

6

A Friend Found in Music

Summary

The poem "A Friend Found in Music" highlights the deep emotional connection between the speaker and music. The poet compares music to an ocean, rhythm, and therapy, showing how it provides comfort, joy, and strength in both happy and sad times. Music helps the speaker overcome difficult moments and lifts their spirits when they feel low. It is described as a true and dependable friend that is always present, especially when no one else seems to care. Overall, the poem expresses how music plays an important and supportive role in the poet's life.

- **Message:** Music is a true friend that comforts us and helps us stay strong in difficult times.

New Terms

- **Ocean** – A very large body of water; here, it means something deep and powerful.
- **Rhythm** – A regular pattern of sound or beats in music.
- **Core** – The innermost part; deepest feelings.
- **Therapy** – Treatment that helps to heal or make someone feel better.
- **Blue** – Feeling sad or unhappy.
- **Spirits** – Mood or feelings.
- **Cheerful** – Happy and full of joy.
- **Needed** – Necessary or important.
- **Pull through** – To successfully overcome a difficult situation.



One Point Learning

Reflect and Respond

I. Read the questions given below and share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. What kind of music do you prefer to listen to—vocal or instrumental?

Ans. I prefer instrumental music because it is calm, soothing, and helps me relax and concentrate.

2. Name your favourite musician(s).

Ans. My favourite musicians are A. R. Rahman and Zakir Hussain.

3. Give reasons for your choice.

Ans. I like A. R. Rahman because his music is melodious and deeply expressive. I admire Zakir Hussain for his exceptional tabla skills and lively performances.

Check Your Understanding

I. Read the poem again to complete the poet's diary about her feelings on music. Fill in the blanks with words from the poem.

- Today, I've been thinking about how essential music is to me. It is like an ocean that calls me to its 1. _____. Music is the 2. _____ that harmonises with my 3. _____, moving me in ways I can't explain. When I feel sad or upset about things, music is the 4. _____ that eases the ache. It is amazing how music has the power to lift my 5. _____, and give me strength to pull through difficult times. I know that it is the effect of music whenever I feel 6. _____. Music is the much 7. _____, dependable friend when there is no one to 8. _____. Thank you, my dear music, for being my all-time comfort.

Ans. Here are the correct words to complete the diary:

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. shore | 2. rhythm | 3. core | 4. therapy |
| 5. spirits | 6. cheerful | 7. needed | 8. care |

Completed paragraph:

- Today, I've been thinking about how essential music is to me. It is like an ocean that calls me to its **shore**. Music is the **rhythm** that harmonises with my **core**, moving me in ways I can't explain. When I feel sad or upset about things, music is the **therapy** that eases the ache. It is amazing how music has the power to lift my **spirits**, and give me strength to pull through difficult times. I know that it is the effect of music whenever I feel **cheerful**. Music is the much **needed**, dependable friend when there is no one to **care**. Thank you, my dear music, for being my all-time comfort.

II. Let us appreciate the poem.

1. The phrase 'moves me' in the line 'That moves me to the core,' is an example of _____.

Ans. metaphor

2. The poet uses metaphors for music. List these metaphors and rewrite them as similes. For example, Music is as _____ as _____.

Ans. Metaphors rewritten as similes:

- Music is as vast and deep as an ocean.
- Music is as steady as a rhythm.
- Music is as healing as therapy.
- Music is as caring as a friend.

3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? What impact does it have?

Ans. The rhyme scheme is ABAB.

- **Impact:** It creates a musical and smooth flow, making the poem pleasant to read and easy to remember.

4. What is the poet's purpose in using the word 'music' repetitively?

Ans. The repetition of the word 'music' emphasizes its importance and shows how central it is in the poet's life.

5. What is the message the poet wishes to convey through the poem?

Ans. The poet wants to convey that music is a constant companion that provides comfort, joy, and strength in all situations.

6. Identify the mood of the poem from the options given below.

(i) nostalgic

(ii) thoughtful

(iii) amused

(iv) playful

Ans. (ii) thoughtful

7. Give evidence from the poem to support that the speaker is the poet herself.

Ans. The speaker is the poet herself because she uses personal expressions like "moves me," "I feel," and "my spirits," showing her own feelings and experiences.

Critical Reflection

I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**1. Music is the therapy**

I need when I feel blue.

Music lifts my spirits

To make sure I pull through.

(i) Complete the following sentence suitably.

