

ENGLISH (CLASS IX)
CHAPTER 1
THE FUN THEY HAD

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1:“Today Tommy found a real book!”

It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

1. The old book was found by
2. Margie was surprised to see the book because
3. Pick out a word from the following which means ‘small’:
(a) old
(b) once
(c) little
(d) very

Answer:

1. Tommy
2. all the stories were printed on paper
3. Little

2:It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper. They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to-on a screen.

1. Why the pages of the book were yellow ?
2. Did Margie see the book for the first time ?
3. Trace a word from the passage that means ‘with many folds or lines’.

Answer:

1. The pages of the book were yellow because the book was quite old.
2. Yes, Margie saw the book for the first time.
3. Crinkly.

3:Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

1. Where was Margie’s schoolroom ?
2. Explain ‘mechanical teacher was on’.
3. Write the opposite of ‘regular’.

Answer:

1. Margie's school room was next to her bedroom.
2. Computer was on.
3. Irregular.

4: "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily.

1. Who is 'he' in the above lines ?
2. "Our kind of school." What kind of school they have ?
3. Trace the word from the extract that means "in a superior way".

Answer:

1. 'He' in the above lines is Tommy.
2. They have future classrooms with mechanical teachers.
3. Loftily.

5: Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily.

1. Why did Tommy call Margie stupid ?
2. What does 'they' here refer to ?
3. Find the word which means "in a superior way".

Answer:

1. Tommy called Margie stupid because she was too ignorant.
2. 'They' here refers to the students of centuries ago.
3. Loftily.

6: Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhoods came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so that they could help one another with the home work and talk about it.

1. Which school is Margie thinking about in the above lines ?
2. What is the advantage of those old schools ?
3. Which word in the passage means "breathing out deeply" ?

Answer:

1. Margie is thinking about the school of her grandfather's grandfather when he was a little boy.

2. The advantage of the old school was that everyone used to learn the same thing and could help each other in the homework. The children could go and come together also.
3. Sigh

Short Answer Type Questions

1:How was the book that Tommy found different from his own books ?

Answer:The book that Tommy found was an old, real book which belonged to his grandfather's grandfather. It had crinkly, yellow pages whereas, Tommy's books were telebooks by mechanical teachers, computers.

2:What kind of book did Tommy show to Margie ?

Answer:The book that Tommy showed to Margie was an old, real book which belonged to his grandfather's. It had crinkly yellow pages, where all the stories were printed on paper and the words stood still.

3:Why did Margie hope that the County Inspector would take away her mechanical teacher ?

Answer:Margie hoped that the County Inspector would take away her mechanical teacher because she had performed poorly in all the geography tests and had developed a strong disliking for the school.

4:Tommy thought the old books were funny and a big waste. Why ?

Answer:Tommy thought that the old books were a waste because the words stood still and did not run. He also thought that they were a big waste because they could not be reused like the screen of their mechanical teacher.

Question 5:What did County Inspector do to improve Margie's performance ? **(Board Term 1,2012, ELI-018)**

Answer:The County Inspector found that the geography sector had been geared too quick. He slowed it up to an average 10-years level. He found the overall pattern of Margie quite satisfactory.

6:What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have ?

Answer:Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers, computer, and telebooks. Their school had. no separate building. They had robotic teachers showing lessons and testing papers. Their teachers were always on and kept waiting for them.

7:Why did Margie hate school ?

Answer:Margie hated school, which was a room in her house only, because her teacher was a mechanical one. It kept giving her test papers where answers had to be written as punch codes. The results were given instantaneously.

8:What differences do you find in present school and the school described in the lesson 'The Fun They Had' ?

Answer:In present day schools, students study together in a separate building and

teachers are human beings whereas, in the lesson the school was at home and the teacher was mechanical.

9:How does Tommy describe the old kind of teachers ?

Answer:Earlier, the teachers were not mechanical teachers, they taught the children in a special building where all children went to learn. They asked questions and gave them home work.

