

follow Malala's example.

Meanwhile, the world waited, tense and furious. The United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education immediately started a petition, calling on the President of Pakistan to make a place in school for every girl. Soon 1 million people had signed. Cards flooded Malala's hospital room. In Pakistan, millions lifted up prayers for her. Candlelight vigils were held across the globe. Protesters marched, many of them kids carrying signs that read "I Am Malala." It seemed that by trying to silence her, the Taliban had unwittingly helped thousands more find a voice of their own.

### To Serve Humanity

It's been nearly a year since the shooting, and in many ways, Malala's life has changed dramatically. The bullet severely damaged her hearing and fractured her skull, causing her brain to swell dangerously. Fortunately, the physicians in Birmingham were able to control the swelling. Over the past months, she has undergone several operations to repair her skull and improve her hearing. In the meantime,

Malala's father has been given a job that enables the family to remain in the U.K., where, hopefully, they will be safe from the Taliban, who have vowed to come after Malala again.

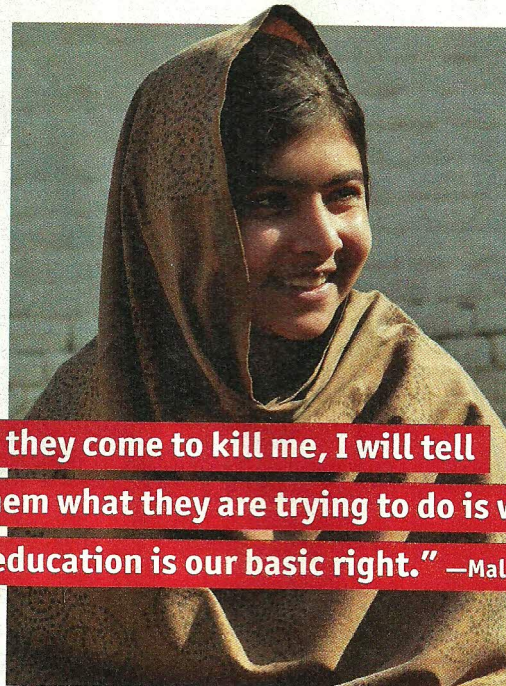
Today, Malala has become a powerful symbol of the struggle so many kids face. Some 132 million children and teens around the world do not attend school, often because they must work to help support their families or because they have no school to go to. Malala hopes to change that. She envisions a world in which all children, and especially girls, can get the education they need to become whatever they want—from doctors

and scientists to politicians and journalists.

In one of her first public statements after the shooting, Malala stated that she felt her role was to "serve humanity." This fall, she will publish a memoir. The Malala Fund, created in her name, is helping to send 40 girls in Pakistan to school. (For their protection, the girls' names and the name and location of the school have not been disclosed.) There is talk that Malala should run for President someday.

For now, though, she is getting the one thing she has always wanted. Last March, she started

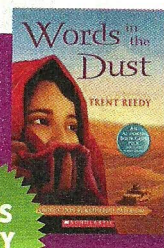
high school in Birmingham. On her first day, she addressed a news crew. There were signs that she had not yet fully recovered—her mouth drooped slightly when she spoke and there were scars on the side of her face. But her voice was clear, her eyes shining. She pointed to her jacket. "Today, I am wearing a uniform," she said proudly. "It is important, because it proves that I am a student. It is the happiest day for me because I am living my life, I am going to school, I am learning." ●



**"Even if they come to kill me, I will tell them what they are trying to do is wrong, that education is our basic right." —Malala Yousafzai**

### WRITING CONTEST

A crusade is a campaign to change something. What makes Malala a crusader? What impact has her crusade had? Write two paragraphs answering both questions. Support your claims with details from the text. Send your response to **MALALA CONTEST**. Authors of the best five essays will each have a \$100 donation made in their names to the Malala Fund. They will also receive *Words in the Dust* by Trent Reedy. See page 2 for details.



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