

Chapter 2 The Sound of Music

Part I - Thinking about the Text

Q. 1 A Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each:

How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

Ans.: Evelyn Glennie was seventeen years old when she went to the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London.

Q. 1 B Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each:

When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Ans. : Evelyn's loss of hearing was a gradual process which was first noticed by her mother when she was eight years old. Although she managed to conceal it from her friends and teachers for a while, by the time she was eleven, her marks had deteriorated and her parents were compelled to visit a specialist. It was then confirmed that her hearing was severely impaired due to gradual nerve damage.

Q. 2 A Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph. (30-40 words)

Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Ans. : Ron Forbes, the percussionist was the one who spotted Evelyn's potential while most of the teachers discouraged her. Initially, he began to teach her by tuning two large drums to different notes and asked her

to feel the music and sense it. Gradually, she began to feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down. Due to a continuous repetition of this exercise, Evelyn could feel certain notes in different parts of her body which eventually resulted in opening up her mind and body to the sounds and vibrations of music.

Q. 2 B Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph. (30-40 words)

Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Ans. : Apart from her performances at the regular concerts, she also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. In addition to this, Evelyn also gives high priority to the classes she conducts to teach the young and budding musicians.

Q. 3 Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100-150 words):

How does Evelyn hear music?

Ans. : Evelyn Glennie, a gifted percussionist, had begun to lose her ability to hear at a very early age of 12. But with a strong mind, coupled with sheer determination and hard work, she has been able to touch the peaks of success worldwide.

As she shares her experience of music, she says that she could hear the music by sensing notes in different parts of her body. When Ron Forbes, her percussionist, tuned two large drums to different notes, Evelyn could hear and feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down and in this way, she learnt to open up her entire mind and body to the sounds and vibrations of music.

As she further describes her experience with the xylophone, she is able to sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips and often by

leaning against the drums; she is able to feel the resonances flowing into her body. In addition to this, she always removed her shoes on a wooden platform so that the vibrations could pass through her bare feet and up her legs. This extraordinary exquisiteness within Evelyn, thus, helped music pour in through every part of her body and she could even feel the tingles in her skin, cheekbones and hair.

Part II - Dictionary work

Q. 1

- The sound of the shehnai is auspicious.
- The auspicious sound of the shehnai is usually heard at marriages.

The adjective auspicious can occur after the verb be as in the first sentence, or before a noun as in the second. But these are some adjectives which can be used after the verb be and not before a noun. For example:

- Ustad Faiyaz Khan was overjoyed.

We cannot say: *the overjoyed man.

Consult your dictionary and complete the following table. The first one has been done for you.

Adjective	Only before noun	Not before noun	Both before and after the verb be
indispensable			
impressed			
afraid			

outdoor			
paternal			
Countless			
priceless			

Ans. :

Adjective	Only before noun	Not before noun	Both before and after the verb be
indispensable			✓
impressed		✓	✓
afraid		✓	✓
outdoor	✓		
paternal	✓		
Countless	✓		
priceless	✓		✓

Part II - Thinking about the Language

Q. 1

Look at these sentences.

- Evelyn was determined to live a normal life.
- Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers.

The italicized parts answer the questions: “What was Evelyn determined to do?” and

“What did Evelyn manage to do?” They begin with a to-verb (to live, to conceal).

Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes..... (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child’s mother (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us to (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided to (What did the musician decide to do?)

Answer :

1. The school sports team hopes to win the match.
2. We all want to live happily.

3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to consult a specialist.
4. The authorities permitted us to construct the tower.
5. A musician decided to take part in the concert.

Q.2 From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. the home of royal people (1).....
2. the state of being alone (5).....
3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2).....
4. to do something not done before (5).....
5. without much effort (13).....
6. quickly and in large quantities (9).....and.....

Ans. : 1. the home of royal people – the royal residence

2. the state of being alone – solitude

3. a part which is absolutely necessary – indispensible

4. to do something not done before – improvise

5. without much effort – effortlessly

6. quickly and in large quantities – thick and fast

Q. 3 Tick the right answer

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead /lives again).
2. When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped /started).
3. When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it /avoid it).
4. When we take to something, we find it (boring /interesting).
5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful / find it of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time / for the second time).
7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting /no longer upsetting).

Ans. : 1. When something is revived, it lives again.

2. When a government bans something, it wants it stopped.

3. When something is considered auspicious, welcome it.

4. When we take to something, we find it interesting.

5. When you appreciate something, you find it good and useful.

6. When you replicate something, you do it for the second time.

7. When we come to terms with something, it is no longer upsetting.

Part II - Thinking about the Text

Q. 1 Tick the Right Answer.

1. The (shehnai, pungi) was a ‘reeded noisemaker.’

2. (Bismillah Khan, a barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, USA, Canada)

Ans.: The right answers are underlined:

1. The pungi was a 'reeded noisemaker.'
2. A barber transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from Ali Bux.
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.

Q.2 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 USA			
4. playing at temples			
5. getting the Bharat Ratna			

6. the banks of the Ganga			
7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon			

Ans.:

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. Teaching children music	✓		
2. the file world			✓
3. migrating to the USA		✓	
4. playing at temples	✓		
5. getting the Bharat Ratna	✓		
6. the banks of the Ganga	✓		
7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon		✓	

Q. 3 A Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Ans. : Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the musical instrument, pungi in the Royal residence because it had a very shrill unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for reeded noisemakers.