10:Why did Margie find the book strange ?

Answer:The book had yellow and crinkly pages and the words standing still unlike moving on a screen. When they turned back to the pages read before, there were the same words on it when they read it the first time. All these things were strange for Margie.

11:Why did Margie's mother send for the County Inspector ? What did he do ?

Answer:Margie was not performing well in her geography tests. The County Inspector took the teacher apart and put it together again as its geography sector was geared a little too quick.

Long Answer Type Questions

1:How was Margie's school different from the schools that existed hundreds of years ago ?

Answer:Margie's school was at home. She had a mechanical teacher, telebooks, no other students were there in the class and work was fed in by the mechanical teacher by punch codes. Whereas, the old schools had proper buildings, many students, human teachers who gave homework and asked questions. Everyone learned the same things and books were of paper. So, it is clearly visible that Margie's school was totally different from the schools that existed hundreds of years ago.

2:'Machines can't replace human beings.' Explain this in 80-100 words with reference to the Lesson 'The Fun They Had'.

OR

In context of the lesson 'The Fun They Had' do you think mechanical teachers or computer instructors cannot replace humans as teachers.

Answer:A teacher not only has to teach and explain things but also has to understand the mindset of the students. A computer instructor will only be able to deliver the lesson but will not be able to understand the problems of the students. A teacher (human) emotionally connects to the students to make the child comfortable but this is not the case with a mechanical teacher. Teaching can be best done by a person because then only will they be able to pass on the correct values and lessons to the students.

CHAPTER 2

SOUND OF MUSIC

Extract Based Questions

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1: 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 realized she hadn’t heard,” says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist.

1. What made Isabel suspect Evelyn’s hearing ability ?
2. Why did Evelyn’s headmistress advised her parents to consult a specialist?
3. Find the word/phrase in the passage which means the same as “to hide”.

Answer:

1. Isabel had a doubt about Evelyn’s hearing ability when she did not move when her name was called to play on the piano.
2. Evelyn’s headmistress advised her parents to consult a specialist when her marks deteriorated.
3. Conceal.

2: As for music, she explains “it pours in through every part of my body. It tingles in the skin, my cheekbones and even in my hair”. When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her finger tips. 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 pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

1. How does Evelyn hear the sound of xylophone ?
2. Why does she remove her shoes on a wooden platform during her performance ?
3. Find a word from the passage that means “take off”.

Answer:

1. Evelyn hears the sound of xylophone through her finger tips.

2. She removes her shoes on a wooden platform during her performance so that she can feel the vibrations of music through her feet to legs.
3. Removes.

3:She never looked back from that point onwards. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances.

1. What did Evelyn decide when she was sixteen years old ?
2. How did Evelyn get right to the top ?
3. Which word in the passage means the same as “gave a short performance so that the director could decide whether she was good enough”

Answer:

1. When Evelyn was sixteen years old, she decided to make music her life.
2. Evelyn got to the top by hard work, motivation and determination.
3. Auditioned.

4:For quite a while, Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven, her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist. It was then discovered that her hearing was severely impaired as a result of gradual nerve damage. They were advised that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school of the deaf.

1. Why did headmistress urge her parents to take her to the specialists ?
2. At what age were symptoms of deafness noticed in Evelyn ?
3. Trace the word that means “damaged”.

Answer:

1. Evelyn’s school’s headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist because she had a hearing problem.
2. At the age of eleven the symptoms of deafness were noticed in Evelyn.
3. Impaired.

5:Rush hour crowds jostle for position on the underground train platform. A slight girl, looking younger than her seventeen years, was nervous yet excited as she felt the vibrations of the approaching train. It was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm.

1. Who is the 'girl' in the above lines ?
2. Where was she going ?
3. Find the word from the extract that means "frightening".

Answer:

1. Evelyn Glennie.
2. She was going to the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London.
3. Daunting.

Short Answer Type Questions

1:When was Evelyn's deafness first noticed ? When was it confirmed ?

