



## 18. Dancing On

*'Dancing may not be easy for the girl in the picture'. Discuss.*

Alarippu, shabdam, varnam, padam - these were strange words for the audience in the packed auditorium in Washington. But as the young dancer from India, looking splendid in her traditional costume, explained each item before she began her dance, they began to understand the bhava (emotion), raga (melody) and tala (rhythm) of Bharatanatyam.

About ten years ago, Sudha was a promising 17-year-old dancer with more than 80 performances behind her. And then one day, she was injured in a road accident about 25 kilometers from Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, where the family had gone for their annual pilgrimage.



Perhaps she was not treated properly at the local hospital where she was rushed. In any case, her injuries resulted in a gangrenous infection. When she was taken to Chennai, the doctors there tried hard to stop the growth of the infection. but finally they were forced to amputate her right leg from about eight centimeters below the knee.

In the terrible months that followed, Sudha's search began - to find a way of dancing again. "The day I met Dr. Pramod Sethi, I knew that my dream would come true," she says. Dr. Sethi had won the Magsaysay Award for his development of the 'Jaipur Foot' - an artificial limb made from vulcanized rubber filled with sponge. Sudha acquired a 'Jaipur Foot' and began her determined journey back to the world of Bharatanatyam, learning to balance, bend, stretch, walk, twist, turn and finally, dance. Her doctors, her physiotherapist, her parents and her guru were all a part of her passionate effort. On October 27, 1982, she gave a *Gurudakshina* (a traditional thanks giving recital) at the residence of her guru. It was truly a miracle.

*What was the miracle?*

On January 28, 1984, Sudha made a historic comeback by giving a public recital in Bombay (Mumbai). The performance was notable for its classical quality. Everyone warmly welcomed the return of the talented dancer.

Her father K.D. Chandran say, "After every performance, Sudha used to ask, 'How was it, Daddy?' and I used to tell her that she still had to improve a lot. But on January 28, when she asked me the usual question, I didn't say anything. I just touched her feet. It was my tribute to a great artist."

Sudha's amazing success story took an interesting turn when a Hyderabad film producer decided to make a Telugu film not just based on her story but with her in the main lead. Mayuri's success encouraged him to dub the film in Tamil and Malayalam and remake it in Hindi as 'Nache Mayuri' - and Sudha Chandran had yet another birth, as a film star. She has since acted in some three dozen films in several languages, and has also just completed producing a Kannada film 'Kalabhimani' based on the true life of Balanna, a deaf artist who went on to become a great character actor. (Balanna, 74, has 400 Kannada films to his credit and is still in demand.)

Sudha says, "If Helen Keller could overcome her handicap so can I, is what I have always told myself."

*Point out similarities between Helen Keller and Sudha Chandran.*

That, Sudha remarks, is what she replied to her Indian fans who wrote to her in the thousands after the release of her films. "People wrote to say that they were inspired by my story and that it had given them new hope. I do feel thrilled that my message has got across."

And what is that message ?

"The seed of achievement lies in the human mind. When this realization comes, there is no looking back. Once I decided that my handicap was not going to stop me from dancing, that was it."

*-Simplified from "Dancing On" by Shailaja Ganguly*

### **Word Meanings**

auditorium	a place where an audience assembles
amputate	to cut off
vulcanized	treated with sulphur i.e. great heat to make rubber stronger
miracle	an act or event that doesn't follow the laws of nature
recital	a public performance of music or dance or poetry
tribute	a gift that is intended to show your respect
thrill	a strong feeling of excitement or pleasure
fate	imaginary power which has settled everything that is to happen
dub	replace the sound track in a different language



## Reading Comprehension

### A. Answer the following Questions :-

- (i) What were the strange words introduced to the audience in Washington?
- (ii) What did Sudha always do before her performances?
- (iii) How did Sudha lose her leg ?
- (iv) Why did Sudha say "My dream will come true" when she met Dr. Pramod?
- (v) What was the turning point in Sudha's life ?
- (vi) Sudha Chandran says towards the end of the lesson, "I do feel thrilled". Identify why she feels so ?
- (vii) How did Sudha get the opportunity to act in films?

### B. Write true or false against the statements:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| (i) In a road accident Sudha lost her right hand                    | [     ] |
| (ii) She again came back with her new dance item                    | [     ] |
| (iii) She hasn't worked in any film                                 | [     ] |
| (iv) She has given performances only in foreign countries           | [     ] |
| (v) People wrote that they were not inspired by her success stories | [     ] |

### C. Choose the correct answer:

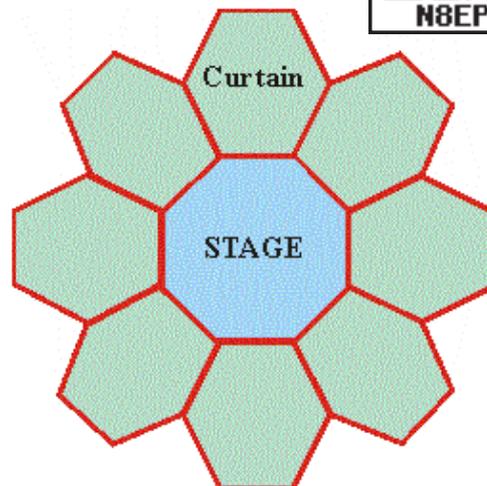
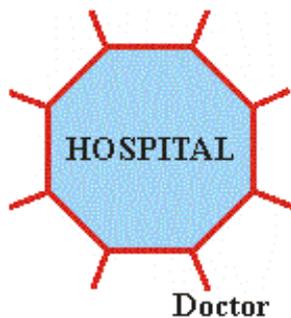
- (i) While performing, Sudha wore \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Modern costume  
 (b) Traditional costume  
 (c) Western costume
- (ii) She worked for the film \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Nache Mayuri  
 (b) Arunima  
 (c) Gajagamini
- (iii) Before Sudha was 17 years of age, she had given \_\_\_\_\_ performances.  
 (a) more than 70  
 (b) less than 80  
 (c) more than 80
- (iv) Sudha made a historic comeback on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 15 October 1983  
 (b) 1 January 1982  
 (c) 28 January 1984
- (v) Sudha Chandran was inspired by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Helen Keller  
 (b) Elena John  
 (c) Valentina Tereskova

**D. Arrange the given sentences in a series as they appear in the lesson:**

- (a) Sudha's right leg was amputated after a road accident.
- (b) Sudha explains each item to the audience before she begins her dance.
- (c) Sudha acquires a Jaipur foot and makes her comeback.
- (d) Sudha gives her first comeback recital in Mumbai.
- (e) Sudha receives a note of congratulations from a young girl after her performance in Washington.
- (f) Sudha acts in 'Nache Mayuri', a film based on her own life.
- (g) Sudha's father touched her feet as a token of respect.

**Vocabulary**

**A. Make a word list related to the given word:**



**B. Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box:**

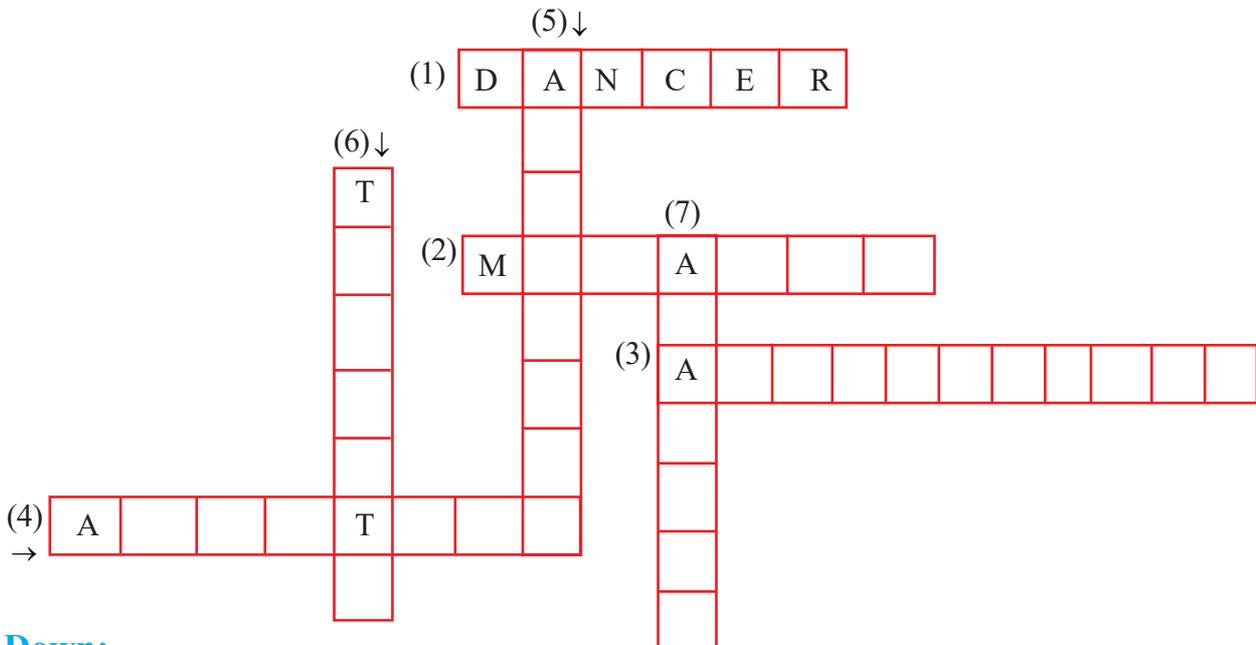
defeats, amputate, historical, miracle, costume

- (i) Rashmi wore a new \_\_\_\_\_ for the party.
- (ii) Rahim was injured and the doctors were forced to \_\_\_\_\_ his right hand.
- (iii) I visited many \_\_\_\_\_ places in India.
- (iv) The Indian team \_\_\_\_\_ the South African team in the hockey match.
- (v) It is only a \_\_\_\_\_ that Seema once again is able to see this beautiful world.

**C. Complete a puzzle one is done for you:**

**Across:** →

- Example:** (1) one who performs a dance on the stage [6 letters]  
 (2) an act that doesnot follow the laws of nature. (7 letters)  
 (3) completed successfully. (11 letters)  
 (4) To cut off a part of the body (8 letters)



**Down:**

- (5) people who come to see a performance (8 letters)  
 (6) showing respect (7 letters)  
 (7) surprizing (7 letters)

**D. Make a correct match:**

- |            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Modified   | to make simple                        |
| Clarified  | to correct                            |
| Simplified | to free from impurities to make clear |
| Rectified  | to make pure                          |
| Certified  | to improve                            |
| Purified   | to attest formally.                   |

**Grammar**



**Raju is new in the village. He met a boy in the village street. He asked the following questions:**

Read carefully the following questions and tell the class what Raju asked as given in the example:

	What is your name?	My name is .....	
	Where do you live?	I live at .....	
	Which class do you study?	I study .....	
	Where is your school?	My school is near .....	
	How do you go to school?	I go to school .....	

**Example:** Raju said to the boy, "what is your name?"  
Raju asked the boy what his name was.

**Note:**

- Direct speech is in interrogative form.
- Direct speech begins with interrogative pronouns.
- Interrogative pronoun is used to join the direct and indirect speech.
- Interrogative sentence is changed into simple statement.
- Present form of the verb is changed into the past form of the sentence.

### Writing

**A. Read the short biography of Teejan Bai and complete the biodata given below:**

Here is the story of the struggle of a village girl who dared to dream.

Teejan Bai belongs to Paridhan adivasi community. She could hardly get two meals a day. As a child, her grandfather's music fascinated her. But her mother was ashamed because it was not considered good for a girl to sing and dance in that community. She often beat Teejan to stop her from singing. But this only made her more adamant. The wide gap between what she wanted to do and what others expected her to do disturbed her. However, her father supported her. Her first concert, the one most memorable for her was at Chandrakhuri. Later she gave performances all over the world. She was honoured with Padmashri and Sangit Natak Academy Award. She was employed in the Bhilai



Steel Plant. She has many students. She hopes that they will spread Pandvani to all corners of the world.

Teejan Bai owes her success to God. The other force behind her success, she says was her mother. Teejan mother's resistance only made her more determined to pursue her interest.

1. Name : .....
2. Father's Name : .....
3. Date of Birth : .....
4. Place of Birth : .....
5. Specialisation : .....
6. Awards : 6.1 .....  
6.2 .....  
6.3 .....  
6.4 .....

**B. Character Sketch**

**What are the qualities of Teejan Bai that make her a successful person ?**

**Activity**

**A. Listen to the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.**

**Answer orally in one word only.**

See Appendix-1 Lesson-18

1. What was the colour of the puppy sitting in the corner?
2. How many puppies were there in the shop?
3. Why did the shopkeeper say that the white puppy was not for sale?
4. For how much money did the boy buy the lame puppy? Mention the words that give you the clue.
5. How much money did the boy bring from his mother?
6. Why do you think the boy bought the lame puppy?



**Project**

**Collect some pictures of famous artists in your own locality and make a list of names and their related art.**