

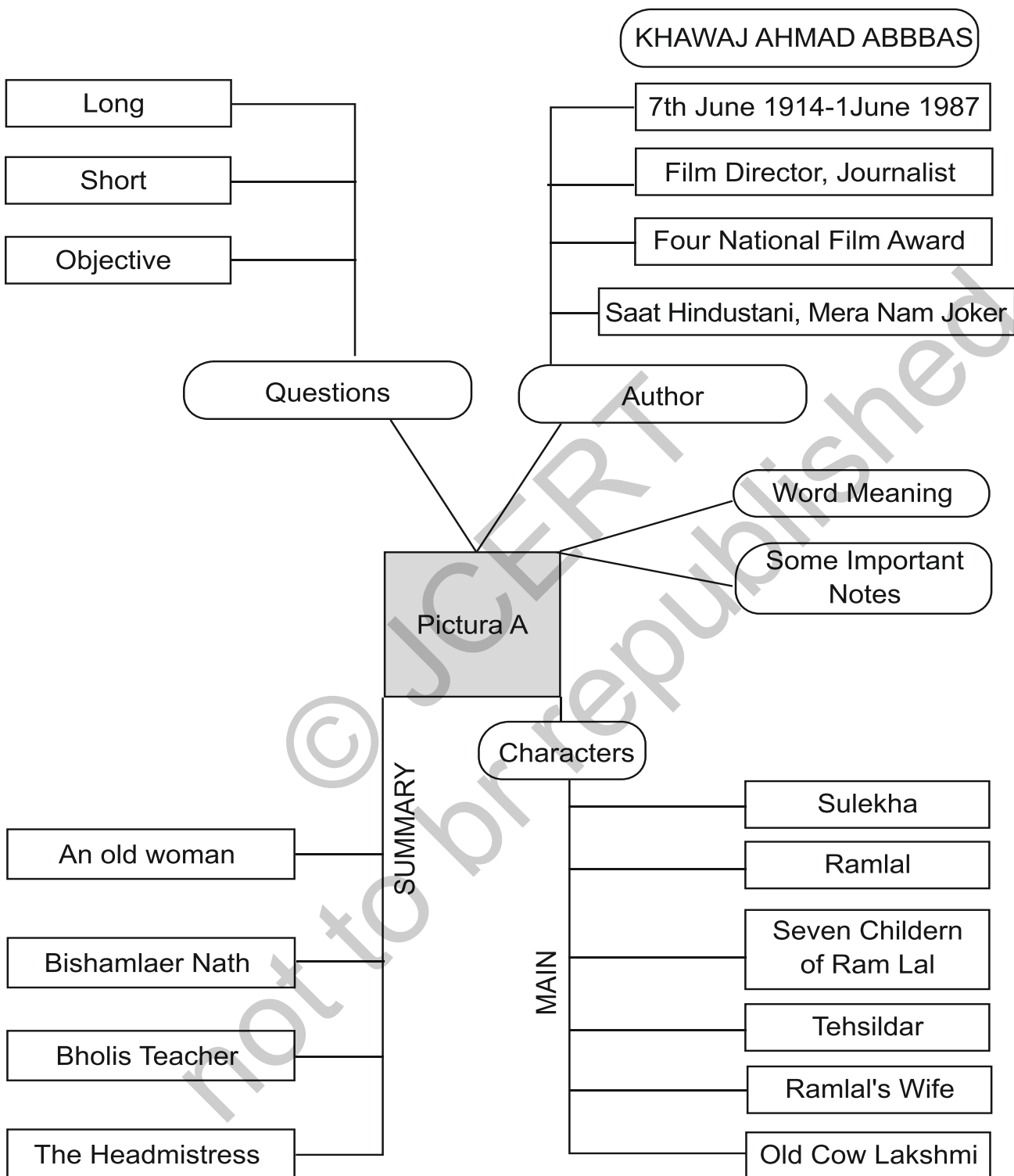
Bholi



K.A. Abbas

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(1. OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER 2. CHARACTERS)