Answer: Isabel had a doubt about Evelyn's hearing ability when she did not move when her name was called to play on the piano. At the age of 11 it was confirmed when she was taken to a specialist.

Q 2:When and how did Evelyn lose her power of hearing ?

Answer:

Evelyn lost her power of hearing due to gradual nerve damage. At the age of 8 it was noticed and then at the age of 11 it was confirmed that Evelyn had lost her hearing ability.

Q 3:Why was Evelyn nervous while going to Royal Academy of Music?

Answer:

Evelyn was nervous while going to the Royal Academy of Music as she was just 16 years old and was fresh from the Scottish farms, to add to her nervousness.

Q4:How did Evelyn's deafness come to light ?

OR

When did Evelyn's mother notice that something was wrong with her hearing ?

Answer:

At the age of 8 when her name was announced to play on piano, she did not respond. At the age of 11, her marks deteriorated. The headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist and her hearing impairment was discovered.

Q 5:Who helped Evelyn to continue with music ? What did he do and say ?

Answer:

When Evelyn wanted to pursue her career in music, everyone discouraged her. It was a

Percussionist Ron Forbes who helped and encouraged her to listen to the music and feel the music through her body.

Q 6:How did Evelyn hear music despite being deaf ?

Answer:

Evelyn could sense music through her body. While playing on the xylophone, she could sense music through her fingertips and would learn against drums to sense. On the wooden floors, she used to remove her shoes and sense music through her feet moving of the legs.

Q 7:What is Evelyn's secret of success and what message does she give to achievers?

Answer:

Evelyn's secret of success was strong determination and hard work. The message that she gives to the achievers is that work hard and get what you want.

Q 8:How has Evelyn Glennie inspired handicapped people ?

Answer:

When the handicapped people used to see Evelyn Glennie, they used to say, "If she can do it, I can", And so, she resulted in inspiring them.

Q 9:Write down Evelyn's message for the people.

Answer:

Evelyn's message to the people is that—Strong determination and hard work with sincerely / honesty leads to success. Aim for your goal and try to reach your goal with full determination and concentration.

Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1:How did Evelyn Glennie fight with her physical disability ?

Answer:

Evelyn Glennie was a very brave girl. She learnt to open her body and mind to the sounds and vibrations. She used to feel as if music was flowing through her body. So she joined an orchestra and later the Royal Academy of Music. She did not want to be deprived of the joy of music that made her happy. She later even gave solo performances on stage in many countries and became famous.

Q 2:In spite of her towering success Evelyn Glennie does not accept any hint of heroic achievement.Explain.

Answer:

Evelyn Glennie had a hearing loss and was discouraged by most of the teachers but she did not give up. Ron Forbes guided her to listen through her body not ears. Eventually, Evelyn learnt to open her body and mind to sound and vibrations. She scored the highest marks in the history of Royal Academy of Music. She also captured many top awards and brought percussion to the front of the orchestra. She has given pleasure to millions and in spite of this towering success she does , not accept any hint of heroic achievement and is a very simple person.

Q 3:Evelyn's determination to overcome her disability has made her source of inspiration for deaf children. Comment.

Answer:When Evelyn became deaf, she was determined to lead a normal life. She was encouraged by her percussion teacher. She learned to sense music through different parts of the body and opened her mind and body to vibrations. She could feel higher drum from waist up and xylophone music through fingertips. She used to remove her shoes on the wooden floors. She was the master of a thousand instruments and most sought after as a multi – percussionist.

Q 4:How is Evelyn Glennie helping other with her popularity and skill ?

Answer:

In spite of Evelyn's deafness she joined the prestigious Royal Academy of Music and won the "Soloist of the Year" award. Evelyn used to practice for hours learning languages such as Japanese and French. She earned a lot but was kind at heart. She used to give free performances in prisons and hospitals and also proved a personal example of tireless hard work and firm determination.

Question 5:How did Evelyn succeed in pursuing her interest in music ?

