

# **St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School**

**9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092**

**Session: 2023-2024 - Notes**

**Class:IX    Subject:English    Topic: Beehive Ch-2 The Sound of Music**

## **Part -1 Evelyn Glennie listens to Sound without hearing it**

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Ans. Ron Forbes, the percussionist helped Evelyn to pursue music. He identified her potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He advised her to feel music through the different parts of her body.

Q2. How did Ron Forbes influence Evelyn to listen to music and then play the instrument?

Ans. Ron Forbes sensed the potential within Evelyn and motivated her to play the drums. He tuned two large drums to different notes and encouraged Evelyn to feel the rhythm instead of trying to hear it. She soon realised that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body.

Q3. Apart from the regular concerts, where else did Evelyn perform and why?

Ans. Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn gave free concerts in prisons and hospitals, so as to inspire the inmates. She also gave high priority to classes for young musicians, so that they learn to master their skills and achieve success. She was much more than an inspiration to them. She gave enormous pleasure to millions of people.

Q4. What message do you get from the life of Evelyn Glennie?

Ans. The message we get is never to allow adversity to come in the way of your pursuit to success. If one sense organ is damaged, make good use of the other sensory organs but never give up hope. Life is a precious gift, it should not be wasted. We should not give up just because we don't know how to face challenges. Work towards success.

Q5. Attempt a character sketch of Evelyn.

Ans. Evelyn was a determined and hardworking girl. With her strong will power, she overcame the obstacle that was placed before her by the divine. In her early childhood, she lost her ability to hear because of a nerve degeneration. At the age of eleven, her



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hearing power was totally damaged. In spite of her handicap, she did not want to give up as music was her passion. Her teachers discouraged her, but the percussionist Ron Forbes guided her to sense and feel the music through different parts of her body. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances. At the end of her three-year course, she had captured most of the top awards.

## **Part -2 The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan**

Q6. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans. The shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired Bismillah Khan to improvise and invent raagas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.

Q7. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the USA?

Ans. Bismillah Khan's student had asked him to head a shehnai school in the USA, and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples in the city. To this, Bismillah Khan asked him if he could also transport the River Ganga to the USA. Khansaab, as he is fondly called, is remembered to have said that while he was in a foreign land, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

Q8. How can you say Bismillah Khan was a perfect example of India's cultural heritage?

Ans. Bismillah Khan was a perfect example of India's cultural heritage because he was a symbol of secularism. Despite being a muslim, he played shehnai at temples and at the banks of the river Ganga. He reflected India's core principle, 'Unity in Diversity.'

Q9. Write a paragraph on the life of Bismillah Khan.

Ans. Bismillah Khan spent his early life in Dumraon in Bihar. His grandfather was a shehnai-nawaz of the Bhojpur king's court. Bismillah Khan took to music early in life when he was three years old in the company of his maternal uncle Ali Bux. His life is a source of simplicity and communal harmony from the very beginning, when he used to sing 'Chiata' in Bihariji temple, and practiced shehnai in Vishnu temple and Mangala Maiya temple of Varanasi. Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He also played shehnai on 15 August 1947 from Red Fort in the presence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Bismillah Khan gave many memorable performances both in India and abroad where he was honoured with so many awards. He also gave music in two movies, 'Gunj Uthi Shehnai' and 'Sanadhi Apanna'. He was so fond of his motherland India, Benaras and the holy Ganga that he refused an offer to be the head of shehnai school in the USA. In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. His life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the shehnai at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

