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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Lesson 2
THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Part-I)

Evelyn Glennie

Value Points

- A seventeen year old girl had decided to make music her life, though being completely deaf.
- This aspiring musician feels the vibration of an approaching train, she has been selected for training at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London. Evelyn Glennie feels nervous yet excited on the first day of her training.
- Glennie started losing her hearing power gradually from the age of eight due to nerve damage.
- She was advised to be sent to school for deaf. But Evelyn was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music.
- Most of the people discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes noticed her potential and motivated her to feel music in different parts of her body.
- He took two large drums for tuning. Evelyn immediately realized higher drum from the waist up and lower drum from the waist down. Forbes repeated the exercise.
- Now Evelyn could feel certain notes in different parts of her body.
- During her 3 years course in Royal Academy of Music, Evelyn scored highest marks in the history of Academy, got most of the top awards and started giving solo-performances.
- She is now one of the top multi-percussionists in the world with a mastery of some thousand instruments.
- According to her, "If you work hard and know where you are going, you'll get there."
- It is fascinating to watch Evelyn working without much effort. She speaks clearly as she could listen till the age of eleven. During conversation she watches lip movement, face and specially eyes.
- She had learnt French and basic Japanese.
- While playing instruments, she remained barefoot on wooden platform, so that the vibrations pass through her barefeet and up her legs. She could feel music through every part of her body i.e. skin, cheekbones and even hair. She felt the echo of sound flowing into her body by leaning against the drums.
- She has been a workaholic and has been rewarded enormously. Royal Philharmonic society's prestigious 'Soloist of the year' was presented to her in 1991.
- Besides regular concerts she has given free concerts in prisons and hospitals. Teaching young musicians is her top priority.
- She has placed percussion in front of the orchestra.

ACTIVITY

Ques. Read the following newspaper clipping.

Born without arms, boy uses feet, bags 71.8% in Std X exam

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

Agra: Ajay Kumar was born without arms alright, but armed with the kind of will that leaves little beyond one's reach. Not ready to let his disability define his future, the 16-year-old trained himself to write with his feet, a feat that has now helped him clear his Class X board exams with 71.8%.

What's more, the Uttar Pradesh board student didn't seek extra time to write his papers, and managed to finish the answers, his pencil clutched between his toes, within the stipulated window. Ajay, a resident of Bhogaon village in UP's Mainpuri district, aspires to be an engineer. A student of SR Inter College, Ajay is proud of his performance, but has vowed to himself to work harder and score at least 80% in all subsequent exams.



A FEAT PAR EXCELLENCE: Ajay, 16, wants to be an engineer

"I know who I am and what I am capable of. I'll make the best of it and never give up," said the gutsy boy in an interview to **TOI**. "If I had arms I could have done better in the exams, but now my feet are my arms," he added, "I hold the phone with my feet to talk. I even brush my teeth with my feet."

Ajay's farmer father Dayaram said he and his wife Meera were worried when he was born about how he would get through life. "But over the years he has proved that his disability cannot stop him from achieving what he wants," he added.

Now, Name some differently abled people who are successful despite their handicap.

Ex.	Surdas	Poet
1.	Stephen Hawking	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

1. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist.

   a) Who is 'she' referred to here?

   b) Why did her marks deteriorate ?

   c) What did the headmistress urge her parents for?

   d) Find a word from the passage that means the same as "strong advice".

2. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes.

   a) Why did most of the teachers discourage her?

   b) Why did Ron Forbes decide to teach her?

   c) How did he try to teach her?

   d) Find a word from the passage that means the same as "ability".

3. She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. They see that there is nowhere that they cannot go.

   a) Who is 'she' being referred to here?

   b) What was her achievement?

   c) How did she motivate other deaf children?

   d) 'Inspiration' has 'tion' as suffix. Make any two words with the same suffix.

Short Questions

1. At what age was Evelyn's initial hearing weakness discovered?
2. Why did Ron Forbes encourage her?
3. How does she feel sound while playing on the xylophone?
4. Why does she remove her shoes on the wooden platform?
5. Which important award was presented to Evelyn in 1991?

6. Which languages has she managed to learn?
7. Being hearing impaired, how does Evelyn communicate with others?
8. How many instruments can she play?
9. How has she inspired other physically challenged people?
10. Apart from being a good musician, Evelyn is also a good human being . Justify giving one example.

Long Questions

1. What values of Evelyn's character make her achieve the target despite her handicap? Explain.
2. What qualities helped Evelyn to overcome her physical challenge and achieve her goal?
3. Role of a teacher is very important in guiding and shaping a child. Elaborate taking examples from the lesson in context of Evelyn Glennie.