Answer:

Evelyn decided not to give up. It was Ron Forbes who recognized her potential and supported her. He advised her not to listen through her ears but to open her body and mind to the vibrations. She mastered the art of interpreting different vibrations of sound on her body to different notes. She could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the

lower one from the waist down. After the practice she could sense music in different parts of her body. And by this, Evelyn succeeded in pursuing her interest in music

Part 2

Bismillah Khan Summary

- This chapter throws light on the origin of Shehnai and the life of all time great Shehnai Vadaak – Bismillah Khan. The winner of Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of India, his dedication to music and his love for India.

- "Pungi" a musical instrument, was banned by Emperor Aurangzeb, because of its shrill and unpleasant sound. In fact, it was regarded more as a noise maker rather than a musical instrument. It was modified and perfected by a barber who belonged to a family of professional musicians. He played it in the chamber of the king. Its sound was so appreciated by the emperor that it was made a part of Naubat. Since it was played for the first time in Shah's chamber by a Nai, it came to be known as Shehnai.

- Traditionally, it was played in the temples and on every auspicious domestic occasions also. Its sound was regarded as auspicious. But it was treated as an incomplete musical instrument, not capable of creating independent pages. But Bismillah Khan broke this myth.

- Bismillah belongs to the Benares Gharana. He was born in 1916 at Dumraon, in Bihar. As a 5 year old, he used to visit the Bihariji Temple and sing Bhojpuri "Chaitya" there. For his melodious singing he used to earn a big Laddu from the local Bhojpuri King. At the age of 6, he moved to Benares. There under the guidance and training of his maternal uncle, Ali Bux, he started picking up the finer nuances of shehnai. He used to spend most of his time practicing on the banks of the River Ganges. The themes of his music were deeply affected by the sounds of flowing water of the Ganga.

- He got the best performer award at All India Music Conference in Allahabad in 1930. In 2001, he won 3 awards'the Padma Bhushan, Padmashree and Padma Vibhushan. He was invited to play the shehnai from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 1947, becoming the first to greet the independent India. He won many international awards also. He became the first Indian to perform at titje Lincoln Central Hall, in USA. An auditorium in Tehran was named after him-Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan.

- Bismillah was very fond of Benares and Dumraon. He declined an offer from one of his students to settle in the USA, as he was not willing to stay away for long from Benaras

and its holy river Ganga. He ventured into film world also. He gave his music in 2 movies. His composition “Dil ka khillonahai ” for movie “Goonj Uthi Shehnai”, was a chartbuster. But he could not associate himself with the artificial glamour of die film world. For him, music was his soul, his life.

Extract Based Questions

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Q 1:The young boy took to music early in'life. At the age of three when his mother took him to his maternal uncle's house in Benares (now Varanasi); Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practice the shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle, Ali Bux, to the Vishnu temple of Benares where Ali Bux was employed to the play the Shehnai. Ali Bux would play the shehnai and Bismillah would sit captivated for hours on end.

1. Where did the young boy spend his life at the age of three ? .
2. What fascinated the young boy ?
3. Who was Ali Bux and where was he employed ?

Answer:

1. At the age of three, the young boy spent his life at his maternal uncle's house in Benares.
2. Shehnai and the practice of shehnai by his uncles fascinated the little boy.
3. Ali Bux was Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle. He was employed at the Vishnu Temple of Benares.

Q 2:Awards and recognition came thick and fast. Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. So well known did he become internationally that an auditorium in Tehran was named after him. Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan.

1. What special recognition did Bismillah Khan achieve ?
2. Bismillah Khan promoted Shehnai to international level. How ?
3. The word in the passage means “prominent”.

Answer:

1. The special recognition that Bismillah Khan achieved was to be the first Indian to perform at Lincoln Central Hall.
2. Bismillah Khan promoted Shehnai to international levels by participating in the World Exposition, Cannes Art festival and Osaka Trade Fair.
3. prestigious.

Q 3:When India gained independence On 15th August, 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his* Shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from the Red Fort to an audience which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later gave his famous “Tryst with Destiny” speech.

1. How did Bismillah Khan greet the nation ? ’
2. Who delivered the speech “Tryst with Destiny” ?
3. Find a word from the passage that means “gathering of persons for the purpose of hearing a speaker”.

Answer:

1. Bismillah Khan greeted the nation by playing Raag Kafi on his Shehnai.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru.
3. Audience.

Q 4:His first trip abroad was to Afghanistan where King Zahir Shah was so taken in by the maestro that he gifted him priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs.

1. Bismillah Khan’s first trip abroad was to which country ?
2. What did Zahir Shah present Bismillah Khan ?
3. Find word from the passage which has the same meaning as “momenta”

Answer:

1. Bismillah Khan’s first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.
2. Zahir Shah presented Bismillah Khan priceless Persian carpets and souvenirs.
3. Souvenirs

Q 5:When India gained independence on August 15,1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from Red – Fort to an audience which included Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

1. When did India gain Independence ?
2. Which Raag did Bismillah Khan play from Red Fort ?

3. What do the words “poured his heart out” here refer to ?

Answer:

1. India gained independence on 15th August, 1947.
2. Bismillah Khan played the Raag Kafi from the Red Fort.
3. Played from the depth of his heart

Short Answer Type Questions

Q1:How did ‘pungi’ transform into a Shehnai ?

Answer:‘Pungi’ a musical instrument was banned because of its shrill and unpleasant sound. But a nai modified and perfected it and played it for the first time in a Shah’s chamber, thus it came to be known as ‘Shehnai’.

Q 2:Who had brought shehnai to the classical Stage ? What was he honoured with ?

Answer:Shehnai was brought to the classical stage by Ustad Bismillah Khan. He started picking up the finer nuances of Shehnai under the guidance of his maternal uncle Ali Bux. He had been honoured with Padma Bhushan, Padma Shree and Padma Vibhushan.

Q 3:Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A. ?

Answer:Bismillah Khan refused to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A. because he could not live outside India. He was in love with Benares and Dumraon and missed it whenever he was in abroad.

Question 4:Why did emperor Aurangzeb ban the playing of Pungi in the royal residence?

(Board Term 1,2012, ELI-013)

Answer:Aurangzeb banned the playing of the Pungi in the royal residence because of its shrill unpleasant sound. It was regarded more as a noise maker than a musical instrument. –

Question 5:What is the difference between a Pungi and a Shehnai ? **(Board Term 1,2012, ELI-015)**

Answer:The difference between a Pungi and Shehnai can be noticed by the difference

in their shapes and the sound produced by them. A Shehnai is longer than a Pungi. The latter has a shrill, unpleasant sound whereas, the former has a soft, melodious sound.

Q 6:Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Answer:Bismillah Khan refused to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A. because he was a true patriot and loved India a lot specially the banks of the river Ganga.

Q 7:How do we know that sound of Shehnai is considered auspicious ?

Answer:We know that the sound of the Shehnai is considered auspicious because it is played in temples, and is a must for all happy occasions like marriages.

Q 8:What were the recurring themes of Bismillah Khan's music ?

Answer:The recurring themes of Bismillah Khan's music was the relationships between the human beings and the flowing waters of the Ganga. He thought that Benares and Dumraon were the most wonderful towns of the world.

Q 9:How did "Pungi" get its new name ? What was it ?

AnswerPungi was modified and perfected by a barber which was very much appreciated by the emperor.

Since, it was played for the first time in Shah's chamber by a Nai, it came to be known as 'Shehnai.'

Q 10:What place did Shehnai have in the past ? What place has it now ?

Answer:

In the past, the Shehnai was a part of the traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. Then, it was used in temples and weddings but now it is used also in the classical concerts.

Q11:When and how did Bismillah Khan get the break ?

