

## My Idol

*By Suzy Hopkins*

Someone who champions a cause is known to 'fight' for that cause. I think this would describe Malala who has been bringing attention to the lack of available education for girls in her birth country of Pakistan. The Taliban said it was against their beliefs to educate girls. They made their position clear by boarding her school bus and shooting her in the head. Unfortunately for them, she survived. But, she had to move to England since they have threatened to kill her if she comes home.

Since her first television interview, at the youthful age of 11, she has been bringing awareness to the lack of education for children, especially for girls. On July 12, 2013, her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, designated Malala Day, she gave an inspiring, passionate, well written speech to the United Nations urging all countries to allow girls to go to school. She said, "The Taliban shot me on the left side of my forehead. They thought that would silence me. Strength, power and courage was born."

After she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, when she was 17, she started her own non-profit to raise money to build schools.

She has inspired people from all countries to rethink their position on not educating *all* children, *including* girls, because of these words from her U.N. speech: "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."