

TED TALK LESSONS



EFL IDEAS

Dare to Educate Afghan Girls | Shabana Basij-Rasikh

Teacher Notes

WARM-UP

Discuss the questions

1. Do you think education should be free? Why? Use arguments to justify your opinion.
2. What was your parents position on your education? How do you think it has influenced your life? What is your position on your education?
3. Can you imagine being denied higher education based on your gender or religion? How would it influence your life?

Write three reasons why education is important.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

VOCABULARY

1 Read the sentences and try to work out the meaning of the underlined words/phrases.

1. I dressed as a boy to escort my older sister, who was no longer allowed to be outside alone, to a secret school.
2. A total maverick from a remote province of Afghanistan, he insisted that...
3. ...had my family not been so committed to my education...
4. ...the one exiled from his home for daring to educate his daughters,
5. And I see their parents and their fathers who, like my own, advocate for them despite and even in the face of daunting opposition.
6. ...this is something that is often dismissed in the West...
7. ...they're often the initial and convincing negotiators of a bright future for their daughters...
8. I fear that these changes will not last much beyond the U.S. troops' withdrawal.

2 Match the words/phrases (a-p) to their explanations(1-16).

a)escort(v.)	1)demand something forcefully, not accepting refusal.	5
b)allow	2)without being influenced or prevented by	7
c)maverick	3)a person who helps other people to come to agreement	14
d)remote	4)difficult to deal with	12
e)insist	5)accompany (someone or something) somewhere	1
f)commit	6)the process or action of a military force moving out of an area	13
g)exile(v.)	7)let (someone) have or do something	11
h)dare	8)of or at the beginning	15
i)advocate(v.)	9)able to make you believe that something is true or right	16
j)despite	10)to think or say that something is not important	2
k)daunting	11)to send someone away from their own country, village, etc	4
l)dismiss	12)far away, distant	10
m)initial	13)to promise or give your loyalty, time, or money to something	8
n)convincing	14)an unorthodox or independent-minded person	9
o)negotiator	15)have the courage to do something	3
p)withdrawal	16)publicly recommend or support	6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Watch the video and answer the questions.

1. Why do you think the Taliban made it illegal for girls to go to school?
2. Why was Shabana's grandfather special?(he insisted that his daughter, Shabana's mother went to school)
3. What would have happened if the Taliban had found out that Shabana and her sister were going to school?(they could have died/executed)
4. How many women in Shabana's age have made it past high school?(6%)
5. What were Shabana's parents prepared to do in order to pay for her school fees?(sell their blood)
6. How many girls went to school under the Taliban, and how many are in school now?(a couple of hundred; 3 million)
7. What is SOLA?(The School of Leadership, Afghanistan. It's a private boarding school for girls.)

Discuss the questions

1. What would you change about your school if you could?
2. Some people say that schools are useless for life. Do you agree?
3. What do you think are the most important life skills?
4. Do you need education if you want to be successful?
5. What are the most useful things that you learned at school?
6. What are the most useless things that you learned at school?
7. Besides school, where and how can you learn something new?
8. What talent or skill would you like to improve?