Answer:

Bismillah Khan, at the age of 14, accompanied his uncle to Allahabad Music Conference where Ustad Fayaz Khan patted his shoulder. He got encouraged and worked hard and got a big break from the All India Radio in 1938.

Q 12:Where did Bismillah Khan play the Shehnai on 15th Aug 1947 ? Why was the event historic ?

Answer:

Bismillah Khan was the first Indian to greet the nation with Shehnai and played 'Raag Kafi' from the Red Fort. The event was historic because the audience included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who gave the famous speech – Tryst with Destiny. .

Q 13:Why did Bismillah Khan regularly go to the nearby Bihariji temple in his childhood and what did he earn ?

Answer:

At the age of 5, Bismillah Khan would regularly visit the Bihariji temple to sing Bhojpuri "Chaitya", For his melodious singing he used to earn a laddu weighing 1.25 kg. from the local Bhojpuri King.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1:"There is always a teacher to bring out the latent potential of a pupil/' Justify with reference to the role played by Ron Forbes and Ustad Faiyaz Khan in the lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan.

Answer:

Teachers craft us to become better individuals both personally and professionally. Ron Forbes understood Evelyn's passion for music. He taught Evelyn the nuances of hearing music not through her ears but through her body. He taught her to feel the vibrations in her hands and parts of legs to get the pitch. So, he crafted her to be more musical and confident.

Bismillah Khan's teacher and mentor was his maternal uncle Ali Bux. Bismillah used to be transfixed when Ali Bux used to play Shehnai. As a child, Bismillah used to accompany his maternal uncle to Vishnu Temple of Benares where Ali Bux was employed to play Shehnai. Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practiced for hours on the banks of river Ganga. He attained perfection only because of his uncle and mentor.

Q 2:Give a brief character sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Answer:

Ustad Bismillah Khan was a Shehnai master of great national and international fame. He was a great musician. Ali Bux, his maternal uncle perfected him in music. Shehnai was brought to the classical stage by Ustad Bismillah Khan. He practiced for hours and

worked very hard to attain perfection. It was his melodious music that made him the first Indian to greet free independent India. Ustad Bismillah Khan created many new ragas. He was given many awards and he even received the "Bharat Ratna". He was a true patriot who declined many offers to settle abroad. He was a true artist but a simple man. He had great regard for Hindustani Classical Music.

Q 3:How did the young Bismillah develop his interest in Shehnai ?

Answer:

Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncle practice the Shehnai when he was only three. He was deeply fascinated by the music of Shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle Ali Bux, to the Vishnu Temple of Benares where Bux was employed to play Shehnai. Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practiced for hours on the banks of river Ganga. The themes of his music deeply affected by the sounds of flowing water of the Ganga. At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to Allahabad music conference where Ustad Fayaz Khan patted his shoulder which inspired and encouraged him to work harder.

Question 4:How was Bismillah Khan's music recognized internationally ?

Answer:

Bismillah Khan was not only renowned in India but also internationally. He promoted Shehnai to international levels of participating in the world exposition, Cannes Art festival and Osaka Trade Fair. He became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Central Hall in the United States of America. So well known did he become internationally that an auditorium in Tehran was named after him, "Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan."

Question 5:Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A. ? ,

Answer:

Bismillah Khan was exceedingly fond of Benares and Dumraon. They were the most wonderful towns of the world for him. The students promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benares, but he asked if they would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Whenever, he was in a foreign country he yearned for Hindustan. In Mumbai also he thought of only Benares and the holy Ganga. Thus, he refused to start a Shehnai School in the U.S.A.

The Road Not Taken (Poem)

Extract Based Questions

Read the extract given below and answers the question that follow.

1:Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follows :

Two roads diverged in yellow wood.

And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood And looked down once as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

1. At which point had the poet reached ?
2. Why was the traveller feeling sorry ?
3. Give the opposite to 'met at a point' from the passage ?

Answer:

1. The poet is standing at a point where two roads diverged in the yellow wood.
2. The poet is feeling sorry because he could not travel both the roads.
3. 'Diverged'.