I. WORD MEANINGS

1. **Expectations** - **hopes** (आशाएं)
2. **Simpleton** - **very simple** (भोली/सादी)
3. **Numberdar-** **an official who collects revenue** (नंबरदार)
4. **Smallpox-** **a disease** (चेचक का रोग)
5. **Disfigured-** **made ugly** (कुरूप बना दिया)
6. **Pock-marks-** **marks left by smallpox** (चेचक के निशान)
7. **Stammered-** **spoke with halts** (हकलाकर बोलना)
8. **Mimicked-** **imitated** (नकल करना)
9. **Prosperous-** **rich** (संपन्न)
10. **Bridegrooms-** **male matches** (दूल्हा)
11. **Ceremony-** **religious rites** (उत्सव)
12. **Revenue-** **state's income** (राजस्व)
13. **Representative-** **a member of the group** (प्रतिनिधि)
14. **Consulted-** **to ask advice of** (परामर्श किया)
15. **Frightened-** **scared** (भयभीत)
16. **Shouted-** **cried** (चिल्लाया)
17. **Terror-** **dread** (भय)
18. **Squatted-** **sat on the heels** (पालथी मारकर बैठना) ।
19. **Fascinated-** **attracted**
(आकर्षित होना)
18. **Orchard-** **garden** (बगीचा)
19. **Scurried-** **hurried out** (तेजी से बाहर आना)
20. **Sobbing-** **weeping in suppressed manner** (सुबकते हुए)
21. **Soothing-** **be calming** (सुहावनी)
22. **Command-** **order** (आदेश)
23. **Sweat-** **perspiration**
(पसीना)
24. **Disgrace-** **humiliate**
(अपमान)
25. **Patted-** **stroked**
(थपथपाना)
26. **Astonished-** **surprised**
(हैरान)
27. **Blossomed-** **put forth flowers** (फूल खिल जाना)

28. Throbbing - pulsating
(धड़कते हुए)
29. Ginning - separating raw cotton from its seeds (रुई धुनना)
30. Limp - walks lamely (लंगड़ाता है)
31. Witless - foolish
(मूर्ख, तर्कहीन)
32. Muttered - spoke slowly (बुड़बुड़ाया)
33. Courtyard - an enclosure before a house (आंगन)
34. Procession - a group of persons moving forward (जुलूस)
35. Pomp - splendour
(शान-शौकत)
36. Splendour - grandeur (शान)
37. Envious - jealous (ईर्ष्यालु)
38. Auspicious - pious (पवित्र)
39. Prompted - urged (आग्रह किया)
40. Poised - held in balance (संतुलित रखना)
41. Triumphant - victorious
(विजयी)
42. Gambled - played a game of chance for money (जुआ खेला)
43. Prospective - would be (होने वाला)
44. Contempt - hatred (घृणा)
45. Thunderstruck - amazed (चकित)
46. Contemptible - hateful (घृणित)
47. Rooted - fixed to the ground (जड़ हो जाना)
48. Sacred - pious (पवित्र)
49. Completion - accomplishment (पूर्ण होना)
50. Masterpiece - a piece of highest workmanship (सर्वोत्तम कलाकृति) I

II. SOME IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Numberdar- Numberdar traditionally have been playing an important role in the revenue department. They are respected persons in the area and they are supporters of the government. The testimony of a Numberdar is considered credible. We also want to give the Numberdar the respect that law and society give him.

In the story Bholi the main character Sulekha or Bholi is the daughter of Numberdar Ramlal.

2. Cot- A cot is a small bed with high barred sides for a baby or very young child.

3. Smallpox- Smallpox is an ancient disease caused by the variola virus. Smallpox is a serious and often deadly viral infection. It's contagious — meaning it spreads from person to person — and can cause permanent scarring. Sometimes, it causes disfigurement. Smallpox has affected humans for thousands of years but was wiped out worldwide by 1980 thanks to smallpox vaccines. It's no longer found naturally in the world.

4. Tehsildar sahib - A Tehsildar also known as Executive Magistrate of the tehsil concerned. Tehsildar is a tax officer accompanied by revenue inspectors. They are in charge of obtaining taxes from a tehsil with regard to land revenue. During British rule, a tehsildar was most likely a stipendiary officer of the government, employed to raise revenue.

5. Orchard- Orchard is an area of land where fruit trees are grown. It is a type of farm where fruits and nuts are grown on trees and shrubs. Examples of orchard fruits are apples, pears, oranges, bananas, and cherries. Examples of orchard nuts are pecans, walnuts, and almonds.

In the wall of Bholi's classroom which she had seen in the mango orchard there was a picture of parrot



6. Cotton ginning- It is one of the most important steps of the spinning process. After collecting seed cotton from the field, cotton moves to nearby gins for separation of lint, seed and any other foreign particles. Earlier the ginning process was manual but right now for higher production, manufacturers use an automated machine with higher productivity. The machine is well known as a cotton ginning machine.

7. The mail train- It is a fast train that carries mail. Mail trains are kind of the same as express trains and generally have less average speed and have more stoppages.



8. Dowry- In simple terms dowry can be understood as a demand for money or valuables by the family of the groom from the family of the bride in lieu of their marriage. It is in a sense compensation or value being demanded by the groom's family for the groom in Indian culture especially in Hindu culture.

9. Limps- To walk lamely, especially with irregularity, as if favoring one leg.

10. Pock-marks- Pockmarks are deep scars on the skin that do not usually go away on their own. They are often caused by severe acne but can also be the result of skin infections or chickenpox.

III. CHARACTERS

1.Sulekha- She is the main protagonist of the story. Her actual name was Sulekha, but since her childhood everyone had been calling her Bholi, the simpleton.

Bholi was the fourth daughter of Ramlal. Ramlal had seven children. Bholi had an injury in her head when

she was 10 months old. She was pretty at the time of her birth but at the age of two Bholi had an attack of smallpox. This left deep black marks all over her pretty body. She started speaking at the age of five and still stammered while speaking. Other children made fun of her. This was the reason why Bholi spoke very little. Ramlal's other children were strong and healthy, but Bholi was not like them. Bholi's teacher changed Bholi's character and made her more confident.

2.Ramlal- Ramlal was a prestigious clerk (Numberdar) under a tahsildar. He was a typical conservative village man who considered males superior to females. He was narrow minded and did not believe in educating women. Even he arranged the marriage of his own daughters at an early age. But, he had to send his last daughter Bholi, whom he considered ugly and nonsense, to school as he did not want to disobey the orders of tahsildar.

3.Seven children Of Ramlal- Ramlal had seven children — three sons and four daughters, and the youngest of them was Bholi. All the children except Bholi were healthy and strong. The sons had been sent to the city to study in schools and later in colleges. Of the daughters, Radha, the eldest, had already been married. The second daughter Mangla's marriage had also been settled, and when that was done, Ramlal would think of the third, Champa. They were good-looking, healthy girls, and it was not difficult to find bridegrooms for them. Bholi was

seven years old when Mangla was married.

4. Tehsildar sahib- When Bholi was seven years old a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The Tehsildar sahib came to perform its opening ceremony. He said to Ramlal that as a revenue official he was the representative of the government in the village and he must set an example to the villagers. He must send his daughters to school. Thus Ramlal was forced to send his daughter Bholi to school as he did not want to disobey the orders of tahsildar.

5. Ramlal's wife- Ramlal's wife or Bholi's mother was a typical age-old village woman. She had very backward thinking. She believed that girls should not be sent to school for education, otherwise no one will marry them. She never thought highly of Bholi. She called her the 'dumb cow'.

Bholi was never taken care of by her. Even the decision of Bholi's marriage to old Bishamber Nath was also influenced by her. She convinced Ramlal to marry her to Bishambar. As she thought no one would marry Bholi anyway.

6. Old cow, Lakshmi- The name of Ramlal's old cow was Lakshmi who had been turned out of the house and sold. When Bholi was first sent to school, she had no idea about what a school actually was. So, she thought that she was going to be sold like Lakshmi.

7. The headmistress- On her first day in school, Bholi's father Ramlal handed over her to the headmistress who asked Bholi to sit down in a corner in one of the classrooms.

