**Malala Yousafzai accepts Nobel peace prize with attack on arms spending**

The Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai has used her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech to launch a searing attack on “strong” governments that have the resources to begin wars but not to enable universal education.

During a powerful speech at the Nobel peace prize ceremony in Oslo, she said: “Why is it that countries which we call strong are so powerful in creating wars but are so weak in bringing peace? Why is it that giving guns is so easy, but giving books is so hard?” Raising her voice in the silent room, where she was given a rousing standing ovation at the beginning and end of her speech, she said: “We are living in the modern age and we believe that nothing is impossible. We have reached the moon 45 years ago and maybe we will soon land on Mars. Then, in this 21st century we must be able to give every child a quality education.” […]

She described her “paradise” home of the Swat valley before the Taliban gained control. “Education went from being a right to being a crime. Girls were stopped from going to school,” she said. “When my world suddenly changed, my priorities changed, too. I had two options: one was to remain silent and wait to be killed and the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one; I decided to speak up.” […]

Malala, now 17, became the youngest winner of the prize after the Nobel committee acknowledged her “heroic struggle” for girls’ right to an education. She was shot by a Taliban gunman in 2012 after drawing attention to her own plight and the plight of girls like her, to get an education. She was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham, where she was treated for life-threatening injuries.

Since her recovery, she has become a household name – speaking at the United Nations, meeting Barack Obama, being named one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people and publishing the memoir *I Am Malala* while continuing her education in Birmingham.

She was jointly awarded the prize with Kailash Satyarthi, the 60-year-old Indian child rights campaigner, who dedicated his prize to children in slavery. […]

Announcing the prize in October, the Nobel committee said: “Despite her youth, Malala Yousafzai has already fought for several years for the right of girls to education, and has shown by example that children and young people, too, can contribute to improving their own situations. This she has done under the most dangerous circumstances. Through her heroic struggle she has become a leading spokesperson for girls’ rights to education.”

Speaking before the ceremony, Malala revealed that she hoped to pursue a career in politics and become prime minister of Pakistan. “I want to serve my country and my dream is that my country becomes a developed country and I see every child get an education,” she told the BBC. “If I can serve my country best through politics and through becoming a prime minister, then I would definitely choose that.”

“Now this peace prize is very important for me and it has really given me more hope, more courage, and I feel stronger than before because I see many people are with me. There are more responsibilities but I have also put responsibilities on myself. I feel I am answerable to God and to myself and that I should help my community. It’s my duty.”

**Excerpted from an article from *The Guardian*, December 10th 2014**

**GENERAL COMPREHENSION**

***1/ Find information in the text to fill in the grid****.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nature of the document: |  |
| Full name of the person dealt with: |  |
| Nationality: |  |
| Age (today): |  |
| Reason why she is dealt with: |  |

**DETAILED COMPREHENSION**

***2/ Why did she receive such a reward?***

***3/ True or False? Justify by quoting the text.***

a/ She thanks many governments for their efforts against war.  
b/ The rewarding took place in Sweden.  
c/ She reproaches the governments not to finance education enough.  
d/ She keeps terrible memories from her original country.  
e/ She decided to become a strong activist.   
f/ She was shot by a Taliban, yet her life was never really in danger.  
g/ She has become extremely well-known by the public.***4/ What or who does the underlined segments refer to?***

“**We** will soon land on Mars.”  
“being named **one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people**”  
“… who dedicated **his** prize to children in slavery”  
“I definitely choose **that**”

***5/ Find in the text the equivalent for the following words.***

a discourse:  
a fight:  
an activist:  
transported by plane or helicopter:  
a dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation.