



Grade IX

Lesson 2 - The sound of Music

Part I - Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound Without Hearing It

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Prose

Soul of the Chapter

Evelyn Glennie is a multi-percussionist. She can play about one thousand instruments with perfection. She listens to sound without hearing it! She fought against a physical disability and became a source of inspiration for thousands of disabled persons. She was profoundly deaf. She was eleven years old when it was discovered that she had the hearing disability. She wanted to pursue her career in music but her teachers discouraged her. It was Ron Forbes who recognised her potential and supported her in achieving her goal. He advised her not to listen through her ears but try to sense it in some other way. Soon, she was excited. She felt the vibrations of the higher drum from the waist up, and the lower drum from the waist down. Later, she realised that she could feel the vibrations in every part of the body. These tingled in her skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair. She had learnt to open her body and mind to the sounds and vibrations. After that, she never looked back.

She joined the prestigious Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She worked hard with strong determination. She got right to the top. In 1991, she was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award. Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. She has accomplished more than most people twice her age have. She has earned name in orchestra. She has inspired those who are handicapped and made them believe that if Evelyn could do that, why not they.

Next Generation School



NCERT Questions

Thinking About the Text

I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

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

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

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

Evelyn's deafness was first noticed when she was eight years old and it was confirmed when she was eleven.

II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30 - 40 word)

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

Percussionist Ron Forbes helped Evelyn to continue with music. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He asked her not to listen to them through her ears but to try and sense the sound in some other manner.

2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Evelyn gave solo performances at regular concerts. She gave free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also accorded high priority to classes for young musicians. S

III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100-150 words)

1. How does Evelyn hear music?

Evelyn heard music by sensing the notes in different parts of her body. When Ron Forbes tuned two drums to different notes and asked her to sense the sound without using her ears, she realized that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down. She learnt how to open her mind and body to sounds and vibrations. It was sheer determination and hard work. When she played the xylophone, she could sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removed her shoes so that the vibrations could pass through her bare feet and up her legs. She herself said that music poured in through every part of her body. It tingled in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair.

Solved Question Bank

Reference-to-Context Questions

Q. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Evelyn Glennie's loss of hearing had been gradual. Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. "They called her name and she didn't move. I suddenly realised she hadn't heard", says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers.

a. Isabel Glennie realised that Evelyn was short of hearing when Evelyn was _____ years old.

Eight

b. When her mother called Evelyn's name she showed no _____.

Movement

c. 'I' in the above line refers to Evelyn Glennie.

False

d. The word that means 'something that is progressing slowly' is _____.

'Gradual'

2. Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. "They called her name and she didn't move. I suddenly realized she hadn't heard," says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teacher. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist.

a. Evelyn's mother detected her hearing defect when she didn't _____.

Hear/respond

b. Evelyn's parents were urged by her growing deafness until the age of eleven.

Specialist

c. Evelyn managed to hide her growing deafness until the age of eleven.

True

d. The word in the above lines that is opposite of 'improved' is _____.

'Deteriorated'



3. But Evelyn was not going to give up. She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. One day, she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. "Don't listen through your ears," he would say, "try to sense it some other way".

a. Evelyn's capability of playing a xylophone was discovered by _____.

Ron Forbes

b. Evelyn was _____ by most of her teachers.

Discouraged

c. "Try to sense it in some other way" was said by Ron Forbes.

True

d. The opposite of word 'abnormal' from the extract is _____.

'Normal'

4. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performance.

a. She in the above lines refers to _____.

Evelyn

b. She toured the United Kingdom with a _____ when she was _____.

Youth orchestra, sixteen

c. With time, she moved from solo performance to orchestral work.

False

d. The word that means the same as 'a trial performance to check suitability' is _____.

'Auditioned'

5. As for music, she explains, "It pours in through every part of my body. It tingles in the skin, my cheekbones and even in my hair". When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances flowing into her body.

a. 'It' in the above lines has been used for _____.

Music



b. Evelyn can feel the sound passing up the stick into her finger tips, when she _____.

Plays xylophone

c. Xylophone pours in through every part of Evelyn's body.

False

d. _____ in the above lines means the quality in a sound of being deep and reverberating.

Resonances

6. "I've just got to work. Often harder than classical musicians. But the rewards are enormous". Apart from the regular concerts. Evelyn also give free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also gives high priority to classes for young musicians. Ann Richlin of the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children says, "She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. They see that there is nowhere that they cannot go".

a. Evelyn also believed in social work by giving _____ in prisons and hospitals.

Free concerts

b. Evelyn was a shining inspiration for deaf children, _____ sad.

Ann Richlin

c. After meeting Evelyn, deaf children are often filled with hope and feel that they can go and survive anything in the world.

True

d. Find a word from the extract which is the opposite of 'irregular'.

'Regular'

Short Answer Questions

1. When and how was Evelyn's hearing problem noticed?

Evelyn was only eight-year-old when her hearing problem was noticed by her mother. Her loss of hearing was gradual. One day she was waiting to play the piano. Her name was called but she did not seem to hear.