Lesson 2

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Part-II)

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Value Points

- Bismillah Khan was a great Shehnai Player. He belonged to a family of professional musicians.
- He was attracted towards Shehnai at the age of three and through his hard work brought it on to the classical stage.
- A story goes on about the origin of Shehnai — Pungi a musical instrument was banned by EmperorAurangzeb for its shrill, unpleasant sound.
- A barber of a family of musicians, having access to the royal palace also, decided to improve tonal quality of Pungi. He took a hollow pipe longer than Pungi and made seven holes on it. When he played on it, sweet and soft sounds were produced. When it was played before king, he was impressed by this new instrument. Since it was played in the Shah's Chamber and was played by a nai (barber), it was named 'Shehnai'.
- The sound of Shehnai is considered auspicious. The Shehnai was part of the 'Naubat' (group of nine traditional musical instruments) found in the royal courts. It was played only in temples and weddings.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan brought it on to the classical stage. He invented many ragas and played them on Shehnai.
- Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916 in a musician family of Rasool Bux Khan, Shehnai Nawaz of Bhojpur King's court in Dumraon, Bihar. Father Paigamber Bux was also great Shehnai player.
- His maternal uncle All Bux gave him Shehnai lessons. He practised playing Shehnai at Balaji and Mangla Maiya Temple and on the bank of river Ganga.
- At the age of 14 he played Shehnai with his uncle at Allahabad Music Conference and was appreciated by Ustad Faiyaz Khan. He often played Shehnai atAll India Radio, Lucknow, since its opening in 1938.
- Bismillah Khan was the first Indian to greet the nation, with his Shehnai on 15th August 1947 in Raag Kafi.
- Impressed with his Shehnai, Film director Vijay Bhatt named a film 'Gunj Uthi Shehnai'. Bismillah Khan composed a hit song "Dil Ka Khilona Hai Toot Gaya....." and Kannada Film 'Sanadhi Apanna'. But artificiality and glamour of films could not attract him for long.

Awards and Recognition

- King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan presented priceless gifts after his performance.
- First Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the USA.
- Took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair.
- An auditorium in Teheran was named after him — Tahar Mosiquee Ustad Bismillah Khan.
- The Padamshri, the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and in 2001, India's highest civilian award, the 'Bharat Ratna'.
- He is fond of Benaras and his native village Dumraon.
- He was once offered to head a Shehnai school in USA by his student who promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras. But he refused asking if he could transport River Ganga also.
- Through though a devout Muslim, he could naturally play the Shehnai at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.
- His life is a perfect example of the rich cultural Heritage of India. He died at the age of ninety on 21 August 2006.

ACTIVITY

Look at the picture given below :



Q. Which instrument is he playing?

Q. Write the names of five musical instruments.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

(Part-II)

Comprehension Passages

I. "Work hard and you shall make it". With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often heard Shehnai player on Radio.

Questions

a) What is required for success, according to Bishmillah Khan?

b) What was Bismillah Khan's big break?

c) What made him popular among the people?

d) Give antonym of 'seldom' from the above passage.

II. "All I would like to say is : Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the west is now coming to learn our music."

Questions

a) Who is 'I' here?

b) Why does he want children to learn Hindustani Music?

c) Give one example to show that Hindustani music is popular in west too.

d) Give the comparative degree of 'richest.'

III. Till recently it was used only in temples and weddings. The credit for bringing this instrument onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Questions

a) What is 'it' here?

b) Where was it used earlier?

c) What special credit goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan?

d) The word classical has 'al' as suffix. Make a word with the same suffix.

Short Questions

1. Which musical instrument was banned by Aurangzeb and why?
2. When and where was Ustad Bismillah Khan born?
3. What was Bismillah Khan's family background?

4. What reward would he get for singing Bhojpuri 'Chaita' in the temple when he was five years old?
5. From whom did Bismillah Khan learn to play Shehnai and where did he live?
6. Which film was named after Bismillah Khan? Which was his Kannada Venture? Which hit hindi song was composed by him?
7. His first abroad trip was to.....Impressed by his music, King

   Zahir Shah gifted him.....
8. Name two places where Bismillah Khan performed.

Long Questions

1. Describe the life and character of Ustad Bismillah Khan with emphasis on his contribution to Indian culture.
2. Describe the transformation of Pungi to Shahnai.
3. How was Bishmillah Khan associated with films?