

Thinking About The Text

I. Tick the right answer.

1. The (shehnai, pungi) was a needed noise maker!
2. (Bismillah Khan, a banbas, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (banbas professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip ~~also~~ abroad was to (Afghanistan, USA, Canada).

II. Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's Positive Negative Neutral
feeling about

1. Teething children ✓
music
2. The film World ✓
3. Migrating to the USA ✓
4. Playing at temples ✓
5. Getting the Bharat Ratna ✓

6. The banks of the Ganga ✓

7. Leaving Benaras &
Dumraon ✓

II. Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?
Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because it had a loud and unpleasant sound.

2. How is shehnai different from pungi?

As compared to a pungi, shehnai is a pipe with a natural hollow stem (wood) that is longer and broader. It has seven holes in its body that was made by the barber who belong to the family of professional musicians. When it is played by the closing and opening of some of the holes, it produces soft and melodious sounds.

3. Where was the Shehnai played traditionally?

How did Bismillah Khan change this?

The Shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings.

Bismillah Khan changed this tradition by

bringing the instrument on the classical stage.

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his first big break?

Bismillah Khan got his first big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He soon became a popular shehnai player on radio.

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15th August 1947? Why was the event historic?

On 15th August 1947, Bismillah Khan played the shehnai at the Red Fort.

The event was historic because on that day India gained independence and Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai.

6. Why ^{did} Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the USA?

Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in the USA because he could not live outside India. The student promised that he would recreate the atmosphere of Benaras (Varanasi) by replicating

the temples in the city. But, Bismillah Khan refused his offer by saying that he could not find the Ganga there.

4. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras. The first instance is when Bismillah Khan refused his student's offer to start a zehnae school in the USA. The second instance is when he was asked why he had not shifted to

The second instance is when he says that whenever he is in a foreign country, he keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, he think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga. And while in Benaras, he miss the unique matke of Dumraon.

From these 2 instances in the text we can tell that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Thinking About Language.

- I. Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes to win the match. (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want to succeed (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take her to a specialist. (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us to ride (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided to play a new raga. (What did the musician decide to do?)

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. The home of royal people (2) royal residence.
2. The state of being alone (5) solitude.
3. A part which is absolutely necessary (2) indispensable.
4. To do something not done before (5) unprecedented.
5. Without much effort (13) effortlessly.
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast.

III. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead/
lives again).
2. When a gout bans something, it wants it
(stopped/
started)
3. When something is considered auspicious (welcome,
it, avoid it)
4. When we take to something we find it (boring/
interesting)
5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good
and useful/
find it of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for
the first time / for the second time).
7. When we come to terms with something, it's
(still upsetting, no longer upsetting).

Writing

"If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there," says Evelyn Glennie. You have now read about two musicians, Evelyn Glennie and Ustad Bismillah Khan. Do you think that they both worked hard? Where did they want to go? Answer these questions in 2 paragraphs, one on each of the 2 musicians.

Both of these musicians worked hard to achieve their goals.

Evelyn Glennie was totally deaf, ^{but} she never gave up. She was determined to pursue her interest in music, besides trying to lead a normal life. Due to her persistent efforts, she bore sweet fruit i.e. she was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award in 1971.

Bismillah Khan had the advantage of belonging to a well-known family of musicians from Bihar. He started getting lessons in playing the Shehnai at a very young age and would practice throughout the day which made him a perfectionist. He was awarded the highest civilian award of India, i.e. Bharat Ratna in 2001.

Their sheer determination, hardwork, ~~pr~~ practice and interest in music helped them turning their dream goals into real.