2. When was Evelyn's deafness confirmed? What advice was given to her?

Evelyn's deafness was gradual. By the time she was eleven, her marks had deteriorated. Her teachers advised her parents to take her to a specialist. The specialist her that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school for the deaf.



3. What kind of recognition did Evelyn get at the Royal Academy of Music?

When Evelyn was seventeen, she joined the Royal Academy of Music. She scored the highest marks in the history of the academy. She was one of the most brilliant students of the academy and won many top awards during her three-year course.

4. Why did Evelyn say, "Men with Bushy beards give me trouble"?

Evelyn could understand what others were saying by reading the movement of lips and by watching faces and eyes. It was difficult for her to read the movement of lips of the men with bushy beards. She jokingly remarked that men with bushy beards gave her trouble.

5. What did James Blades say about Evelyn's music?

James Blades remarked that God may have taken away her sense of hearing but He has given her something extraordinary. What we hear, she feels, far more deeply than any of us. She is a talented musician who expresses music so beautifully.

6. How did Evelyn inspire the deaf children?

Evelyn is herself a deaf girl but her handicappedness never came in her way. She became a world renowned multi-percussionist. She is an inspiration for deaf children who say, 'If she can do it, I can'.

7. What did Evelyn want to do? How did her teachers react to that? Who helped her?

Evelyn wanted to live a normal life and pursue her interest in music. She wanted to play the xylophone. Most of her teachers discouraged her but Ron Forbes spotted her potential and motivated her to learn music in a different way.

8. How did Ron Forbes help Evelyn? How could Evelyn sense certain notes?

Ron Forbes spotted her potential and tuned two large drums to different notes. He advised her not to listen through her ears but to sense in some other way. Evelyn discovered that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body. She learned to open her mind and body to sounds and vibrations.

9. What was her achievement? What did she say about it?

Evelyn worked hard with strong determination to learn music. She toured the United Kingdom by the time she was sixteen. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music. At the end of three years she had captured most of the top awards. Evelyn says, "If you work hard and know where you are going. You'll get there".



10. What did Evelyn determine to do?

Evelyn determined to lead a normal life despite her deafness and wanted to pursue her interest in music with hard work and confidence.

Long Answer Questions

1. How does Evelyn acknowledge her success? How is she a source of inspiration for the handicapped? What do you learn from her life?

Evelyn says, "If you work hard and know where you are going, you will get there". A clear vision and strong determination are the secrets of her success. She is deaf but her strong determination got her right on the top.

She is an inspiration to the handicapped because she herself is deaf. Being handicapped herself, she has brought percussion to the front of the orchestra. She created history by scoring one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. The deaf children find a role model in her. They feel that if Evelyn can do it, why can't they. She has given them an idea to progress in their life.

One learns from her life that where there is a will there is a way. She teaches me how determination and hard work are key to success. Physical handicaps are in no way an obstacle to success.

2. Describe Evelyn's achievements. What helped her overcome her problems?

Evelyn was a deaf girl. Her hard work and strong determination put her on the top. Today, she is the most sought after multi-percussionist. She has mastery over some one thousand instruments. She has travelled to all the major countries across the world. She toured the United Kingdom with an orchestra when she was a teenager. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the Academy. She gave solo performances too. She has also captured most of the top awards. She was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's famous Soloist of the Year Award. It was her strong determination and self-confidence that helped her in her life.

3. What inspiration do you get from the life of Evelyn? According to you, what were the most important factors that helped Evelyn in her life?

"If you work hard and know where you are going, you'll get there." These words give me inspiration from the life of Evelyn. Strong determination and hard work make any impossible



work possible. Evelyn's life is a lesson for all who are physically disabled or challenged. Despite being handicapped, Evelyn was able to attain glorious heights in the field of music. She achieved what a normal person cannot. Evelyn's family, her mentor Ron Forbes, her strong determination and hard work are the factors that helped her attain glorious heights. She got support from her family. Her mentor motivated her to go ahead. Motivation and self-confidence are very important factors that help her in getting 'right to the top'. Another important factor is her strong determination. All these factors helped Evelyn in her life.

4. Evelyn Glennie has already accomplished more than most people twice her age. What is your opinion about it?

In my opinion, Evelyn Glennie achieved more than most people twice her age. It is true that she achieved a rare success through determination, hard work and courage. She was just seventeen when she auditioned for her Royal Academy of music, London. She stopped the class and by the age of nineteen she had won most of the top awards. She mastered over some one thousand instruments. She brought percussion to the forefront of the orchestra. Today she is the world's most sought-after multi-percussionist.

5. Write a letter to your friend telling him how Evelyn inspired you.

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28 February 200X

Dear Shreeja

I hope you have heard and read about renowned international Evelyn Glennie. I am so motivated and enthusiastic after knowing about her. You know I had an interest in dance but after my accident I could not continue the practice and my dream of becoming a renowned dancer was shattered like a glass.

But now I have decided to restart my practice. If Evelyn, despite being a deaf, can become a multi-percussionist, why can't I? I am well now and can do. I shall not give up my dream.

Shreeja, I need your moral support once again.

Your friend

Himangi

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