

Dear Malala Yousafzai,

Malala, the girl with the voice. Malala, the girl who stood up for girls' rights. Malala, the girl whose bravery caught the attention of the WHOLE wide world. And how did you make this possible? You didn't use violence. You used your words. What better role model for me, a ten-year-old quiet girl, growing up in today's world.

Every day I get to go to school Monday through Friday—180 days to be exact! And at the end of 180 days, I just can't wait for summer to begin. I know you had a lot of trouble fighting for your rights to even get to go to school, which made me look at school in a whole new light. Sometimes, if my teacher is teaching my class a lesson that I have no interest in, I will zone out a little and not care that much what my teacher has to say. But you, well you care about **everything** that your teacher says, because you didn't have the right to go to school in Pakistan. If I never went to school in my lifetime, I would probably be just like you! I would want to go to school and soak up knowledge just like you wanted, but not as badly as you wanted to go to school. You wanted the right to go to school so badly, that you fought for it—you even risked your life! You didn't fight with guns or anything violent that could physically hurt someone, you used your words, your brain, and your blog—the three most powerful weapons of all. Some people may say that you became famous because you fought the Taliban at such a young age, but I think something a little different than those people. I believe you became famous because of the things that you did. You stood up to the Taliban because you wanted the right to go to school. When they tried to make you stop, you used your army of powerful words and answered their commands with a simple, but firm no. Even when the Taliban

shot you, you never gave up hope in what you believed in. I admire what you did. Last year, I wanted to become a famous singer, so badly! But this year, I want to become famous for fighting in what I believe in like you did. Even if I don't become famous like you, I will still stand firm in my beliefs. Thank you Malala for being a hero and an inspiration for me and the WHOLE wide world.

Sincerely,

Heather