

Readers B: WS 2.03: *I am Malala* OUTCOME: Setting

**Learning Target:** I can identify images and details in the text and use them to make inferences about the setting.



**Look Fors:** I will be able to....

- I can identify images and details and make inferences based on them.
- I can analyze plot and character based on the exposition of the story.

### Do Now

Write about something you feel strongly about. Would you die for the cause/person? Why or why not?

I feel strongly about

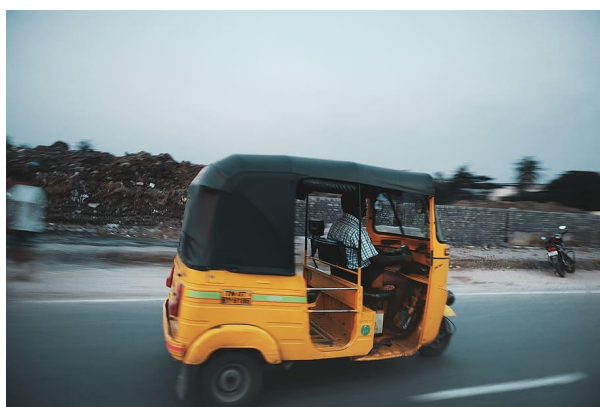
### Excerpt from "I am Malala": PART I

[Click to have the text read to you.](#)

*The following passage was written by Malala Yousafzai, a young girl who lived in the Swat Valley of Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan and is overrun by the Taliban.*

1	I spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn. And this
2	made me a target.
3	In October 2012, on my way home from school, a masked gunman
4	boarded my school bus and asked, "Who is Malala?" He shot me on the left side
5	of my head.
6	I woke up 10 days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England. The doctors
7	and nurses told me about the attack — and that people around the world were
8	praying for my recovery.
9	The day when everything changed was Tuesday, 9 October 2012. It
10	wasn't the best of days to start with as it was the middle of school exams, though

11	as a bookish girl I didn't mind them as much as some of my classmates.
12	That morning we arrived in the narrow mud lane off Haji Baba Road in our
13	usual procession of brightly painted rickshaws , sputtering diesel fumes, each
14	one crammed with five or six girls. <A rickshaw is a small, two-wheeled, cart-like
15	passenger vehicle with a fold-down top, pulled by one person.>
16	Since the time of the Taliban our school has had no sign and the
17	ornamented brass door in a white wall across from the woodcutter's yard gives
18	no hint of what lies beyond.



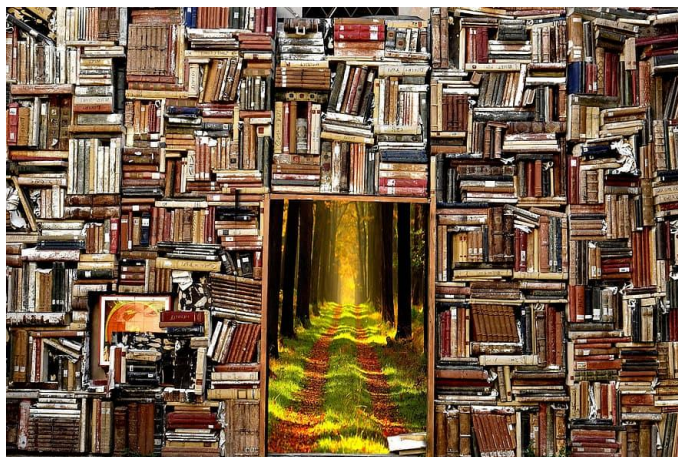
WHAT DETAILS AND IMAGERY DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE SETTING?	INFERENCES (What kind of a place is this?)
1. There's a bus	1. They don't care for girls to be educated
2. There's a school	2. The gunman was trying to kill Malala
3. There's a hospital	3. Malala was trying to help girls get education

Why is the school hidden without a sign? They are hiding from the Taliban.

