

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: December
Theme: International Human Rights

Book Title: Malala: A Brave Girl from Pakistan and Iqbal: A Brave Boy From Pakistan
by Jeanette Winter

Grade Level: 4th / 5th

Book Introduction:

This book shows how two children from Pakistan spoke out against the unjust treatment they were receiving. Both children stood up to those who wanted to deny them their basic human rights – Malala Yousafzai spoke out about being denied an education and Iqbal Masih spoke out about child labor. Both Malala and Iqbal were shot for speaking out; one died and the other lived and continues to speak out against injustice. Children will explore some basic human rights that children should have and real-world examples of people fighting for these rights. You may want to consider reading the author’s note to your child after reading this book.

Discussion Questions:

Before reading -

- What does it mean to be brave? What are some things people do when they are brave?
- What benefits do you get from having access to education? How would you feel if you were removed from education and forced to work? How would this affect your life today and in the future?

During and After Reading -

- What rights did Malala not have? What rights did Iqbal not have?
- How did both children show bravery?
- How did their actions impact the world?
- Many of the pages in this book feature an illustration of a kite - what does the kite symbolize in this book?
- Highlight the passages below and ask your child: what basic human rights should children (and adults) have? Encourage them to think about points in history, including the present, in which groups of people have not had access to these basic human rights. Ask students what they think can be done to ensure all people have access to basic human rights.
 - “I would like to do what Abraham Lincoln did. I would like to do it in Pakistan. I would like to free children in bondage.”
 - “I have the right to an education. I have the right to play. I have the right to sing. I have the right to talk. I have the right to go to market. I have the right to SPEAK UP.”