

**READ  
LEARN  
INSPIRE**



# Malala's Magic Pencil

This resource was created to  
accompany the Green-Schools  
Ireland Global Goals Book Club.

[www.greenschoolsireland.org](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org)

**4** **QUALITY  
EDUCATION**



This resource is designed to inspire your classroom with engaging activities that support critical thinking and meaningful discussions centred around the Global Goal of 'Quality Education'.

**Age Group:** Junior Infants - 1<sup>st</sup> Class

## **Resource List:**

- Malala's Magic Pencil Discussion Questions
- My Magic Pencil
- My Learning Journey

## **Global Goals Book Club and Global Goal 4: Quality Education**

Malala's Magic Pencil is a powerful autobiographical picture book that tells the story of Malala Yousafzai's childhood in Pakistan and her dream of changing the world. When Malala was young, she wished for a magic pencil to fix problems like rubbish, hunger, and injustice. As she grew, she realised that her voice and education were more powerful than any magic pencil. This inspiring story shows how one girl's courage and belief in education helped her become a global advocate for every child's right to learn.

Global Goal 4 is about ensuring inclusive and quality education for all. Malala's story shows us that not all children have access to school, especially girls in some parts of the world. This book helps children understand that education is a right, not a privilege, and that learning can give everyone the power to change their world.

**We would love to see pictures of your bookworms artwork and creations from the activities in our Global Goals Book Club. Please email any photos to [globalcitizenship@eeu.an.taisce.org](mailto:globalcitizenship@eeu.an.taisce.org)**

## Malala's Magic Pencil

Read or listen to the book 'Malala's Magic Pencil' by Malala Yousafzai with your class. The questions below offer a guide for discussion with your class, along with some actions and activities to complete.



**Listen to the story here.**

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did Malala want her magic pencil to do? Why?
2. How did Malala's wishes change as she got older?
3. What does this tell us about how people grow and learn?
4. What would you draw or change if you had a magic pencil like Malala?
5. How is Malala's life the same or different from yours?
6. Why do you think going to school was so important to Malala?
7. What would life be like if you weren't allowed to go to school?
8. Why do you think some children in the world can't go to school?
9. What do you think is the most important thing you learn in school?
10. How do books, teachers, and friends help us learn?
11. Malala used her voice to help others. How can you use your voice for good?
12. What makes someone brave? Can you think of a time you were brave?
13. Do you think it's fair that some children can't go to school? Why or why not?
14. What would you say to someone who didn't believe all children deserve to learn?
15. Why is education important for our world?
16. How does education help people make their lives—and the world—better?
17. What can we do in our class/school to help children everywhere have a right to learn?
18. If you could send a message to a child who can't go to school, what would you say?

## Objective

To encourage children to think critically and empathetically about global and local challenges, express their hopes for the world, and reflect on how education empowers change, just like Malala. This activity highlights the importance of education for all, encouraging children to explore how knowledge and imagination can make the world a better, fairer place.