Question 2:And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden back Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way,

I doubted it if I should ever come back

1. Which road does the poet choose ?
2. Why was the poet doubtful about the first road ?
3. Find a word from the extract that means 'crushed'.

Answer:

1. The poet took the second road.
2. The poet chose the second road over the first thinking that he would come to it some other day. Yet, he was very doubtful that he would ever be able to come back to it someday.
3. Trodden.

3.Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same.

1. Why did the poet take the other road ?
2. What did the poet discover while travelling on the other road ?
3. What do the given lines suggest about the speaker ?

Answer:

1. The poet took the other road because he thought that it was more challenging to travel on it as only a few had used (trodden on) it.
2. The poet discovered, while travelling on the other road, that the second was almost equally used as the first one.
3. The given lines suggest that the speaker loved challenges and difficulties.

4:I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence;

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I I took the one less travelled by,

And that has made all the difference.

1. How did the poet make his choice about the roads ?
2. What had made a lot of difference in the poet's life ?
3. What does the term "road" stand for ?

Answer:

1. The poet took the road which was less travelled as it was grassy and less worn.
2. The poet regretted his decision as he thought that he would have been successful if he would have taken the other road and so his life would have been different.
3. The term "road" stands for opportunities and choices.

5:Then took the other, just as fair,"

And having perhaps the better chance,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear,

Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same.

1. What made the poet choose such a road ?
2. What does the poet mean by "just as fair" ?
3. Find the phrase from the extract that mean "had not been used".

Answer:

1. The poet chose such a road because grass has grown there and none had travelled so far on it.
2. "Just as fair" means that the other road was as beautiful as the one seen earlier.
3. Wanted wear

6: I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

1. Write the name of the poem and the poet.
2. Why did the poet take the road which was less travelled by ?
3. Why was the poet in dilemma ?

Answer:

1. The Road Not Taken – Robert Frost
2. The poet took the road which was less travelled by because he wanted to be different from others in his life.
3. The poet was in a dilemma while choosing one of the two roads.

7: Two roads diverged in a yellow wood And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller,
long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth.

1. Where did the roads diverge ?
2. Where did the one road lead to ?
3. What does “yellow wood” stand for ?

Answer:

1. The roads diverged in the yellow wood.
2. The one road led to dense growth of plants and animals.
3. “Yellow wood” stands for the autumn season.

8: And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

1. Who has composed these lines ?
2. What does “both” refer to ?
3. Trace a word from the extract which means “suspected”.

Answer:

1. These lines were composed by Robert Frost.
2. “Both” refers to two roads which lead to different directions.
3. Doubted.

9: And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden back.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way,

I doubted if I should ever come back.

1. What does “both” refer to in the stanza ?
2. Explain “in leaves no step had trodden back”.
3. Write the rhyming scheme of the extract.

Answer:

1. “Both” in the above stanza refers to two roads which diverged in different directions.
2. “In leaves no step had trodden back” means that both the roads were covered with yellow leaves and nobody had walked on them.
3. abaab

10:Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller,
long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth.

1. What problem does the poet faces ?
2. Where is the poet standing ?
3. Find a word from the extract that means “separated”.

Answer:

1. The poet wasn’t able to decide which road or path he should tread upon.
2. The poet is standing at a point where two roads diverge in a yellow wood.
3. Diverged.

11:‘Two roads diverged in a yellow wood And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller,
long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth’

1. Why is the poet feeling sorry ?
2. What is the mood of the poet ?
3. Find the word from the extract which means the same as “branched out”.

Answer:

1. The poet is feeling sorry because he could not travel both the roads.
2. The mood of the poet is regretful and thoughtful.
3. Diverge.

Short Answer Type Questions (About 30-40 words each)

1:Why will the choice between two roads that seem very much alike make such a big difference many years later in the life of the poet ?

