

Dear Future & Current CSG Middle School Students,

We cannot wait to have you in our English classes next school year. To make sure we have a strong start to our year together, you will complete a reading assignment over the summer break. This summer, you will read and take notes on Malala Yousafzai's memoir *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition, ISBN: 978-0316327916)*. This novel mostly takes place in the Swat Valley of Pakistan, a country in South Asia (corrected from a previous version of this letter stating the Middle East), but it is also set in Birmingham, England.

This summer, CSG students entering Form 6, Form 7, and Form 8 are all reading the same book! Your middle school English teachers are excited to use this novel as a springboard for building community and fostering meaningful conversations when we return to school in August. This novel covers important themes including women's rights, courage, religion, family, childhood and maturity, freedom, activism and change, and the power of education.

To get you excited to read the novel, please see below for a brief plot summary.

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school.

Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school.

No one expected her to survive.

Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did.

Malala's powerful story will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles and the possibility that one person -- one young person -- can inspire change in her community and beyond.

Please bring your novel, note taking chart, and book log to school on August 19th. We will use *I Am Malala* during our first project of the year, so it is important that you be well prepared to dive in. If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please do not hesitate to email us.

We hope you have a wonderful summer. Remember to rest, relax, and read. We look forward to seeing you all in the Middle School next year.

All the Best,

Ms. Garcia egarcia@columbuschoolforgirls.org

Mrs. Sweeney lsweeney@columbuschoolforgirls.org

Mrs. Page epage@columbuschoolforgirls.org

Dr. Hattaway mhattaway@columbuschoolforgirls.org

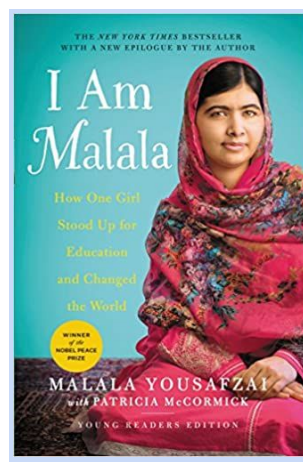
Summer Reading: Note Taking Chart

Directions: Use the table below to record your notes. As you read each part of the book, write down THREE big takeaways. If you want to type directly into this form, please make a copy of it.

- Your takeaways might be related to the characters, the setting, the plot, or the themes.
- Or, maybe your takeaways are a part of the text or quotation you felt was important, a question you have about this part, something that surprised you about this part, or a connection you made to something in the text.

Book Parts	My Notes: Three Big Takeaways
Part 1: Before the Taliban	1. 2. 3.
Part 2: A Shadow Over Our Valley	4. 5. 6.
Part 3: Finding My Voice	7. 8. 9.

<p>Part 4: Targeted</p>	<p>10.</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12.</p>
<p>Part 5: A New Life, Far From Home</p>	<p>13.</p> <p>14.</p> <p>15.</p>
<p>Epilogue: October 2015</p>	<p>16.</p> <p>17.</p> <p>18.</p>



Summer Reading: Book Log

Directions: Use the table below to keep a list of all the books you read over the summer. We can't wait to hear about all of the amazing books you read and discuss them with you.

Book Title	Book Author	Book Rating 5 Stars = LOVED IT 4 Stars = LIKED IT 3 Stars = It was OK 2 Stars = Not my favorite 1 Star = Didn't Enjoy it
<i>Example: I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)</i>	Example: Malala Yousafzai	Example: ★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★
		★★★★★

☀️ Summer Reading: Book Recommendation ☀️



Karina Yan Glaser, New York Times best-selling author of *The Vanderbeekers* book series, is scheduled to visit CSG in October 2020 and speak with our Lower School and Middle school students!

Her books are funny, sweet, and have wide appeal!

We encourage you to read one or more of her books this summer, if you haven't already, in anticipation of her visit to CSG this fall.