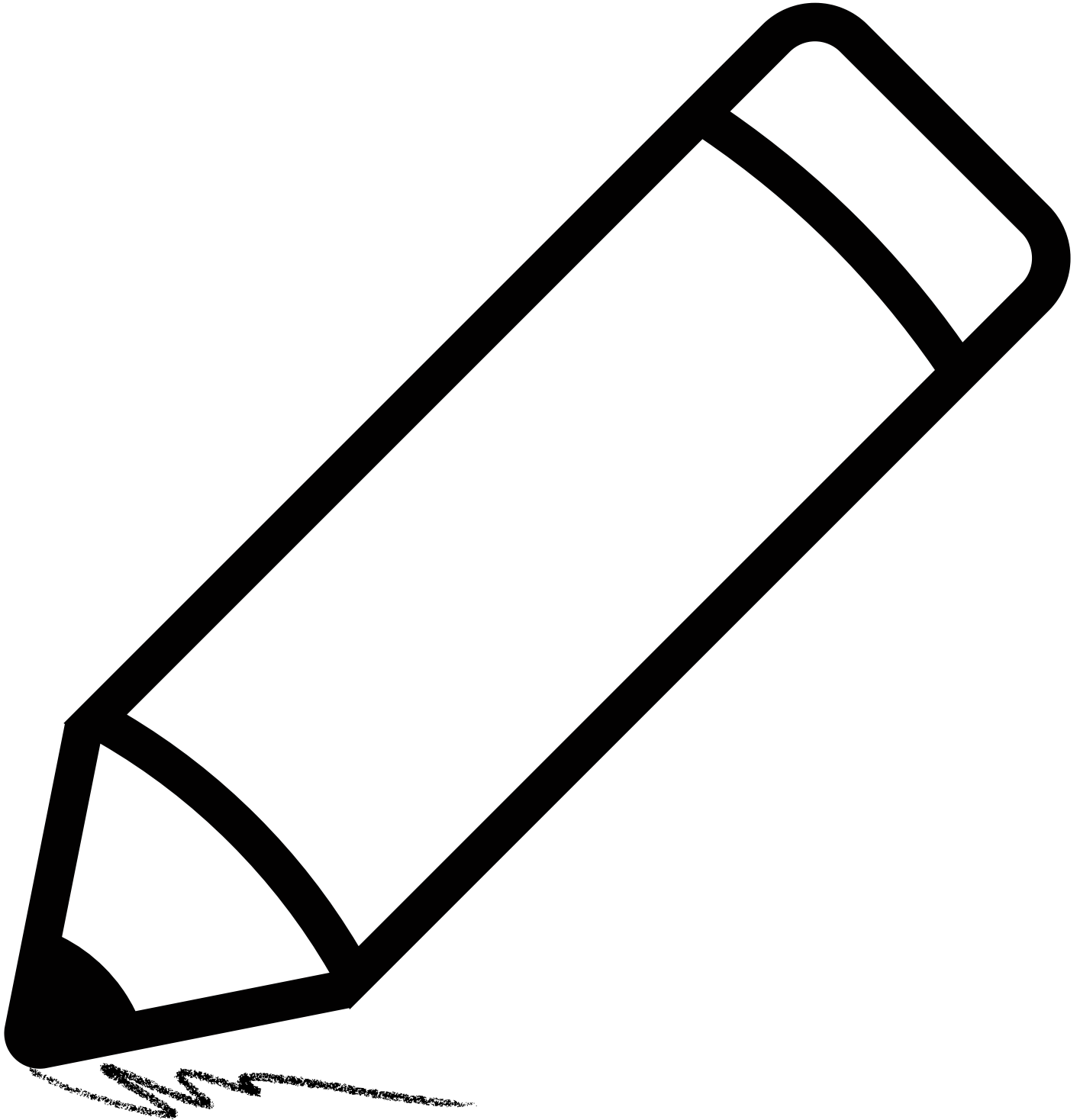
## Instructions

1. Read & Discuss the Book
2. Talk about how Malala wanted to use her magic pencil to fix problems. Ask:
  - "If you had a magic pencil, what would you draw to help the world?"
3. Brainstorm Together and help children come up with ideas based on real needs, such as:
  4. "I would draw books for every child."
  5. "I would erase pollution."
  6. "I would create homes for people without houses."
  7. "I would draw schools in every village."
8. Hand out Magic Pencil worksheet and invite students to design the Magic Pencil and decorate their own unique pencil
9. Draw or write what they would use it for inside or around it
10. Create a "Wall of Wishes" where all the magic pencils are displayed around a quote from Malala:

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

# My Magic Pencil

If I had a magic  
pencil, I would...



## Objective

To help children reflect on their personal learning journeys, recognise the value of education in their lives, and appreciate the opportunities they have to learn—while building empathy for those who face barriers to education, like Malala.

## Instructions

1. Introduce the Concept of the Learning Journey. Explain what a "journey" means, not just a trip, but how we grow and change over time.
2. Use Malala's story: from a young girl who loved school to a global advocate for education.
3. Brainstorm learning milestones together by asking:
  - What's something important you remember learning?
  - What was your first day of school like?
  - What have you gotten better at over time?
4. Hand out the Learning Journey Map
5. Invite some students to share their Learning Journeys.
6. Engage class in discussion:
  - What is something important you have learned so far in your life?
  - What do you want to learn next?
  - How does it feel when you learn something new?
  - Why was learning so important to Malala?
  - What do you think Malala would say about your learning journey?
  - Malala didn't always have the same opportunities to go to school. How is your learning journey similar or different to hers?
  - Do all children in the world get the same chance to learn? Why or why not?
  - Why is it important that all children, no matter where they live, can go to school?
  - How would the world be different if every child had a chance to go to school?
  - Can we use what we've learned to make the world a better place? How?
7. Combine student maps into a large classroom timeline showing everyone's learning journeys. This can reinforce the idea that everyone is on a different path, but learning unites us all.



# My Learning Journey

Draw or write your memories of your learning journey



My First Day at School

Learning to Read and Write

Making Friends

A proud moment at  
school or favourite  
subject

Something difficult I have learned