

H/W
13/5/21

THE SHEHNAI OF BISMILLAH KHAN

Date

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Thinking About The Text

I Tick the right answer.

- The (shehnai, pungi) was a 'reeded noisemaker'.
- (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
- Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians)
- Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambur Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
- Bismillah Khan's first trip 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 feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. teaching children music	✓		
2. the film world		✓	

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------|
| 3. migrating to the USA | | ✓ | |
| 4. playing at temples | ✓ | | at |
| 5. getting the Bharat Patra | ✓ | | |
| 6. the banks of the Ganga | ✓ | | |
| 7. leaving Benaras and
the Dumraon | | ✓ | |

(III) Answer these questions in 30-40 words each.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Ans) The Pungi had a shrill and unpleasant sound. Due to its irritating quality, Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi.

2. How is a Shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans) Shehnai is the refined version of pungi. A barber, who was a regular visitor to the King's palace, used 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 to put pungi's reed into and made Shehnai. Shehnai had melodious and pleasant sound unlike pungi. As it was played by a barber (nai in hindi) before the King (shah in urdu) so it was given the name Shehnai.

3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans) Traditionally the shehnai was played in temples and weddings, as the sound of the shehnai was considered an auspicious. Bismillah Khan brought shehnai into mainstream music and changed the way people perceived shehnai. He brought this instrument onto the classical stage.

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

Ans) The opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 became a big break for Ustad Bismillah Khan. He became a shehnai player on radio.

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

Ans) On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played the Raag Keafi on his shehnai from the Red Fort in Delhi. The event was historical because it was on the occasion of India's independence from British Rule. The gathering was full of eminent luminaries like Pandit Nehru and Gandhi.

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

Ans) Bismillah Khan was fond of Benaras and Dumraon. But, he refused to start a shehnai school in the USA because he did not want to leave his country. That is why, whenever he is abroad, he yearns to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, he thinks of only Varanasi and the holy Ganga.

7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Ans) i) Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's offer to start a shehnai school in USA because of his immense love for Benaras, the river Ganga and Dumraon.

ii) The second instance is when Khan was asked by Ashok Gupta, about moving to Pakistan during the partition, he said that he would never leave Benaras.

Thinking About Language

①

1. The school sports team hopes to win the competition.
2. We all want to be healthy and happy.
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take her to a specialist.
4. The authorities permitted us to start the construction work.
5. A musician decided to perform in a concert.

II

1. the home of royal people (1) - 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) - invent
5. without much effort (13) - effortlessly
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast

III

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead / lives again)
2. When a govt. bans something it wants it (stopped / started)
3. When something is considered suspicious, (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 second time.
7. When we come to terms with something, it is no longer upsetting