
Class 9 – English (NCERT)

Chapter: The Sound of Music

Detailed Solution / Answer Key (80 Marks)

Section – A : Reading Comprehension (20 Marks)

Answer 1: Passage Based Questions

1. Who was Evelyn Glennie?

Evelyn Glennie was a famous Scottish percussionist who achieved international recognition despite being profoundly deaf. She is known for her extraordinary ability to feel music rather than hear it. Her life story is a remarkable example of courage, determination, and the power of hard work. She proved that physical disabilities cannot stop a person from achieving success if they have strong willpower.

2. At what age did Evelyn lose her hearing completely?

Evelyn Glennie lost her hearing completely by the age of eleven. Her hearing loss was gradual and became severe during her early childhood. This phase of her life was extremely challenging, especially because it affected her education and confidence.

3. What advice did doctors give to Evelyn's parents?

Doctors advised Evelyn's parents that she might not be able to lead a normal life. They believed that her hearing impairment would limit her opportunities and suggested that she should not aim too high. This advice reflected society's low expectations from people with disabilities.

4. Who helped Evelyn understand music differently?

Ron Forbes, a percussionist, helped Evelyn understand music in a completely new way. He encouraged her to feel music through vibrations in different parts of her body instead of relying on her ears.

5. How did Evelyn feel music without hearing?

Evelyn learned to sense music through vibrations. She felt higher notes through the upper parts of her body such as her face and neck, while lower notes were sensed through her legs and feet. This unique technique allowed her to experience music deeply.

6. Which part of her body sensed higher notes?

Evelyn sensed higher notes through the upper parts of her body, especially her face, neck, and upper torso. This sensitivity helped her distinguish different sounds and tones.

7. Which quality of Evelyn helped her succeed?

Evelyn's determination and perseverance helped her succeed. Despite repeated discouragement, she never gave up and continued to practice hard, proving that mental strength is more powerful than physical limitations.

8. What instrument did Evelyn specialize in?

Evelyn Glennie specialized in percussion instruments. She mastered complex percussion techniques and became one of the world's leading solo percussionists.

9. What does Evelyn's story inspire us to do?

Evelyn's story inspires us to face challenges bravely, believe in ourselves, and never give up. It teaches that dedication and hard work can overcome even the greatest obstacles.

10. Give one word that best describes Evelyn's character.

The word "**determined**" best describes Evelyn's character because she remained focused on her goals despite her disability.

Answer 2: Extract Based Questions

1. Who is 'she' in the above line?

'She' refers to Evelyn Glennie, the deaf percussionist who learned to experience music without hearing it.

2. What does the line suggest about her ability?

The line suggests that Evelyn had developed a unique ability to feel music through vibrations. It highlights her extraordinary sensitivity and adaptation to her disability.

3. How is her experience of music different from others?

Unlike others who hear music with their ears, Evelyn experienced music through her entire body. This made her musical experience deeper and more physical.

4. What theme of the chapter does this line reflect?

The line reflects the theme of **triumph over adversity** and **the power of human determination**.

5. How does this line motivate the reader?

It motivates the reader by showing that limitations can be transformed into strengths through hard work and innovation.

Section – B : Grammar and Writing Skills (20 Marks)

Answer 3: Grammar

1. *Bismillah Khan played the shehnai beautifully.* – **Simple Past Tense**
 2. Passive voice: *Evelyn Glennie was admired by people.*
 3. *Evelyn **practised** hard to achieve success.*
 4. Correct option: **(c) shehnai**
 5. Indirect speech: Bismillah Khan said that music was his life.
 6. Adjective: **legendary**
 7. Preposition: **through**
 8. Synonym of determination: **(b) courage**
 9. Type of sentence: **Exclamatory sentence**
 10. Sentence: Evelyn Glennie is a great inspiration for young musicians.
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Answer 4A: Diary Entry

Dear Diary,

Today was the most memorable day of my life. My first public performance was a success. As I stood on the stage, I did not hear the applause, but I felt the vibrations of appreciation all around me. Years of struggle, practice, and self-belief finally paid off. I remembered Ron

Forbes' words and felt proud that I never gave up. This success has strengthened my faith in myself. I now know that my deafness cannot stop me from achieving my dreams. Music lives within me, and I will continue to share it with the world.

Evelyn

Answer 4B: Paragraph Writing

Music is a powerful source of inspiration in life. It gives strength during difficult times and fills life with joy and hope. Music crosses all boundaries of language and culture and connects people emotionally. The lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan show that music can transform lives and provide purpose. Through dedication and love for music, individuals can overcome obstacles and achieve greatness.

Section – C : Literature (20 Marks)

Answer 5: Short Answer Questions

1. How did Evelyn Glennie lose her hearing?

Evelyn Glennie lost her hearing gradually due to a nerve disorder. By the time she was eleven years old, she was completely deaf.

2. What role did Ron Forbes play in Evelyn's life?

Ron Forbes acted as a mentor who changed Evelyn's life. He taught her to feel music through vibrations and encouraged her to pursue percussion.

3. Why is Evelyn Glennie considered a source of inspiration?

She is inspirational because she achieved international success despite being deaf. Her life proves that disabilities cannot limit success.

4. Why was the shehnai considered an auspicious instrument?

The shehnai was considered auspicious because its sound was believed to bring happiness and was played at temples and weddings.

5. Where was Bismillah Khan born?

Bismillah Khan was born in Dumraon, Bihar.

6. Which awards were given to Bismillah Khan?

He received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and the Bharat Ratna.

Answer 6: Long Answer Questions

1. Struggles of Evelyn Glennie and Her Success

Evelyn Glennie faced severe challenges due to her hearing loss at a young age. Doctors discouraged her, and society doubted her abilities. However, her strong determination and guidance from Ron Forbes helped her adapt. She learned to feel music through vibrations and practiced relentlessly. Her success as a world-renowned percussionist proves that perseverance can overcome any limitation.

2. Character Sketch of Bismillah Khan

Bismillah Khan was a legendary shehnai player known for his simplicity, dedication, and humility. He practiced for hours near the Ganga and temples. Despite fame, he remained grounded and deeply connected to Indian culture. His love for music and his country made him a respected national figure.

3. Talent and Hard Work Overcoming Limitations

“The Sound of Music” shows that true talent combined with hard work can overcome physical and social barriers. Evelyn and Bismillah both faced difficulties, yet their passion led them to greatness.

Section – D : Value-Based & Analytical Answers (20 Marks)

Answer 7: Value-Based Question

The chapter teaches values such as determination, dedication, humility, and perseverance. Evelyn Glennie’s life shows that disability is not weakness, while Bismillah Khan’s journey reflects simplicity and devotion to art. Both inspire us to remain committed to our goals.

Answer 8: Analytical Question

Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan belonged to different backgrounds but shared similar values. Evelyn overcame physical disability, while Bismillah overcame social limitations. Their journeys prove that passion and dedication matter more than circumstances.

Final Conclusion

“The Sound of Music” is an inspiring chapter that highlights the power of determination and love for art. Through the lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan, the chapter teaches that music has the ability to transform lives and that true success comes from perseverance, humility, and hard work.

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