



**Critical Thinking Worksheet 4- English**

**Class VII**

1. On a lazy afternoon in the summer of 2000, at a gurudwara in Srinagar, devotees were listening to Kirtan when a young woman took centre stage. Initially nobody gave a second look, but the sweet voice soon cast a spell over the gathering. Everyone listened in rapt attention, and soon they joined in the singing.
2. After the Kirtan ended, the people were curious to know more about the young singer and were surprised to discover that the 16-year-old was a Muslim. Blessings and applause followed, and Tasleema Langoo became a mini-celebrity amongst the small Sikh community in Kashmir.
3. Today, Tasleema is an accomplished teacher and singer of Kirtan in the Valley, and the only Muslim to do so. Members of the Sikh community are full of praise for the young woman, saying she “takes us nearer to our own religion”.
4. Tasleema belongs to a family of musicians. Her great grandfather used to sing for Maharaja Pratap Singh, while her grandfather, Ghulam Qadir Langoo, was a court singer for Maharaja Hari Singh, the last monarch of Kashmir. Her father, Abdul Majeed Langoo, teaches music at a women's college.
5. “Our family is closely associated with music and I get to hear all types of music but, curiously, Shabad Kirtan would always excite me the most,” says Tasleema. “I started helping the students with their instruments and they, in turn, wrote shabads in the Urdu script for me.” When she began singing the shabads in her father's class, her mesmerising voice captivated not just the other students but also their parents, who began dropping in to listen to her melodious renditions. Tasleema began teaching the music when she was just 14. As she could not read the Granth Sahib in Punjabi, her father bought her a copy of the Sikh holy text in Urdu from Amritsar. Her father also helps her in the composition of new Shabads.
6. The girl who left studies after high school has till date trained more than 200 Sikh boys and girls in Shabad Kirtan. Residing in Srinagar's congested Shaheed Gunj area, and that too close to a mosque, she has carried on her work in an atmosphere of complete

harmony, facing no opposition whatsoever from members of her family or community.

7. "After hearing the shabad recitation, the Imam Sahib (priest) of our mosque once came to my class, blessed me and told me that I was doing a wonderful job," recalls Tasleema. Tasleema has never felt any conflict between her religion and her passion. "The basics of all religions are the same as they lead to one Supreme God," she says.

Based on the passage above answer the following questions:

1. What happened at a gurudwara in Srinagar on a lazy summer afternoon?

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2. How did Tasleema Langoo become a mini celebrity amongst the Sikh community in Kashmir?

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3. What is so unique about Tasleema as an accomplished teacher and singer of Kirtan in the Valley?

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4. How did her students help her with shabads?

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5. Elaborate on the statement “Tasleema has never felt any conflict between her religion and her passion.” (para 7)

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6. Give a suitable **title** to the passage.

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7. Give antonym of **inattentive** from para 1.

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