

## Chapter 2 The Sound of Music

### THINK ABOUT THE TEXT

#### PART - II (Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound without Hearing It)

Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?  
A. Evelyn was 16 when she went for the audition of the Royal Academy of Music.
2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?  
A. Evelyn's deafness was first noticed when she was eight years old. When she turned 11, her deafness was confirmed.

Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30–40 words)

1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?  
A. It was a percussionist named Ron Forbes who spotted her potential in music. Everybody else discouraged her from pursuing music as they thought it impossible for a deaf person to learn music. Ron Forbes advised her to feel the music instead of listening to it. He asked her to feel it through her whole body.
2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.  
A. Evelyn performs at music concerts. Apart from that she also performs at prison and hospitals. Through music she wants to spread the message of love and peace to prisoners and sick people.

Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (60 - 80 words).

1. How does Evelyn hear music?  
A. Evelyn hears music through her whole body. In fact she just feels the music. She tries to feel the vibrations which create sound. While playing drums, she uses her upper and lower body to feel vibrations from different types of drums. While playing xylophone, she feels the music pulsating through her fingers. When she has to perform on wooden floors, she removes her shoes. This enables her to feel the vibrations through her bare feet. She even feels the music through her hair.

#### PART - II (The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan)

- I. Tick the right answer.
  1. The (shehnai, **pungi** (✓)) was a 'reeded noisemaker.' (**pungi**)
  2. (Bismillah Khan, A **barber**, (✓) Ali Bux transformed the pungi into a shehnai. (**Ali Bux**)
  3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, **professional musicians** (✓)). (**professional musicians**)
  4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (**Ali Bux**, (✓) Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan). (**Ali Bux**)
  5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (**Afghanistan**, (✓) U.S.A., Canada). (**Afghanistan**)

II. Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative
Neutral		
1. teaching children music	(✓)	
2. the film world		(✓)
3. migrating to the U.S.A.		(✓)
4. playing at temples	(✓)	
5. getting the Bharat Ratna	(✓)	
6. the banks of the Ganga	(✓)	
7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon		(✓)

III. Answer these questions in 30 - 40 words.

B. The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Answer these questions in 30 - 40 words.

- Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?
  - The pungi had an unpleasant shrill sound. Due to its irritating quality, Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi.
- How is a shehnai different from a pungi?
  - Shehnai is the refined version of pungi. A barber, who was a regular visitor to the king's palace, used a naturally hollow stems to put pungi's reed into and made shehnai. Shehnai had pleasant sound unlike pungi. As it was played by a barber (nai in Hindi) before the king (shah in Urdu) so it was given the name Shehnai.
- Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?
  - Traditionally the Shehnai was played in temples and during wedding ceremonies, as it was considered an auspicious instrument. Bismillah Khan brought Shehnai into mainstream music and changed the way people perceived Shehnai.
- When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?
  - In 1938, when All India Radio started in Lucknow, Bismillah Khan got the big break of performing for the All India Radio.
- Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?
  - On 15th August 1947 Bismillah Khan played Shehnai from the Red Fort in Delhi. It was the day when India became an independent nation. The gathering was full of eminent luminaries like Nehru and Gandhi.
- Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

- A. Bismillah Khan was in love with Benares and the Ganges flowing there. He used to get inspiration from the ambience of numerous ghats in Varanasi. He knew that he won't be able to get that ambience in the USA. So, he refused to start a shehnai school in the USA.
7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.
- A. Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras very much. He says that when he is in Mumbai, he thinks of Varanasi and the holy Ganga. When he is in a foreign land, he keeps desiring to see Hindustan.

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