Q. 3 B Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

How is a Shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans. : A shehnai is different from a pungi as the former has a better tone quality than the latter. It is a pipe with a natural hollow stem with seven holes on the body of the pipe which is much longer and broader than the pungi. The shehnai was thus an advancement of the existing musical instrument of pungi.

Q. 3 C Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans.: The shehnai was traditionally played in temples, weddings and royal courts. However, Ustad Bismillah Khan was the epitome who brought the essence of the shehnai onto the classical stage.

Q. 3 D Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Ans. : The opening up of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came to Bismillah Khan as a big break as he gradually became an often-heard shehnai player on the radio. He was thus successful in spreading the soft melodious music of his shehnai on a national platform.

Q. 3 E Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans. : Bismillah Khan poured his heart out as he played the Raag Kaafi on his shehnai on 15 August 1947 from the Red Fort to an audience which also included Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a historic event as India gained independence from the British Rule and Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai.

Q. 3 F Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Ans. : Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's request to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A. due to his inextricable attachment with

Hindustan. He felt that the exquisite aura of Benaras, the river Ganga and Dumraon could not be found so many miles away.

Q. 3 G Answer these questions in 30-40 words:

Find at least two things in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Ans. : Bismillah Khan was very fond of both India and Benaras. He often yearned to go back to India whenever he was in a foreign country. Also, while in Mumbai, he only thought of Varanasi and the holy Ganga.

The two instances where this love could be seen were –

1. When he turned down one of his student's request to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.
2. When he completely rejected the idea of shifting to Pakistan, leaving Benaras by Shekhar Gupta.

Part II – Writing

Q. 1 “If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there,” says Evelyn Glennie.

You have now read about two musicians. Evelyn Glennie and Ustad Bismillah Khan. Do you think that they both worked hard? Where did they want to “go”?

Answer these questions in two paragraphs, one on each of two musicians.

Ans.:

1. Evelyn Glennie:

Evelyn Glennie was a determined as well as strong willed girl who worked hard to reach the peaks of success. Although she became deaf at a very

early stage, and her teachers discouraged her yet she did not lose hope and with the help of Ron Forbes, the percussionist, she was able to experience the sounds of music through the different parts of her body and which eventually was the turning point in her life. The journey of climbing the ladder began as she got involved in orchestral work followed by solo performances. These not only helped her gain experience as a percussionist, it also brought her laurels at every stage. Setting an example worldwide, she continues to be a great epitome of inspiration across the globe.

2. Ustad Bismillah Khan:

Ustad Bismillah Khan, a hardworking individual with an unwavering desire of playing shehnai was introduced to this genre of music in his early days of childhood by his uncle, Ali Bux. As he began practicing, he used to sit captivated for hours on end. Gradually, the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya became his favourite haunts where he could practice in solitude. The flowing water of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent 'raagas' that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai. In this way, Bismillah Khan's love for shehnai went on flourishing and in turn helping him in climbing the ladder of success which brought him many national awards. Khansaab is not only known for his immense contribution to classical music in India but he has also earned significant amount of recognition abroad.

Wind - Thinking about the Poem

Q. 1 What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans. : In the first stanza, the wind seems to be a trouble maker. It breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers all around, throws down the books on the shelf and tears the pages of the books. The destruction

caused by the strong blows of the wind ultimately result in bringing about an intense spell of downpour.

Q.2 Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them)

Ans. : Yes, people can often be seen winnowing grains in a paddy field. The word 'winnowing' is known as 'soop' in the Hindi language.

Winnowing is an ancient agricultural method used for separating grains from the chaff. People use a winnowing fan or a winnowing fork (also known as shovel) in this process.

Q.3 What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

Ans. : The poet describes the plight of the weak, affected by the strong blows of the wind in relation to the process of winnowing. He describes the situation by stating that the wind god winnows the delicate crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts which eventually results in their complete destruction.

Q.4 What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Ans. : According to the poet, we should adopt certain measures to become friends with the wind. He suggests for building strong homes coupled with firm and tough doors along with a physically and mentally strong body and a steadfast heart.

Q.5 What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans. : In the last four lines of the poem, the poet compares the strong blows of the wind with the adversities of human lives. He attempts at giving a deeper insight of the word 'wind' by inspiring the readers to face the difficulties in the path of life with utmost courage and tenacity. The lines "The wind blows out weak fires. He makes strong fires roar and flourish." reveal a very thought provoking message in which the poet throws light on the fact that the hardships intimidate the weak and feeble while they make the strongly will powered much more firm and bold. Thus, he suggests of embracing the wind or the hardships of life and becoming friends with them.

Q. 6 How does the poet speak to the wind - in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "Crumbling lives." What is your response to this? Is it like the poet's?

Ans. : The poet speaks to the wind in anger. It is certainly true that wind symbolizes intense devastation of life and property, destroying houses, means of livelihood, trees and causing immense damage to human lives. Yet, I do not agree with poet whole-heartedly as every situation has its pros and cons. If the wind is the cause of damage and destruction on one hand, it is also the creator of the cool breeze and the soothing effect in the weather.

NOTE- The last part of this question is the reader's response which can be different from the one given in this answer. Students can express their opinions accordingly.