



**A HERO FOR GIRLS** Students in Pakistan hold up pictures of Malala. After the attack, people around the world gathered to show support for Malala and girls' education.

countryside had a chance to go to school.

Malala's father made the dangerous decision to keep his school open. So Malala and her classmates stopped wearing their school uniforms. They hid their books under their clothing. Staying alive meant that going to school had to be top secret.

Malala was scared—and angry. Was there anything she could do to fight back?

**PAUSE AND THINK:** Why did Malala feel lucky to be able to go to school?

## A Powerful Weapon

It turns out that Malala had a powerful weapon of her own: her voice. And she would risk everything to use it.

In 2009, she began writing for a British blog. Using a **pseudonym**, she shared what her life was like under the Taliban. She wrote about her

dream of becoming a doctor one day and her fears of the terrorists. "On my way from school to home I heard a man saying, 'I will kill you,'" she wrote.

The blog was an instant hit. Soon, people all over the world were reading it—and learning what was happening in Swat.

**PAUSE AND THINK:** What did people learn by reading Malala's writing?

## Malala's Crusade

In May 2009, the Pakistani army finally launched an attack against the Taliban in Swat. Along with millions of others, Malala and her family escaped to the south. The conflict lasted for three months. By August, it was finally safe to go home.

After that, Malala began an attack of her own. She came forward as the famous blogger. →