

Thinking about the Text :

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

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

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

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

Ans. Evelyn's deafness was first noticed when she was eight years old. It was confirmed by a specialist when she was eleven.

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

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

Ans. Ron Forbes, a percussionist, helped Evelyn to continue with music. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He told Evelyn that, instead of listening through her ears, she should try to sense music in some other manner.

Q.2. Name the various causes for which Evelyn performs. Also name the places.

Ans. Evelyn performs worldwide in regular concerts. Besides that, she also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She even gives high priority to classes for young musicians.

III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100-150 words) :

Q.1. How does Evelyn hear music ?

Ans. Evelyn was not born deaf. Her deafness was confirmed by a specialist when she was eleven years old. But her handicap did not deter her from leading a normal life and pursuing her interest in music. She became one of the greatest percussionists in the world.

Evelyn could hear music by sensing certain notes in different parts of her body. Initially, she was encouraged by percussionist Ron Forbes, who tuned two drums to different notes and asked her to sense their sound through some other manner. She learnt that she could tell the sound of the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down. By the sheer power of feeling the vibrations, she could hear music. As she rightly says: "I had learnt to open my mind and body to sounds and vibrations." While playing the xylophone, she could sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonance flowing into her body. She would remove her shoes while performing on a wooden platform so that the vibrations would pass through her bare feet and upto her legs. She says her whole body is sensitive to music and its vibrations. She can feel the music in her skin, cheekbones and even hair.

Q.3. 'Evelyn is a shining inspiration for not only the hearing impaired but for everyone.' Discuss.

Ans. When Evelyn was eleven years old, it was discovered that her hearing was severely impaired as a result of gradual nerve damage. The doctor advised that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school for the deaf.

Everything was dismal and discouraging, but Evelyn did not give up. She was courageous and was ready to face challenges. She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. She decided to learn xylophone. Most of the teachers discouraged her, but percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential. He advised her to stop hearing through her ears. He encouraged her to sense the music some other way. She tried and soon found music pouring in through every part of her body. As she says herself, the music tingles in her skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair. Evelyn with her dedicated hard work is able to delight her audiences. She feels far more deeply than anyone, therefore she is able to express music so beautifully.

She has accomplished more than most people twice her age. She has brought percussion to the front of the orchestra and shown that it can be very moving. She has given inspiration to the differently abled and made them believe that if she can achieve so much, so can they. More than that, she has given enormous pleasure to people with her music and all are inspired by her indomitable spirit.