**7th Form National Poetry Recitation Contest**

**Title of Poem:** Speech to the United Nations Youth Takeover, July 2013

**Poet:** Malala Yousafzai

*7th form students should choose ONLY ONE of the following two excerpts for their recitation.*

**Excerpt 1**

So here I stand... one girl among many. I speak – not for myself, but for all girls and boys.

I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.

Those who have fought for their rights:

* Their right to live in peace.
* Their right to be treated with dignity.
* Their right to equality of opportunity.
* Their right to be educated.

**Excerpt 2**

Dear Friends, on the 9th of October 2012, the Taliban shot me on the left side of my forehead. They shot my friends too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came, thousands of voices. The terrorists thought that they would change our aims and stop our ambitions but nothing changed in my life except this: Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born.  I am the same Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. My dreams are the same.

**Link to audio recording of the poem:** Please listen to Malala’s whole speech. The excerpt you have chosen can be found within it. <https://youtu.be/3rNhZu3ttIU>

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**About the Speaker https://www.malala.org/malalas-story**

Malala is the youngest person ever to have won the Nobel Peace Prize. Born in Pakistan, she was shot in the head by the Taliban, a Sunni Muslim terrorist group, who were angry that she was writing a blog for the BBC. These excerpts are from a speech she gave to the UN Youth Takeover in 2013 after she recovered from her injuries. She is now a Peace and Human Rights campaigner. This was her first public speech. She is now 21 and studying at Oxford University in the UK.

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**Discussion Guide:**

Many people all over the world admire Malala. Why do you admire Malala?

Imagine you have to give your first public speech to a room packed with important people. What would you say?

What do you think is the most important line in Malala’s speech (from either excerpt)? Why?