- The phrase 'feel blue' indicates _____.

Ans. feeling sad or unhappy

(ii) Identify the line which shows music makes the poet happy.

Ans. The line which shows music makes the poet happy: "Music lifts my spirits"

(iii) What does the last line of the extract signify?

Ans. The last line signifies that music helps the poet overcome difficult times and gives strength.

(iv) State whether the following sentence is true or false.

- Music plays a vital role in the poet's life.

Ans. True

(v) Select the central idea of the extract from the following options.

- A. Music brings comfort during sadness.
- B. Music is a necessity in times of happiness.
- C. Music improves our ability to pull heavy loads.
- D. Music is a source of knowledge and excitement.

Ans. A. Music brings comfort during sadness.

II. Answer the following questions.**1. How is music able to move the poet 'to the core'?**

Ans. Music deeply affects the poet's emotions and touches her inner feelings, making her feel connected and understood.

2. Why does the poet compare music to a 'needed friend'?

Ans. The poet compares music to a needed friend because it supports, comforts, and stays with her, especially when she feels lonely.

3. Explain the poet's attitude towards music.

Ans. The poet's attitude towards music is very positive and appreciative. She sees music as a source of comfort, happiness, and strength, and treats it like a true and dependable friend.

4. Support the opinion that this poem has a universal appeal.

Ans. This poem has a universal appeal because music is a part of everyone's life. People all over the world experience happiness, sadness, and stress, and many of them turn to music for comfort and joy. Since the emotions expressed in the poem are common to all human beings, everyone can relate to the poet's feelings about music.

5. Compare your experience of music with the feelings expressed in the poem.

Ans. My experience of music is similar to the poet's feelings. Music helps me relax and improves my mood when I feel sad or stressed. Like the poet, I find comfort, happiness, and strength in music, and it often feels like a true friend to me.

Vocabulary in Context

- I. Read the following phrases from the poem denoting happiness and sadness. Classify the words given in the box below as positive emotions and negative emotions.

feel blue

lifts my spirits

most cheerful

- Positive emotions (happiness): _____
- Negative emotions (sadness): _____

Ans.

- Positive emotions (happiness): lifts my spirits, most cheerful
- Negative emotions (sadness): feel blue

Now, fill in the blanks by choosing the correct word from those given in the brackets.

1. The familiar tune stimulated a rush of _____, transporting listeners back to cherished moments from their past. (nostalgia/elation)

Ans. nostalgia

2. The soulful ballad expressed the singer's _____, leaving the audience moved by the intensity of their emotions. (despondence/anguish)

Ans. anguish

3. The pianist played a soulful melody on the stage, creating an ambience of _____.
(melancholy/despair)

Ans. melancholy

4. The festive symphony filled the air with _____ tones, lifting the spirits of everyone present on the joyous occasion. (jubilant/euphoric)

Ans. jubilant

II. Read the highlighted word in the line given below.

To make sure I pull through

- The meaning of the verb 'pull' is 'move or remove something'. The preposition 'through' means 'from one end or side to the other'. However, when they come together they convey a completely different meaning. Here, 'pull through' means 'to succeed in doing something very difficult'.

When a verb consists of two parts, the first part is a verb; the second part is a preposition or an adverb. When they come in such combinations the verbs convey a totally different meaning. Such multi-verbs are called phrasal verbs.

Now, read the following lines from the poem.

Music is the rhythm

That moves me to the core.

The phrase 'moves me' means 'to make somebody do something'.

'Move' also has different meanings. For example, to change position, to make progress, to take action, cause strong feelings.

Ans. Here are the meanings:

- **pull through:** to successfully recover from a difficult situation or survive a problem.
Example: She was very ill, but she managed to pull through.
- **moves me:** to affect someone deeply or create strong emotions.
Example: That song really moves me and makes me emotional.

III. Choose the correct meaning from the box given below for the underlined phrasal verbs in the following sentences.

1. He's planning to move out of his parents' house next month.
2. Our new neighbours moved in yesterday.
3. I've been in this job long enough—it's time I moved on.
4. Can you move over a bit so I can sit down?
5. The police officer told the crowd to move along.
6. The bus moved off as soon as all the passengers were seated.

IV. Create phrasal verbs from the verbs 'put', 'get', 'look', 'break'. Find the meanings of the phrasal verbs you create. Make sentences with the phrasal verbs. Discuss them with your classmates and teacher.

Ans.