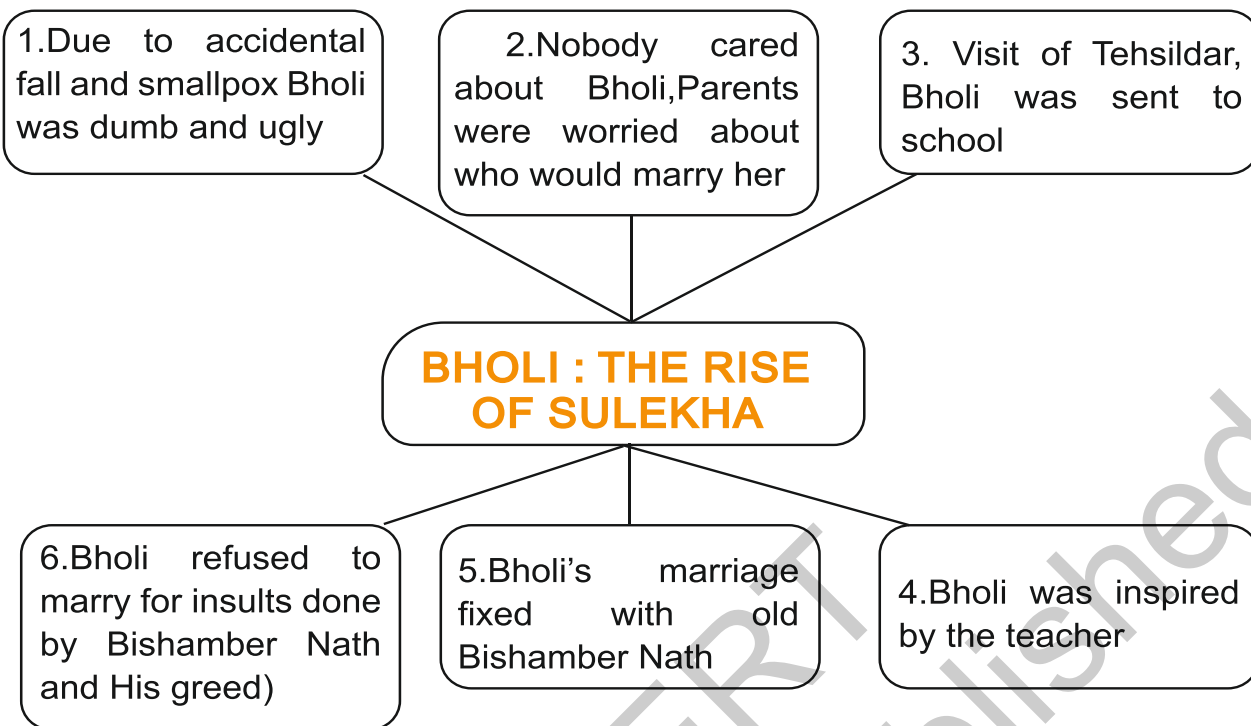
8. Bholi's teacher- Bholi's teacher was a very kind hearted and a good person. When she asked Bholi about her name, Bholi stammered. Bholi's teacher quickly understands that Bholi is differently abled than other children. She encouraged Bholi to speak.

Bholi was always neglected by others. But Bholi's teacher supported her. This made Bholi confident. She started Learning and reading books. Gradually, she could speak without any stammering. Indeed, Bholi's teacher had transformed her from Bholi to Shulekha.

9. Bishamber Nath- Bishamaber Nath was a lame and rich man. He was as old as Bholi's father. He agreed to marry Bholi without any dowry. When Bishamber saw the pock-marks on Bholi's face, he demanded five thousand rupees from Ramlal. Bholi's father begged him not to demand dowry, placing his turban at his feet. But Bishamber stuck to his demand. At last Ramlal agreed to give five thousand rupees to Bishamber. Due to the demand of dowry, Bholi refused to get married to him.

10. An old woman - The old woman was present in Bholi's wedding with Bishamber. When Bholi refused to marry Bishamber, she scolded Bholi

IV. SUMMARY OF THE TEXT



for her talkativeness. She said, “What a shameless girl! We all thought she was a harmless dumb cow.” In response Bholi turned violently on the old woman and said “Yes, Aunty, you are right. You all thought I was a dumb-driven cow. That’s why you wanted to hand me over to this heartless creature. But now the dumb cow, the stammering fool, is speaking. Do you want to hear more?” Thus the old man was outwitted by Bholi.

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

Bholi is a story written by K.A. Abbas. The story revolves around a girl who due to an accidental fall and disease in her childhood faces the problem of being dull and ugly.

In the beginning of the story the author introduced a little girl named Sulekha.

