

CH-2

❄️ The Sound of Music

- “God may have taken her hearing but he has given her back something extraordinary. What we hear, she feels — far more deeply than any of us. That is why she expresses music so beautifully.”

- Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound without Hearing It.



It is intriguing to watch Evelyn function so effortlessly without hearing

Chapter Sketch –

Evelyn Glennie, despite being deaf, reached the pinnacle by being the most sought after person for playing the xylophone. The chapter deals with the aspects of music and the legendary musicians who excelled in their respective fields.

**Thinking about the Text**

I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

Ans. *Evelyn was about seventeen years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London.*

2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Ans. *Her deafness was first noticed by her mother when Evelyn was eight years old. Her deafness was confirmed when she was eleven years old.*

II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30–40 words).

1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Ans. Percussionist Ron Forbes helped Evelyn to continue with music. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He told Evelyn not to listen through her ears, but to try and sense the sound through some other way.

2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Ans. Apart from the regular concerts, she gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She gives high priority to classes for young musicians.

- iii. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100–150 words).

1. How does Evelyn hear music?

Ans. Evelyn is deaf. She cannot hear music through her ears. She 'hears' music by sensing the notes in different parts of her body. Ron Forbes taught her to 'hear' like this. He tuned two drums to different notes and asked her to sense the sound in some other way. Evelyn realized that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down.

When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes so that the vibrations could pass through her bare feet. She herself said that music poured in through every part of her body. It tingled in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair.