Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 6

Twin Melodies

SUMMARY • CBSE 2026–27

Chapter 6 is a play by Mitra Phukan about Shruti Sharma, a young violinist who wants to explore Indo-Western fusion music while her father, Nabin Sharma, strongly supports classical Hindustani music.

Act I – Shruti's Dilemma

The play opens in Iqbal's room, where Shruti, Iqbal, Avinash and Peter are rehearsing an Indo-Western fusion music piece. Shruti plays the violin, Iqbal the flute, Avinash the tabla and Peter the keyboard. After the rehearsal, the friends celebrate a newspaper article praising Shruti's performance with her father, the master violinist Nabin Sharma. However, Shruti remains worried because she has not told her parents about the upcoming fusion concert.

Shruti explains that her father is very strict about music. He believes that classical Hindustani music, with its ragas and aalaaps, is the proper form of music for a serious artist. Shruti respects her father's opinions but also wants to experience fusion music. Her friends encourage her to speak honestly to him. Finally, she decides to "bite the bullet" and tell her father about the concert at dinner.

Act II – The Conflict

During dinner, Shruti struggles to find the right words to tell her parents about the concert. She eventually tells Nabin that she wants to participate in an Indo-Western fusion group performance. Nabin reacts firmly and negatively. He says that she should focus on her individual art and follows his rule of allowing only one performance every six months. He also criticises fusion music and does not agree to attend the rehearsal.

Shruti pleads with him to attend one practice before deciding. Nabin refuses and leaves. Leela, Shruti's mother, questions her about keeping the practice sessions secret. Shruti admits that she should have asked her father earlier and promises not to hide things from her mother again. The conflict highlights the tension between traditional and contemporary approaches to music.

Act III – The Turning Point

At Iqbal's house, Shruti initially thinks that she will practise one last time and then tell her friends that she cannot take part in the concert. During the rehearsal, however, her parents unexpectedly enter the room and watch the performance. Nabin gradually becomes absorbed in the music. He taps his feet and clearly enjoys the performance.

When the performance ends, Nabin enthusiastically praises the children. He especially praises Shruti because she maintains the notes of the raga while performing the fusion piece. He then offers the children the music room so they can practise regularly. This response surprises Shruti because she had expected him to reject the performance.

Nabin Understands His Daughter

Shruti then speaks privately with her parents. She tells Nabin that she will always take her art seriously and is grateful that he supports her decision to play in a fusion group. Nabin explains that Leela helped him understand the situation and made him remember his own past.

Leela reveals that Nabin himself once went against his family's wishes to learn the violin. His family consisted of traditional vocalists, and his father initially considered his choice of a Western instrument a betrayal of family values. Nabin nevertheless worked extremely hard and became a successful violinist.

This memory helps Nabin understand Shruti's situation. He realises that his fears about losing her to another form of music were baseless. He accepts that every artist has an individual path and style. He trusts Shruti and promises to support her group at the concert. The play ends with Shruti hugging both her parents.

Central Idea

The play explores the relationship between tradition and modernity. Nabin represents a strong attachment to classical musical traditions, while Shruti represents a younger generation interested in combining traditions with contemporary forms. The conflict is resolved through communication, understanding and recognition of individual artistic freedom.

The play also highlights family relationships, personal passion, generational differences, cultural diversity and artistic expression. It suggests that respecting tradition does not necessarily mean rejecting new forms of creativity.

Character Summary

Shruti: A talented and thoughtful young violinist who respects her father but wants to explore fusion music.
Nabin: A strict and accomplished violinist whose attitude changes after he understands Shruti's aspirations and remembers his own experience.
Leela: A supportive mother who helps bridge the understanding between father and daughter.
Iqbal, Avinash and Peter: Shruti's supportive friends and fellow musicians who encourage her to face the situation honestly.

Why is the title 'Twin Melodies' appropriate?

The title reflects the meeting of two musical approaches and two perspectives: the classical tradition represented by Nabin and the contemporary Indo-Western fusion represented by Shruti and her friends. The play brings these seemingly different melodies together through understanding and acceptance.

Quick Revision

- Act I: Shruti rehearses fusion music and decides to tell her father.
- Act II: Nabin strongly rejects the fusion concert.
- Act III: Nabin watches the rehearsal, appreciates it and supports Shruti.
- Main conflict: tradition versus modern expression.
- Resolution: communication, understanding, trust and acceptance.

Source: Uploaded Kaveri Chapter 6 – Twin Melodies, including Acts I–III and the chapter's Critical Reflection section.
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