

HE NAMED ME MALALA

RELEASE DATE: October 2, 2015 (USA)

GENRE: Documentary

DIRECTOR: Davis Guggenheim

FEATURED: Malala Yousafzai

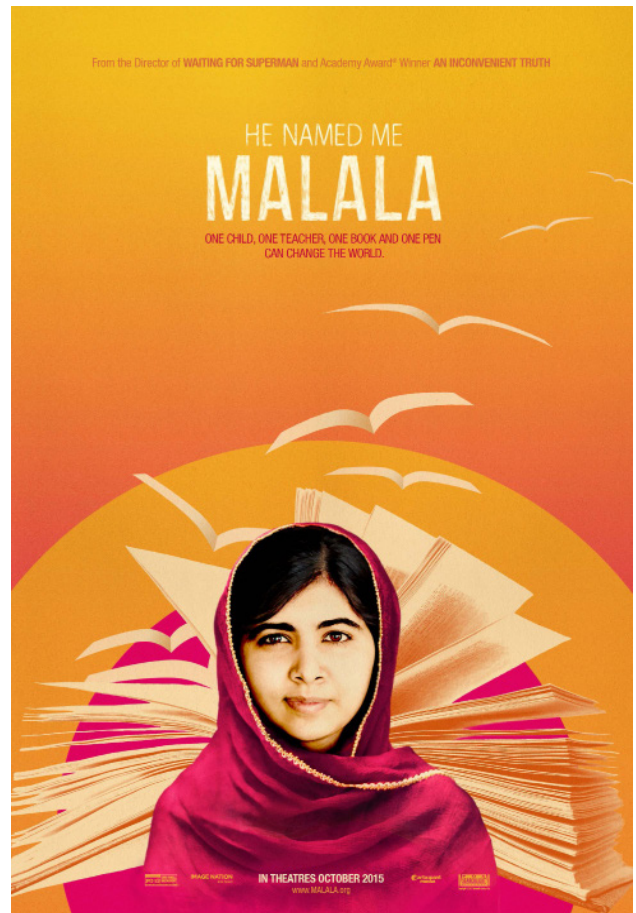
LENGTH: 1 hour and 28 minutes

RATING: PG-13 (For thematic elements involving disturbing images and threats)

SYNOPSIS

This documentary follows the life of Malala Yousafzai, a champion and activist of female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. The film opens with the animated story of Malalai, a teenage Afghan girl who was shot and killed in the Battle of Maiwand between the Pashtun people and the British. Malalai is Malala's namesake, given to her by her father, Ziauddin. In 2012, when she was 16, Malala was targeted and shot in the head by the Taliban while riding in a school bus with her female classmates because of her prize-winning blogs online that promoted female education. Despite all odds, Malala not only survived the damage to the left side of her head, but fully recovered and became a voice for girls around the world who want their basic human right to education.

This documentary emphasizes the influence of family, the importance of one's own story and culture, and the power of forgiveness that is turned into action. Malala travels to Nigeria, the Syria and Jordan border, and other countries around the world to show support to those working to ensure girls education. In her address to the United Nations on July 12, 2013, Malala says, "I am those 66 million girls who are deprived of education. I am not a lone voice. I am many." The film speaks to the heroism, dedication, and compassion of Malala in her work to ensure that every girl in the world is educated.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT THEMES IN THE FILM

- Right to Education
- Rights of Women
- Human Dignity
- Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- Solidarity
- Peace

OFFICIAL FILM WEBSITE

<http://bit.ly/1iAMErk>



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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. The Yousafzai family moved to Great Britain after Malala was attacked by the Taliban. How was their family welcomed by Britons and what steps did they take to help them adjust to this new society? To what extent does your home country welcome immigrants?
2. Malala's mother, Tor Pekai, is not educated. What has been her role in Malala's life and activism for girls' education?
3. How does religious extremism gain power and control over ordinary people? Besides the Taliban, what are other examples of religious extremism (past or present)?
4. To what extent does your own country value education? Are educational opportunities equal for both males and females? How can governments be made accountable to deliver on their obligation to ensure that education is upheld as a basic human right?
5. What is the importance of stories in our lives? Can you think of examples from your faith, family, culture, etc. that use stories to share a message or tradition? What role do stories play in Malala's life?
6. Think of examples in the film that mention the theme of light or fire. What is the power of light over darkness? Can you think of examples in your faith that speak to the importance of light? How is education a way to bring light into the world?
7. The film touched on the Chibok girls kidnapped by Boko Haram and the plight of the Syrian refugees. How do the political climates in both Nigeria and Syria relate to access to education for girls?
8. When Malala is asked whether she ever felt angry towards the Taliban, says, "Not even as small as an atom...Islam teaches us humanity, equality, forgiveness..." Are the virtues of forgiveness and reconciliation valued in your country? If not, what steps can you take to make these values the building blocks of your national community?
9. Malala's father, Ziauddin, says about his relationship with his daughter: "We became dependent on each other, like one soul in two different bodies." How does this comment relate to your faith? Can you think of examples of people who become dependent on each other and like "one soul in two different bodies?"
10. At the end of the film, Malala says her father "only gave me the name Malalai. He didn't make me Malalai." What does she mean by this statement?

More Resources on Malala Yousafzai:

- The Malala Fund: <https://www.malala.org/>
- Malala Yousafzai TED Talk: <http://bit.ly/1Ns1CM6>
- Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize Speech: <http://bit.ly/1zVhONf>
- Malala Yousafzai Interview on The Daily Show: <http://bit.ly/1dbNbdw>
- Washington Post article: <http://wapo.st/1S5TcdP>

