

Assignment 3

Class IX

English

Teacher: Mrs. Divya

LESSON 2

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (PART 2)

Read the following passages
and answer the questions
given at the end of each :

PASSAGE 1

. A barber of a family of professional musicians, who had access to the royal palace; decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungi and made seven holes on the body of the pipe.

Questions

- (i) What was a pungi?
- (ii) What decision did the barber take?
- (iii) Who banned the playing of pungi in the royal residence?
- (iv) What name was given to the new musical instrument made by the barber?

Answers

- (i) It was a musical instrument.
- (ii) He decided to improve its tonal quality.



Ustad Faiyaz Khan patted the young boy's back and said, "Work hard and you shall make it." With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break.

Questions

- (i) Who is the 'young boy' here?
- (ii) How old was Bismillah Khan when he participated in the Allahabad Music Conference?
- (iii) Why did Ustad Faiyaz Khan pat him?
- (iv) How was the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow a big break for him?

- (i) 'He' is Ustad Bismillah Khan here.
- (ii) The Bharat Ratna is being referred to.
- (iii) Bismillah Khan wants children to learn Hindustani Music as India has a very rich tradition of music, even the West is now coming to learn this music.
- (iv) He was very fond of Hindustani music.



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

Ans. Bismillah Khan was a staunch patriot and was passionately in love with Benaras and Dumraon in India. He intensely loved the Ganga and could not stay away from the sacred river. Therefore, he declined the offer to settle down in the US and head a shehnai school there.

Why does the author believe that Bismillah Khan's life is "a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India"?

Ans. India has always shown a liberal attitude to all communities and religions. Its cultural heritage is a blend of various castes and creeds. Bismillah Khan's life perfectly represents this blend. Although a devout Muslim, Khansaab played the shehnai in the Kashi Vishwanath temple every morning.

LONG - ANSWER QUESTIONS: Q1:

Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan shared the values of hard work and perseverance.

Discuss.

Or

What important lesson does the life of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan teach us?

Ans. Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan, the two eminent music maestros, through their achievements, have proved to the world that the values of hard work and unstaggering efforts are always rewarded. Evelyn Glennie

became an internationally admired multi-percussionist only because of her untiring work which could conquer even her handicap. Instead of yielding to her deafness, she made all-out efforts to sense the sounds of music through different parts of her body and never looked back. With her persistent efforts, she made it to the Royal Academy of Music, London and bagged the most prestigious awards. Her sincere devotion to her art has given percussion a new place on the international stage.

Bismillah Khan, like Evelyn, was dedicated to his art and attained greatest heights as a 'shehnai vaadak'. He too worked diligently and transformed the shehnai into a classical instrument. He added enormously to what he had inherited by widening the range of the shehnai. He invented many new raaga



spontaneously. Starting with playing in the temples of Benaras and on the banks of Ganga, he reached the stage of international acclaim. His hard work enabled him to win the most prestigious awards in India and in the world.

Thus, the lives of both Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan are perfect examples of how dedicated efforts and persistent hard work lead to grand achievements.

Q2: "Music has no religion." How did Bismillah Khan's Shehani prove it?

Ans. Music is the voice of the soul. It is sacred beyond the religions. It is eternal and acts as a source of inspiration for everyone. A musician never plays music for any particular religion. Bismillah Khan who belonged to the Muslim community played Shehnai in temples. He was deeply attached to the holy city of Benaras and the holy river Ganga. The river Ganga and its flowing water were the main source of inspiration for him. He could never think of leaving Benaras and holy river Ganga. Since his childhood, he was fond of music. As a five-year-old child, he used to visit Bihariji temple at Dumraon to sing Bhojpuri Chaita. His love for music was so deeply influenced by Benaras and Ganga that once a student from the USA wanted him to head a Shehnai school there. He promised him to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras in the USA by replicating the temple. But Bismillah Khan refused to say that he couldn't take the Ganga