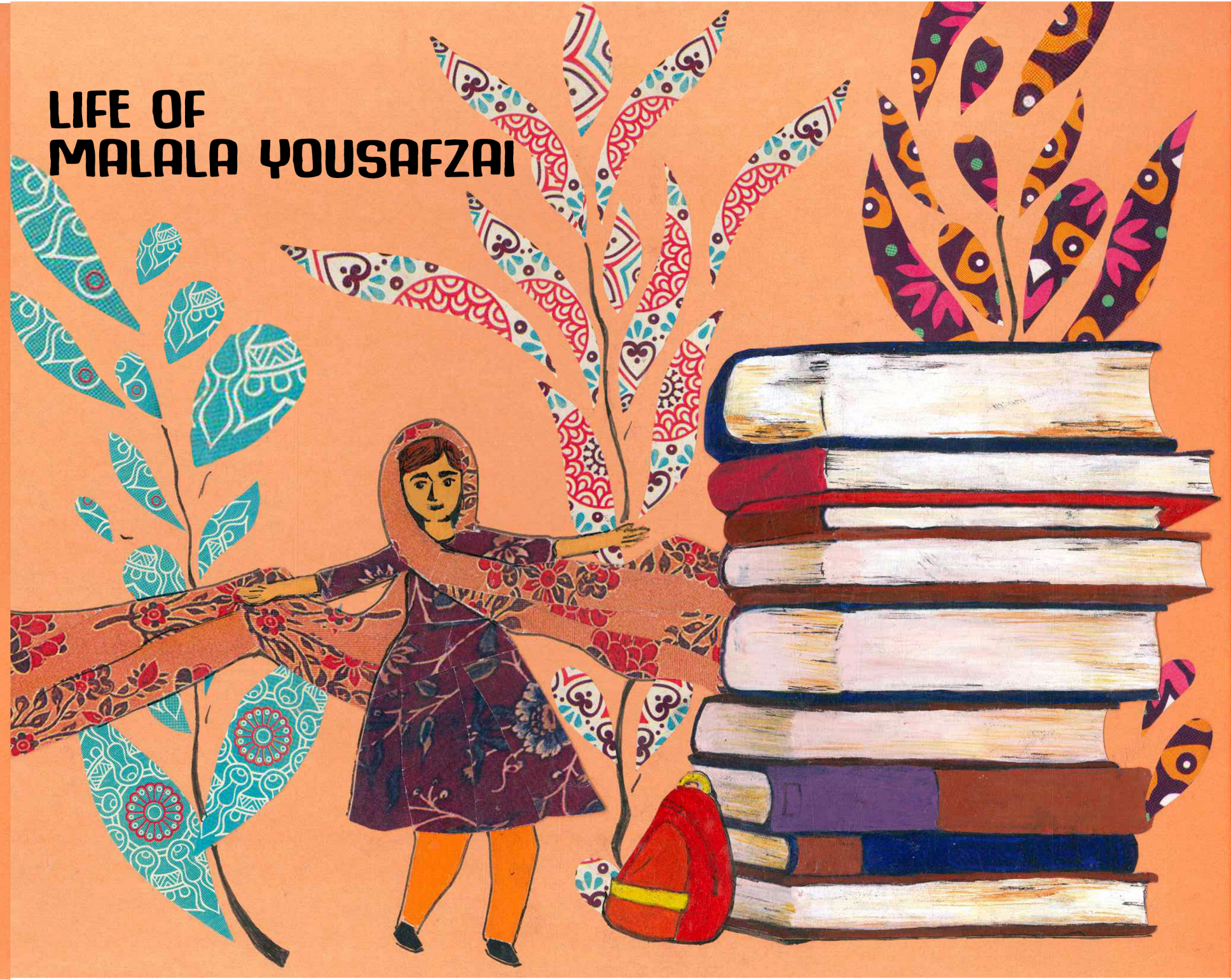




**LIFE OF
MALALA YOUSAFZAI**



This book is published as part of a project entitled 'Advancing Female Literacy and Empowerment in Pakistan and India through Life Writing'(2021). It was led by Professor Siobhan Lambert-Hurley (University of Sheffield, U.K.) in collaboration with Dr Ruhksana Zia and Dr Nukhbah Taj Langah (Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan), Professor Claire Chambers (University of York, U.K.), Dr Nafhesa Ali (University of Manchester, U.K.) and Shaheen Attique-ur-Rahman (the Bunqad Foundation, Lahore, Pakistan). It was crafted by students at Forman Christian College University under the guidance of Sobia Zaidi, Haidar Shahbaz and Mussarat Shahid with the support of Saima Fayyaz from the Bunqad Foundation. The project was funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund in the United Kingdom.

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Disclaimer: This story is based on a real life character. However, some of the incidents are fictionalized for making it interesting for young readers.

Malala Yousafzai was born in a middle-class family in Mingora, Swat. Her parents named her after Malalai of Maiwand, who was a brave Pashtun poet and warrior.



As a child, she played with her two brothers and studied with her father at night.



When she was ten years old, the Taliban, an extreme religious group, took control of the Swat valley. They banned girls' schools. They also threatened her and her father who ran a private school.

It was common to see Taliban dragging women along the streets for not wearing proper veils. Moreover, they spread fear among the common people by killing others publicly.



They sent blood and a bullet with a warning message to Malala. The Taliban didn't like her speaking for the education of girls.



Malala spent sleepless nights hearing the sounds of blasts and firing near her house. The Taliban were fighting against the Pakistan Army.



However, not discouraged by the threats, the brave girl continued with her mission in the defence of girls' education.



In 2008, dressed in a boy's uniform, she went to her father's school and gave speeches against the Taliban.



And she didn't stop there. Soon she started writing on the BBC website about her life under the oppression of the Taliban.