She was called ‘Bholi’ for her simple nature. It was also because she stammered while talking as some part of her brain was damaged due to an injury during her childhood. She also had pockmarks on her face which she got when she had contracted smallpox at the age of two. Everyone laughed at her. She was the subject of everyone’s ridicule. Her father Ramlal was a Numberdar. He had three sons and four daughters. Bholi was fourth among them. Ramlal and his wife were very worried about her as it seemed impossible to marry her with her having an ugly face and a dumb mind.

When Bholi was seven years old, a tehsildar came to perform the opening ceremony of a primary school for girls in their village. He told Ramlal that as a revenue official and the representative

of the government he must send his daughters to school for setting an example in front of the villagers. So after discussing with his wife he send Bholi to school as his wife reasoned that as Bholi had no chance of getting married, she could go to school.

When Bholi was first sent to school, she had no idea about what a school actually was. So, she thought that she was going to be sold. But when she was dressed up and her hair was washed and oiled, she felt that she was to visit a better place. In school, she met a lady teacher who was very kind and polite to her. She encouraged her to study and speak with confidence. This filled hope in Bholi and she began to go to school every day. Years passed and her village upgraded into a small town with some facilities like a cotton mill, a cinema and the primary school being converted into a secondary school. One day Bholi's parents decided to marry her to a lame old man who was a widower but was rich and had not demanded any dowry. They thought it to be the best marriage proposal for their dumb daughter and fixed up her marriage. On the wedding day, the bridegroom arrived with great pomp and show which filled Ramlal with joy. The groom discovered that Bholi had pock marks and demanded dowry in return for marrying her. He demanded a sum of five thousand rupees. Ramlal begged for mercy and even placed his turban in Bishamber's

feet but Bishamber Nath did not agree. Ramlal had to give the money in order to save both his family's honour and his daughter's marriage. Bholi could not bear all this and refused to marry a greedy old man. People accused her of being shameless. The wedding party returned. The marriage ceremony ended without Bholi getting married. Her father was surrounded by grief and said that now no one would marry her and what would she do in future. To this, she replied that she would take care of her parents when they grew old and would teach in her school. Her teacher who was quietly watching all this felt proud of her.

पाठ का सारांश

भोली के.ए. अब्बास द्वारा लिखित एक कहानी है। इस कहानी का मुख्य पात्र एक ऐसी लड़की है, जो बचपन में एक आकस्मिक गिरावट और बीमारी के कारण सुस्त और बदसूरत होने की समस्या का सामना करती है। कहानी की शुरुआत में लेखक ने सुलेखा नाम की एक छोटी लड़की का परिचय कराया। सरल स्वभाव के कारण उन्हें 'भोली' कहा जाता था। ऐसा इसलिए भी था क्योंकि वह बात करते समय हकलाती थी क्योंकि बचपन में चोट लगने के कारण उसके मस्तिष्क का कुछ हिस्सा क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। उसके चेहरे पर भी कुछ निशान थे जो उसे दो साल की उम्र में चेचक होने पर मिला था। सब उस पर हँसते थे वह सबके उपहास का विषय थी। उसके पिता रामलाल नंबरदार थे। उनके तीन बेटे और चार बेटियाँ थीं। इनमें भोली चौथे नंबर पर थी। रामलाल

और उसकी पत्नी उसके लिए बहुत चिंतित थे क्योंकि उसके बदसूरत चेहरे और गूंगा दिमाग के साथ उसका शादी करना असंभव लग रहा था।

भोली जब सात वर्ष की थी तब उसके गांव में लड़कियों के लिए एक प्राथमिक विद्यालय खोला गया था। तहसीलदार साहब इसका उद्घाटन समारोह करने आए थे। उन्होंने रामलाल से कहा कि एक राजस्व अधिकारी के रूप में वह गांव में सरकार के प्रतिनिधि हैं और उन्हें ग्रामीणों के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित करना चाहिए। उसे अपनी बेटियों को स्कूल भेजना होगा। तो उस रात उसकी पत्नी ने भोली को स्कूल भेजने का सुझाव दिया। रामपाल की पत्नी का मानना था कि लड़कियों को शिक्षा के लिए स्कूल नहीं भेजा जाना चाहिए क्योंकि कोई भी उससे शादी नहीं करेगा। लेकिन इस बार उसने तर्क दिया कि भोली के पास कोई मौका नहीं है शादी करने के लिए, इसीलिए वह स्कूल जा सकती है।