17	For us girls that doorway was like a magical entrance to our own special
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18 world. As we skipped through, we cast off our head-scarves like winds puffing  
 19 away clouds to make way for the sun then ran helter-skelter up the steps. At the  
 20 top of the steps was an open courtyard with doors to all the classrooms. We  
 21 dumped our backpacks in our rooms then gathered for morning assembly under  
 22 the sky, our backs to the mountains as we stood to attention. One girl  
 23 commanded, '*Assaan bash!*' or 'Stand at ease!' and we clicked our heels and  
 24 responded, '*Allah.*' Then she said, '*Hoo she yar!*' or 'Attention!' and we clicked  
 25 our heels again. '*Allah.*'

26 The school was founded by my father before I was born, and on the wall  
 27 above us KHUSHAL SCHOOL was painted proudly in red and white letters. We  
 28 went to school six mornings a week and as a fifteen-year-old in Year 9 my  
 29 classes were spent chanting chemical equations or studying Urdu grammar;  
 30 writing stories in English with morals like 'Haste makes waste' or drawing  
 31 diagrams of blood circulation – most of my classmates wanted to be doctors. It's  
 32 hard to imagine that anyone would see that as a threat. Yet, outside the door to  
 33 the school lay not only the noise and craziness of Mingora, the main city of  
 34 Swat, but also those like the Taliban who think girls should not go to school.



WHAT DETAILS AND IMAGERY DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE SETTING?

1.

INFERENCES (What kind of a place is this?)

1.

2.	2.
3.	3.

Malala describes the “secret school” by saying “for us girls that doorway was like a magical entrance to our own special world.” What does this quote mean and what does it tell you about how the girls viewed the school?

35	The school was not far from my home and I used to walk, but since the
36	start of last year I had been going with other girls in a rickshaw and coming home
37	by bus. It was a journey of just five minutes along the stinky stream, past the
38	giant billboard for Dr Humayun’s Hair Transplant Institute where we joked that
39	one of our bald male teachers must have gone when he suddenly started to
40	sprout hair. I liked the bus because I didn’t get as sweaty as when I walked, and I
41	could chat with my friends and gossip with Usman Ali, the driver, who we called
42	<i>Bhai Jan</i> , or ‘Brother’. He made us all laugh with his crazy stories.
43	I had started taking the bus because my mother was scared of me walking
44	on my own. We had been getting threats all year. Some were in the newspapers,
45	some were notes or messages passed on by people. My mother was worried
46	about me, but the Taliban had never come for a girl and I was more concerned
47	they would target my father as he was always speaking out against them. His
48	close friend and fellow campaigner Zahid Khan had been shot in the face in
49	August on his way to prayers and I knew everyone was telling my father, ‘Take
50	care, you’ll be next.’
51	When our bus was called, we ran down the steps. The other girls all

52 covered their heads before emerging from the door and climbing up into the  
 53 back. The bus was actually what we call a *dyna*, a white Toyota TownAce truck  
 54 with three parallel benches, one along either side and one in the middle. It was  
 55 cramped with twenty girls and three teachers. I was sitting on the left between  
 56 Moniba and a girl from the year below called Shazia Ramzan, holding our exam  
 57 folders to our chests and our school bags under our feet.

58           After that it is all a bit hazy. I remember that inside the *dyna* it was hot and  
 59 sticky. The cooler days were late coming and only the faraway mountains of the  
 60 Hindu Kush had a frosting of snow. The back where we sat had no windows, just  
 61 thick plastic sheeting at the sides which flapped and was too yellowed and dusty  
 62 to see through. All we could see was a little stamp of open sky out of the back  
 63 and glimpses of the sun, at that time of day a yellow orb floating in the dust that  
 64 streamed over everything.

65           I remember that the bus turned right off the main road at the army  
 66 checkpoint as always and rounded the corner past the deserted cricket ground. I  
 67 don't remember any more.

WHAT DETAILS AND IMAGERY DO YOU  
 NOTICE ABOUT THE SETTING?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

INFERENCES (What kind of a place is this?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Q:** Based on what you have read so far, how would you describe the setting of *I Am Malala*? (See the word bank below.)

**Q:** Why do you think the Taliban didn't want girls to get an education?

**WORD BANK FOR SETTING (these words might help you describe the setting)**

Green= positive words Red=negative words

ancient/famous

beautiful/picturesque/charming

bustling /fast paced/crowded/ lively

cosmopolitan/urban

rural/quiet/ tranquil/ desolate/gloomy

expensive/fancy/ornate

polluted/filthy

creepy/ horrific