Answer:

A choice between two roads that seem very much alike will make such a big difference many

years later in the poet's life since this particular decision, this path opened up many different opportunities for him in future. The decision that he now makes will influence him and his life and his rest of the decisions since the two roads are same they still have varied options in them.

2: Does the speaker feel that he has made the wrong choice in taking the road "less travelled by"? If not, why does he "sigh"? What does he regret ?

Answer:

No, the speaker does not feel that he has made a wrong decision by taking the road less travelled. The poet wanted to explore both the roads. He tells himself that he will explore one and then come back and explore the other, but he knows that he will probably be unable to do so.

3: And that has made all the difference. What is your opinion of the difference- was it for the better or the worse? Substantiate your answer.

Answer: The poem does not clearly state whether the choice made by the poet made him happy or sad. However, if examined the way of the world, we find that the individuals who have achieved recognition and fame have always eschewed the beaten track. Hence, we can reason that the poet-traveller was made happy by choosing the less travelled path, not the beaten track. The concluding line of the poem "And that has made all the difference" connotes the poet's joy.

4: After reading the poem can you detail the tone entire poem.

Answer:

The overall tone of the poem is one of regret. He believes that at some time far in the future, he will still be thinking of his two possible paths "with a sigh". He does not anticipate being any less conflicted then or any more satisfied with his choice. He realizes that his choice will have made "all the difference" in his life, but he is presently uncertain about what the difference will turn out to be.

5: Was the poet doubtful or clear that he would return to take the other path which he could not do earlier ?

Answer:

Throughout the poem and the poet's journey he faces an archetypal dilemma. He doubts if he would ever be able to come back to take that other road which might have given him some other

more lucrative options in life. The poet believes and we all know that one road leads to another so going back to the original path is not easy.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1: Does the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', symbolize or reveal a meaning or aspect of freedom or responsibility ?

Answer:

The poem reveals the complex nature of a seemingly simple decision. The narrator is conflicted as he thinks about which road to take. Even after some deliberation and the fact that usage "Had worn them really about the same," he cannot help wondering, but then doubting "if I should ever come back". He is even trying to convince himself that he has made the best choice as, when he looks back "Somewhere ages and ages hence", he is sure that he will be able to say that he made the best choice and that it "has made all the difference".

This poem highlights the fact that freedom (of choice in this instance) brings with it its own set of responsibilities. The poem also, perhaps, indicates the futility of over-thinking some situations. If, even trivial decisions require so much thought, how can anyone ever make life-changing decisions. Apparently for the narrator, this is life-changing. At least the choice is his to make.

Q 2: What do the two roads symbolize in the passage 1? What is the significance of choosing a road?

Answer:

The two roads that the poet-traveller faces in his walk or journey are symbolic of the choices that we have to encounter in our life. The journey or a simple walk itself is a metaphor for the great journey of life. In the poem the poet, after prolonged thought, decides to take the road less travelled, accepting its challenges and uncertainties. The decision is final and irreversible and it has its own consequences, may be positive or negative. In real life also we confront such critical situations where we face life-altering options. The decision we make is crucial. We should contemplate over the choices before and then decide our priorities. Once we make the decision and proceed accordingly, we can never reverse it. The life takes its own course, and it does not give a second chance to alter our decision and change our course of life. Hence, decide wisely.

Question 3: What is the theme of the poem "The Road Not Taken" ?

Answer:

The poem 'The Road Not Taken' offers a profound perception into the process of decision

making. The traveller at the crossroads of the diverging roads is symbolic of an individual at a decisive moment in his life's journey. His decision or choice of future action is of utmost significance since the decision decides his destiny .The poet, Robert Frost, through this poem asserts the importance of the right decision at the right time. In life we have to make our choices; sometimes we have to make these choices without the full understanding of the state of affairs. Even then, we should arrive at decision only after carefully considering all the available options. We may regret our choice or we may be excited about our choice, but the choice at the crucial moment will determine and change the path of our life. Hence, the poem stresses the need for deep and critical analysis of the situation before we arrive at a life-transforming decision.