पहले जब भोली को स्कूल जाने के लिए कहा गया, तो उसे पता नहीं था कि वास्तव में एक स्कूल क्या है। इसलिए, उसने सोचा कि वह उनकी बूढ़ी गाय लक्ष्मी की तरह बेची जा रही है। लेकिन जब वह तैयार हुई और उसके बालों को धोया और तेल लगाया गया, तो उसे लगा कि उसे एक बेहतर जगह पर जाना है। स्कूल में उसकी मुलाकात एक शिक्षिका से हुई जो उसके प्रति बहुत दयालु और विनम्र थी। उसने उसे आत्मविश्वास से पढ़ने और बोलने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। इससे भोली में आशा भर गई और वह प्रतिदिन स्कूल जाने

लगी। वर्षों बीत गए और उसका गाँव एक छोटे से शहर में उन्नत हो गया, जिसमें एक कपास मिल, एक सिनेमा और प्राथमिक विद्यालय को माध्यमिक विद्यालय में परिवर्तित किया जा रहा था। एक दिन भोली के माता-पिता ने उसकी शादी एक लंगड़े बूढ़े आदमी से करने का फैसला किया, जो विधुर था लेकिन अमीर था। और उसने दहेज की मांग नहीं की थी। उन्होंने इसे अपनी गूंगी बेटी के लिए सबसे अच्छा शादी का प्रस्ताव समझा और उसकी शादी तय कर दी। शादी के दिन दूल्हा बड़ी धूमधाम से पहुंचा और रामलाल को खुशी से भर दिया। दूल्हे को पता चला कि भोली के मुंह पर चोट के निशान हैं। यह पता चलते ही उसने भोली से शादी करने के बदले दहेज की मांग की। उसने पांच हजार रुपये की मांग की। रामलाल ने दया की भीख मांगी और अपनी पगड़ी भी बिशम्बर के चरणों में रख दी लेकिन बिशम्बर नाथ नहीं माने। रामलाल को अपने परिवार की इज्जत और बेटी की शादी दोनों को बचाने के लिए पैसे देने पड़े। भोली यह सब सहन नहीं कर सका और उसने एक लालची बूढ़े व्यक्ति से शादी करने से इनकार कर दिया। लोगों ने उन पर बेशर्म होने का आरोप लगाया। शादी की पार्टी लौट आई। शादी की रस्म भोली की शादी के बिना ही खत्म हो गई। उसके पिता दुख से घिरे हुए थे और कहा कि अब कोई उससे शादी नहीं करेगा और वह भविष्य में क्या करेगी। इस पर उसने जवाब दिया कि वह अपने माता-पिता की देखभाल करेगी जब वे बूढ़े हो जाएंगे और अपने स्कूल में पढ़ाएंगे। उसकी शिक्षिका जो चुपचाप यह सब देख रही थी, उसे उस पर गर्व हुआ

V. OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who is the author of the story "Bholi"?

- A. R.N. Tagore
- B. Mark Twain
- C. Guy De Maupassant
- D. K A Abbas

Ans. D

2. What was Bholi's real name?

- A. Sulekha
- B. Nita
- C. Rita
- D. Payel

Ans. A

3. How many siblings did Bholi have?

- A. 6
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. None

Ans. A

4. What damaged some part of Bholi's brain?

- A. Falling off a verandah
- B. Falling off the stairs
- C. Falling off a cot
- D. None

Ans. C

5. What was the purpose of the Tehsildar's village visit?

- A. To inaugurate a girl's primary school
- B. To attend a party
- C. To meet the people of the village
- D. None of the above

Ans. A

6. What did the Tehsildar ask Ram-lal to do?

- A. Send his daughters to school
- B. Have dinner with him
- C. Drop him back to the city
- D. None of the above

Ans. A

7. Why did Bholi's mother suggest they send Bholi to school?

- A. There was little chance of her getting married
- B. Her husband couldn't disobey Tehsildar's orders
- C. She took it to teachers at school to worry about her
- D. All of the above