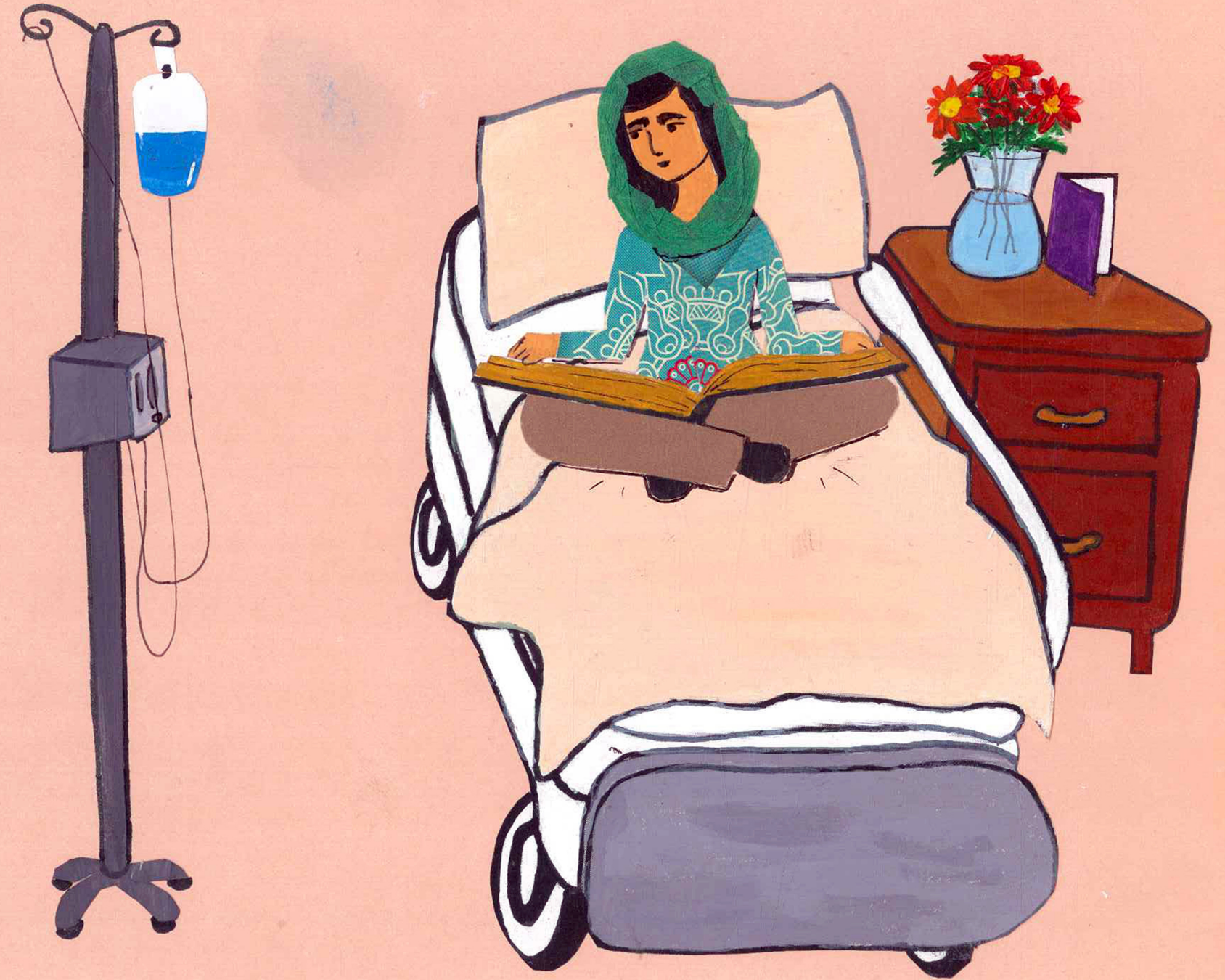




The Taliban disliked her words. One day while she was returning from her school in a van, a group of Taliban fighters shot her in the head.

Little did the Taliban know that instead of silencing the voice of a girl who loved school, they had unleashed the anger of millions of people from around the world.

Malala was very ill and no one knew if she would wake up and recover. Doctors took her for medical help in Peshawar. When that wasn't enough and the world was worried, the hard decision was made that she should fly to the UK without her parents. There she was treated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.



Malala survived and her parents moved to England to be with her. It was a slap in the face for the Taliban. It was the promise of hope for girl's education in Pakistan.



Malala won the Nobel Peace Prize when she was just seventeen. She has given speeches to world leaders and politicians. After finishing school she went to one of the best universities in the world. She dreams of using her education to help others.



She continues to fight so that girls across the world can go to school. Malala has inspired many young girls to do well at school. She hopes to see every Pakistani girl free and educated.



The page is framed by a decorative border. The top border features a dark background with colorful, abstract patterns resembling fireworks or stylized flowers in orange, red, and blue. The left and right borders are composed of vertical bands of intricate, colorful geometric and floral patterns in shades of purple, pink, and gold. The bottom border is a dark band with scattered floral motifs in white, pink, and blue. The central area is white and contains text.

Guidelines for Teachers and Students

Malala Yousafzai is the youngest Nobel Prize laureate for raising her voice for girls' education and was supported by her father. Her life reflects the representative struggle against the extremist forces in Pakistan that rejected female education. Our challenge was to avoid the graphic violence in illustrations and adopt a more playful and symbolic approach for the visuals. Which is why we used elements from surreal collage mixing real photographs with drawn and painted images.

Before reading the story, teachers/parents need to explain the facts on which this story is based. It is essential to correspond the story with Malala's real life events in order to inspire children to break all stereotypes and overcome all obstacles.