

Chapter 1

Why I don't wear earrings

-Malala Yousafzai

Summary – This is a story of a seven year old girl, Malala, who was enjoying being a topper of her class, helping fellow students in studies and testing her capability in other fields. Her main competitor was her best friend Moniba who had beautiful hand writing. But then a girl named Malka-e-Noor, joined her class and became topper of the class. Malala got very upset as she never thought her to be competitor and even cried.

Later Malala's family moved to a new locality, where she got acquainted with Safina who was younger to her. Safina had many kinds of toys, dolls and even a shoebox of jewelry, but on the other hand Malala had a few toys and a pink plastic phone, which she liked the most as she could imitate her father talking on phone by pretending to make calls on the plastic phone. Safina was also very fond of the plastic phone. One day Malala could not find her pink plastic phone and thought to be lost.

After few days Safina was playing with a similar looking phone which Malala had. Malala questioned Safina about the phone and she told that she bought it from the bazaar, to which Malala didn't believe. So, to teach her a lesson Malala also stole few things and jewelry from Safina's house.

One day after she returned from school, found out being caught and her cousin Reena informed her that her parents knew about this and were waiting for her to realize and confess her faults. She felt ashamed and guilty of her deeds. She even tried to blame Safina for it, but her mother was disappointed that she didn't teach Safina the right thing and made her apologize to Safina and her parents.

Malala requested her mother not to tell her father as he would be very upset with her because this is the second time she misbehaved and brought shame to her parents. Malala remembered few years back, when she grabbed handful of almonds from a vender's cart and he got very furious. Her mother even tried to bargain with the vender as she had little money but he was determined. When her mother told the incident to her father he bought all the almonds from the vender and placed in a glass dish. This made her promise that she would never repeat it. She always wanted her father to be proud of her and not ashamed.

This time when her father found out he rather consoled her saying that even great heroes had made many such mistakes when they were children. So she should learn from her mistakes and not be sad. He even quoted Mahatma Gandhi's words "Freedom is not worth having it does not

include the freedom to make mistakes”.

Malala took lesson from her mistake and stopped stealing and telling lies. She even stopped wearing jewelry.

Word Meaning

Pocket - To take something for yourself in an unfairly manner.

Aroma - Pleasent smell.

Pounding – The sound of something beating repeatedly.

Blame – Declare that someone or something is responsible for a fault or wrong.

Terrible – Extremely bad or serious.

Comprehension

(Copy the answers in your note book)

1. In any story, we can identify why something happened(cause) and what happened due to the causea(effect). Complete the following graphic organizer based on details from the lesson. One has been done for you.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Effect</u>
A few days. . . get that.	Malala enquired Sofia to know how did she
Phone. market she	But when she told she bought it from the
same with	didn't believe and thought of doing the
	her.
When Malala's mother informed her father immediately.....glass dish.	Malala's father
about the incident that took place in the market and how she could not buy almonds.	
Since.....over.	Malala stopped telling lies and stealing.

the whole

She even stopped wearing jewelry after

incident.

2. Why did Malala like to play with the plastic mobile phone ?

Ans. Malala like to play with her plastic phone because she loved to imitate the habit of her father talking on his phone, which she did while playing with the pink plastic phone.

3. Why is Malala's mother 'unmoved' by her explanation for stealing from Safina ?

Ans. Malala's mother was unmoved by her explanation for stealing from Safina because what she did was wrong and being elder to Safina, she should have taught her the right thing instead of stealing her things.

4. Soon it become a compulsion. I did not know how to stop.

a. Who is 'I' in these lines ?

Ans. 'I' in the above mentioned line is Malala Yousafzai.

b. What become a 'compulsion' for the speaker ? Why ?

Ans. Stealing Safina's toys and jewelry from her house became a compulsion for her.

Malala stole safina's things to teach her a lesson whom she stole the plastic phone of Malala and did not admit it.

5. They knew you. with my head bowed.

a. Who is 'she' in the first paragraph ? Who is 'I' in the second paragraph ?

Ans. She is Reena, a cousin of Malala referred in the first paragraph .

'I' is Malala Yousafzai in the second paragraph.

b. What does it mean to have a sinking feeling ?

Ans. To have a sinking feeling means to have feeling that something bad is going to happen.

c. What does the phrase 'to come clean' mean ?

Ans. The phrase 'to come clean' means to tell the truth about something that you have been keeping secret.

HOMWORK

(To be done in the copy)

Long Questions:

1. What is the importance of Malala's father in her life ? Point to the parts of the lesson which make you say that.
2. Explain the incident that took place in the bazaar.

Short Questions:

1. Name the book from which the story is taken ?
2. What is the meaning of the name Malka-e-Noor ? What did she want to become ?
3. Who was Malala's best friend ?
4. Name the two spices mentioned in the story ?