

## REAL STORIES CHILD LABOUR

Name *Gudiya*  
Country *India*

Age *9*

**Gudiya is 9 years old. She used to love school. She was a very good student who worked hard and wanted to be a doctor when she grew up.**

However, when Gudiya's father died she had no other option but to drop out of school and earn money to help her family put food on the table.

She now works as a servant, cleaning dishes and doing chores in a rich man's house so she can help provide for her family who are so poor that they have no choice.

This homework note came from her notebook 2 days after she was forced to leave school:

### *Today's Home Work*

- 1. Beg and collect 20 rupees from Mehrauli-Badarpur crossing*
- 2. Clean and wash the dishes at Mrs. Sharma's house*
- 3. Knead the dough for the evening meal*

# REAL STORIES CHILD MARRIAGE

Name *Myness*

Age *15*

Country *Malawi*

**Myness lived with her grandmother in such extreme poverty that they couldn't even afford to buy soap to wash. When Myness was 13, her friend convinced her to marry a man much older than her who could afford to take care of her.**

Myness believed this was the only option, swapping her school life so not to burden her grandmother with taking care of them both when they had such little money.

But after she married, life became even worse as her husband spent all the money he had on himself, and left her without food.

Luckily her Grandmother sought help and Myness is now back at school learning to build herself a better future now free from her husband.



## REAL STORIES DISCRIMINATION

Name *Malala*

Age *17*

Country *Pakistan*

**In 2009 a Pakistani school girl called Malala Yousafzai wrote a diary for the BBC after she was forced out of school by the Taliban.**

The Taliban are a group of people with extreme views and believe that women should not be educated after the age of eight. Malala was 11 years old when the Taliban took over her home town of Mingora, in Pakistan, and she and her friends were forced to leave school.

She decided to share her feelings and the injustice she felt in a diary.

**From her diary – I am afraid – 3 January 2009**

**I had a terrible dream yesterday with military helicopters and the Taliban. I have had such dreams since the launch of the military operation in Swat. I was afraid going to school because the Taliban had issued an edict banning all girls from attending schools. Only 11 students attended the class out of 27. The number decreased because of Taliban's edict."**

Malala found a way to go to school against the Taliban's wishes, but they found out and when she was just 15 Taliban boarded her school bus and shot her in the head. She was badly injured but she survived.

Malala is now in school protected from any harm. Outside of school she is an activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner.



## REAL STORIES CONFLICT

Name *Mohammed* Age *15*

Country *Iraq*

**When Mohammed was 15 years old, he and his four brothers, and two sisters were caught in the middle of a horrible conflict in their hometown.**

Bombs and rockets went off without warning, shattering their town. Their father was injured when an explosion went off right next to their own home, smashing windows and the family car.

Mohammed's school was closed despite important exams coming up. The family were trapped at home for weeks, unable to leave and see their friends.

When the violence calmed down, schools reopened but Mohammed's school was very affected. The windows were shattered, desks and chairs destroyed, broken toilets and nervous, distressed students. Even when peace was declared, parents were too scared to send their children back to school for fear of them being unsafe.

Mohammed explains his dreams for the future:

**"I want to learn how to become a mechanical engineer and need teachers to do their best to help me. I dream that when the war ends, we will be able to go to school and play freely like other children."**



After reading the four case studies think of how difficult it is to learn and do your work when you don't have the simplest tools.

You will complete this task in pairs sharing one pencil between two pupils

How does this affect how you learn?

	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
Who?				
Where?				
What has happened to prevent them attending school?				
Why has this happened?				
So What? What impact will this have on their lives?				
How can the international community change this ?				