

B. B. S. S. See School

class - IX

Sub - Eng. (PROSE)

A. NO. - 2

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## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

### PART I

Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound Without Hearing It

- Deborah Cowley

## Summary

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 her body. These tingled in her skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair.

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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.

## Assignment

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

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.

### Questions!

(a) When did Isabel Glennie realise that Evelyn was short of hearing?

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- 1) How old was Evelyn at that time?
- 2) What was Evelyn's motive to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers?
- 3) What is your impression on 'Evelyn's loss of hearing had been gradual'?

1. Answer these questions in (30-40) words.

- i) Who helped her to continue with music? what did he do and say?
- ii) Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.
- iii) What kind of recognition did Evelyn get at the Royal Academy of music?
- iv) What did James Blades say about Evelyn's music?
- v) How did Evelyn inspire the deaf children?

2. Answer the following questions in (100-120) words.

- (a) How does Evelyn hear music?
- (b) Describe Evelyn's achievements. What value of her life helped her overcome her problems?