

✓ UNIT 2 – THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Detailed Explanation in Simple Words

This unit has two parts. It talks about two musicians who achieved great things despite difficulties.

Part I – Evelyn Glennie

Evelyn was born with normal hearing, but gradually she lost her hearing completely. Her mother noticed something was wrong when she didn't respond while playing the piano. Even though she couldn't hear, Evelyn discovered that she could feel the vibrations of music through her body. She practiced with a teacher who helped her sense sounds in different parts of her body.

Evelyn never gave up. She worked hard, practiced daily, and became a famous musician playing percussion instruments. She toured different countries and gave concerts even in prisons and hospitals. She teaches that determination and hard work can turn challenges into achievements.

Part II – Bismillah Khan

Bismillah Khan was born in a family of musicians. He started learning music from his uncle and temples. He played the shehnai, a wind instrument that was originally used only in temples and weddings. Despite obstacles, he became a world-famous artist. He performed for kings, presidents, and ordinary people and stayed true to his roots.

He believed music is a part of life and a way to connect people. He even turned down offers to move abroad because he loved his hometown and the river Ganga.

✓ Important Points

1. Evelyn learned to feel music with her body, not ears.
 2. Support from teachers helped her discover her potential.
 3. Bismillah Khan made the shehnai famous across the world.
 4. Both musicians teach us to be strong, dedicated, and true to ourselves.
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✓ Solved Questions

Part I – Evelyn Glennie

Q1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

✓ She was 17 years old.

Q2. When was her deafness first noticed and confirmed?

✓ It was noticed when she was 8 and confirmed by the time she was 11.

Q3. Who helped Evelyn and how?

✓ Ron Forbes helped her by teaching her to feel vibrations from drums and not to depend on ears.

Q4. How does she feel music?

✓ She feels it through vibrations in her body like skin, bones, and fingertips.

Part II – Bismillah Khan

Q1. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

✓ The shehnai has a longer stem, broader shape, and seven holes that allow soft and melodious sounds, unlike the shrill sound of the pungi.

Q2. When did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

✓ His big break came when he joined All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.

Q3. Where did he perform on 15 August 1947 and why was it historic?

✓ He performed at the Red Fort in Delhi on the day India became independent.

Q4. Why did he refuse to start a music school abroad?

✓ He loved his hometown and wanted to keep its cultural essence alive, saying even the Ganga couldn't be transported.