



CHAPTER 11

MUSIC AND SOCIETY

Objective: Listening to stereotypes in the lyrics of songs and attempting to create alternatives.

Music can be used for social messaging. During the freedom struggle, our leaders used music to unite people against the British.

ACTIVITY 1: MUSIC THAT UNITES!

Our national anthem is a reflection of the diversity that is India!

Nobel Laureate **Rabindranath Tagore** was the first Indian and non-European who broke the stereotype and won the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1913. The national anthem was composed in Sanskritised Bangla. It highlights India's vast and diverse geographical landscapes.

- Understand the lyrics and the meaning of the song and reflect



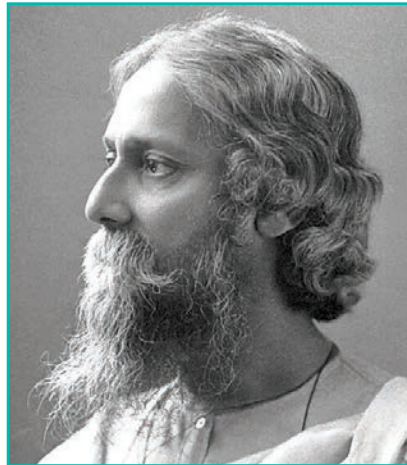
on how it celebrates India's diversity.

- Analyse how the composition makes the song feel majestic.
- Discuss the emotion that the song evokes both through its words and music.

ACTIVITY 2: OUR ROOTS

You must have heard about the ancient texts, the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads*. They inspire us to be kind, truthful and loving, even when we are different from each other.

Watch and learn to sing this inspirational verse from the *Kathopanishad*, which was also a favourite verse of Swami Vivekananda.



Extended Activity

What stereotype do these songs reinforce?

*Gudiya Raani Bitiya
Raani Pariyon Ki Nagari
Se Ek Din*

*Raajakunvar Ji Aenge
Mahalon Mein Le Jaaenge*

Translation: My princess doll, one day your prince charming will come and he'll take you to his palace.

*Yashomati Maiya Se Bole
Nandlala
Radha Kyon Gori Main
Kyon Kala*

Translation: Nandala asked Yashodha, why am I dark and why is Radha fair?

Can you recall a song in your native language that reinforces a stereotype? Write down the original lyrics and share how you would alter them.

Uthishtha Jaagrata

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Praapya Varaan Nibodhata,

Kshurasya Dhaara Nishita

Duratyayaa, Durgam Pathastat

Kavayo Vadanti

Listen and Respond

Now, [listen](#) to this song. What feeling does it evoke?

ACTIVITY 3: BE THE CHANGE!

[Listen](#) and learn this song, and think about how you can be a superhero and bring about positive change.



*“Arise! Awake! and
Stop not until the
goal is reached.”*

— *Swami Vivekananda*

ACTIVITY 4: STEREOTYPES

Music can also be used to create stereotypes. Stereotypes refer to preconceived ideas or generalisation based on culture, race, colour, gender or other factors. But you can change it! [Listen](#) to the following song and if you are not familiar with the language, read the translation:

Babua Ki Murgi

Babua Ki Murgi Bole Na

Babua Ka Murga Kukadoo Koo

Babua Ki Murgi Rooth Gayi

Naa Maanoo Mai Naa Maanoo

Babua Ka Murgaa Kyu Akade?

Uske Sir Par Kalgi Hai

Jiske Sir Par Taaj Nahi

Vo Bechaari Murgi Hai

Translation

Babua's hen stays quiet,

While Babua's rooster goes
cock-a-doodle-doo!

Babua's hen is upset,

Saying, “I won't agree!”

Why does Babua's rooster strut
around?

Because he wears a fancy plume,
Unlike the poor hen, with no crown!

One way you can change the
above song is:

*Babua Ki Murgi Kyon Khush Hai,
Kyon Khush Hai? Kyonki Anda Deti
Hai, Deti Hai!*

Translation: Why is Babua's hen
happy? Because she gives eggs!



Music helps us to bring people
together but it can also create
stereotypes. Find a song that uplifts
you. Learn and teach it to your
friend. Consider creating a book
with songs that motivate you.