Ans. D

8. What was Bholi's first reaction on hearing that she was going to school?

- A. She cried with tears of joy
- B. She cried with fear
- C. She screamed
- D. She was excited

Ans. B

9. Who comforted Bholi?

- A. Her friends
- B. Her father
- C. Her mother
- D. Her teacher

Ans. D

10. How did she leave school on the first day?

- A. Sad
- B. With a ray of hope for new life
- C. Depressed that she'll stay where she is
- D. None of the above

Ans. B

11. Who was Lakshmi?

- A. Bholi's friend
- B. Bholi's classmate
- C. Bholi's sister
- D. Bholi's cow

Ans. D

12. Why did Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

- A. He has a big shop
- B. He has a house
- C. He has good bank balance
- D. All of the above

Ans. D

13. How did he react on seeing Bholi's face?

- A. Asked for compensation
- B. Got frightened
- C. Both of these
- D. None of the above

Ans. A

14. What did he demand as dowry?

- A. Money
- B. Refrigerator
- C. Television
- D. All of the above

Ans. A

VI.SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. For what unusual reasons is Bholi sent to school?

Ans. The Tehsildar had ordered Bholi's father Ramlal to send his daughters to school to set an example. Ramlal's wife felt that sending daughters to school would impact their marriage prospects. However, she said that Bholi could be sent to school because there are anyway less chances of her getting married with such an ugly face and no intelligence. Thus, Bholi was sent to school.

2. Does Bholi enjoy her first day at school?

Ans. Yes, Bholi enjoyed her first day at school. Initially, she was frightened. But, she was delighted to find so many girls of her own age present there. She hoped that one of the girls might become her friend.

3. Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans. Bholi's parents accepted Bishamber's marriage proposal because they thought that Bholi might never get another marriage proposal and might stay unmarried for her entire life. Bishamber was a well-to-do grocer and had not asked for dowry either.

4. Why does the marriage not take place?

Ans. When Bishamber saw the pock-marks on Bholi's face, he demanded five thousand rupees from Ramlal. Due to the demand of dowry, Bholi refused to get married to him.

VII.LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What made Bholi feel that the school was a better place than home?

Ans. Bholi did not know what school was. So, when her father asked her to accompany him to school, she was reminded of the cow Lakshmi who had been sent away once as it had been sold. Bholi got scared.

Bholi was not looked after at home. The old dresses of her sisters were passed on to her. No one cared to mend or wash her clothes. But today she was lucky to receive a clean dress which had shrunk after many washings and no longer fitted Champa. She was even bathed and oil was rubbed into her dry and matted hair. Only then did she begin to believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home!

2. What was Bholi's teacher's role in changing the course of her life?

Ans. Bholi was mentally weak due to a childhood injury. She could speak only at the age of five. She looked ugly due to the pockmarks all over her body. Her family was insensitive towards her. Her mother neglected and discriminated against her. All this developed an inferiority complex.

Her teacher was understanding, loving and caring. Encouraged her to study and empowered her. Her efforts changed Bholi. She had been considered a dumb cow but later she became an educated courageous girl. She took her stand against the social evil of dowry. Bholi's ability to shun fear was because of her teacher.

3. What kind of parents did Bholi have? Do you think they loved her? Why?

Ans. Bholi's father was loving, caring and attentive towards her. He gave equal attention to all his children. He was reluctant to send her to school out of concern because she was weak and a simpleton. He was worried that he would not find a good match for her because she lacked both – looks and intelligence.

Bholi's mother was overburdened by her birth because they already had many daughters. She preferred her good looking children over Bholi. She did not love or like her. She did not look after Bholi. She did not object to her going to school and was willing to marry her to anyone. She never made an effort to get close to Bholi and understand her.

4. Bholi was a physically challenged girl. How did she get the courage and confidence to challenge the evil dowry system?

Ans. Bholi was both physically and mentally challenged. When she got a chance to educate herself, her teacher helped her to overcome the social barriers by motivating her to study. Thus, Bholi took a stand against the dowry system.

Her parents were marrying her to a grocer of her father's age. He demanded dowry on seeing the pockmarks on her face. Bholi was capable of supporting herself and so, she snatched the garland and threw it in the fire. She decided to remain unmarried, look after her parents for whole life and teach in the same school where she had studied.