

# BEEHIVE

**STD-IX**

**SUBJECT- LITERATURE**

**TOPIC- THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

**PERIOD-1**

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**EVELYN GLENNIE  
LISTENS TO  
SOUND WITHOUT  
HEARING IT**



**BY DEBORAH  
COWLEY**



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Deborah (Mason) Cowley is a freelance writer and broadcaster. She grew up in Toronto, graduated from the University of Western Ontario and moved to Ottawa to work for the Unitarian Service Committee. She spent two years with UNHCR (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) in Beirut before moving back to Ottawa and a job with CIDA. As she traveled the world with her diplomat husband, she worked as a reporter for CBC radio in Washington, D.C. and on a posting to Cairo, she worked on several TV documentaries for CBC's Man Alive. Also in Egypt, she wrote the first official guide book to Cairo since Baedeker's guide in the 1940's.



# INRODUCTION

Evelyn Glennie is a multi-percussionist. She can play about 1000 instruments with perfection. She listens to sound without hearing it. Evelyn fought against a physical disability & became a source of inspiration for thousands of disabled persons. She was profoundly deaf. She was 11 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 recognized her potential & supported her in achieving her goal.



## DETECTION OF EVELYN'S DEAFNESS

A little girl of about seventeen was nervous for the coming train. It was her first day at the famous Royal Academy of Music in London. She was deaf. Evelyn Glennie was from Scotland. She lost her hearing gradually. Her mother saw it when Evelyn was eight-year-old. Evelyn hid this growing weakness from her friends and teachers. By eleven, her marks lessened. The headmistress told her mother to take her to a specialist. It was known that her hearing loss was due to gradual nerve damage. She was advised to wear a hearing aid.



# EVELYN'S HEARING ABILITY

But Evelyn was determined to lead a normal life. She wanted to pursue her interest in music. One day she saw a girl playing xylo-phone. She too decided to play it. Ron Forbes recognised Evelyn's talent in it. He told her to listen it not through ears but sense it some other way. Evelyn said that suddenly she could feel the higher and lower drums differently. She could also sense certain notes in different parts of her body. She could open her mind and body to different sounds.



## EVELYN'S SUCCESS

She never looked back. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra. She had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music in London by playing the xylophone. There she scored the highest in its history. She moved from orchestral work to solo performances. After her three-year course she had got most of the top awards.



# EVELYN BECOMES WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS MULTI PERCUSSIONIST

She is not proud of her achievements. She says that if one knows one's goal, one can get it. She is now at the top. She is the world's most wanted multi percussionist. She has mastery over 1,000 instruments.





# VOCABULARY

- teenager: a person who is in his teens
- aspiring musician: a person who wants to be a musician
- Profoundly deaf: absolutely deaf.
- gradual: in phases
- Specialist: a doctor specializing in a particular part of the body.
- Deteriorated: worsened, reduces
- Urged: requested
- xylophone: a musical instrument with a row of wooden bars of different lengths
- impaired: weakened
- percussionist: a person who plays the drum, the tabla, etc, a person who play different musical instruments
- potential: quality or ability that can be developed
- tingles: causes a slight prickling or stinging sensation
- flawlessly: without a fault or mistake
- lilt: a way of speaking like we say accent
- intriguing: fascinating and curious

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