

(KHWAJA AHMAD ABBAS)(1914-1987)

(1)	Pioneer	Trail-blazer, a person who is the first to do something special
(2)	Prolific	Producing many works
(3)	Illustrious	Distinguished, Very famous
(4)	Pock-marks	Scars or marks caused by small Pox or acnes
(5)	Simpleton	A foolish person tricked by others
(6)	Numbered	An official who collects revenue
(7)	Mimick	Copy, imitate
(8)	Stammer	Stutter, to speak with difficulty
(9)	Matted	Forming a thick mass of air dirty and wet
(10)	Scurry out	To run hurriedly
(11)	Sobbing	Crying
(12)	Blossomed	Sprouted
(13)	Throbbing	Pulsating, beating
(14)	Well-to-do	Rich
(15)	Witless	Stupid
(16)	Pomp	Impressive decoration etc
(17)	Splendor	Magnificence
(18)	Auspicious	Sign of good future
(19)	Garland	A wreath
(20)	Poised	Ready
(21)	Humiliate	Insult, disgrace
(22)	Considerate	Thoughtful, kind
(23)	Triumphant	Victorious



HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

(Class 10th - ENGLISH)

(24)	Contempt	The feeling of disrespect
(25)	Streak	A long thin mark or line
(26)	Flung	thrown
(27)	Thunderstruck	Surprised, astonished
(28)	Izzat	Honor

ANSWER AROUND 150-200 WORDS

Q1. Give a brief Character sketch of Bholi. Describe the role the teacher played in her life?

Ans. Bholi is the central character in the story titled 'Bholi'. Her real name is Sulekha but because of her being an ingenuous and mentally weak owing to some damage to her brain which she sustained when she was just ten months old, everyone called her Bholi. She is the fourth daughter of Numbered, Ramlal. When misfortunes come, they come in battalions. At the tender age of two, she had an attack of small-pox and her body got permanently distorted by the ugly pockmarks. The stammering tongue only added insult to her injuries. Bholi's parents ignore this unfortunate child and harbor very little hopes that anyone would marry her. They, therefore, send her to school where a teacher comes as a messiah for her giving her all the love and affection which fills her heart with a new hope and she believes that she does have some existence she promises to make Bholi learned so that she will be looked at with dignity rather than ridiculed and laughed at. The efforts of the teacher had finally borne fruit as she had produced a masterpiece of courage and confidence. She was no longer a 'dumb cow'. We see this when Bholi refuses to marry a mean and greedy person like Bishambernath and gave a fitting answer to her critics.

Q2. The ending of the story is very Dramatic, Comment?

Ans. Bholi was regarded as an unnecessary burden by her parents who just wanted to get rid of her by fair means or foul. It was decided that Bholi's marriage be materialized with Bhishambar who undoubtedly was financially stable, but was almost of her father's age. Bholi was conscious of her parent's honor and nodded her assent. Nevertheless, dramatic twist took place when Bhishambar, who had turned up with a huge procession and pomp, refused to marry Bholi on account of her pockmarks. He said he would marry her only if he got five thousand rupees. But she disallowed him to garland her even though Ramlal had placed the dowry at Bhishambar's feet, thereby asserting her individuality and identity as a woman of substance. She stunned everyone there. She, in a steady tone, affirmed to her parents that there was no need to worry



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as she would serve them in their old age and earn her livelihood through teaching in the same school where she was taught. The teacher's heart was overwhelmed, watching the drama and felt a profound satisfaction as is experienced by an artist who contemplates the completion of his masterpiece. The ending of the story is dramatically beautiful and be artfully dramatic.

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

Q1. For what unusual reasons is Bholi sent to school?

Ans. The inauguration ceremony of the primary school for girls was performed by the Tehsildar in Ramlal's village. The Tehsildar told Ramlal that as a representative of the government in the village, he should set an example for the village folk by admitting his daughters to the newly opened school. When Ramlal discussed the matter with his wife, she expressed her concern that if girls were sent to school, there was no question of them finding any grooms. However, she suggested that Bholi be sent to the school as she had an ugly face with pockmarks besides, she being witless and with little chances of her getting married.

Q2. How does she find her teacher different from the other people?

Ans. At home, Bholi was not cared for even her mother thought her to be a burden. When she was taken to the school, she found her teacher very different from the people she witnessed at her home. The teacher was soft-spoken, affectionate and kind to the core. Her words of encouragement soothed her and she did not address her in a harsh, commanding tone but talked to her in a polite, loving manner. She infused hope and belief in her that she would be a learned girl in due course of time and no one would laugh at her. People would look at her with respect and listen to her. Hence the teacher came as a whiff of inspiration for Bholi who had been suppressed and oppressed by everyone.

Q3. Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans. Bholi, according to her parents, was a liability as she had no good looks and no intelligence to attract any suitable match. Bholi's parents felt that by denying Bishmer's proposal, they would never be able to see Bholi getting married. In fact, Bholi's mother said that they were lucky that Bishamber was from anther village and did not know about Bholi's pock-marks and her lack of sense. Moreover, he had not even asked for any dowry. Hence, they thought it wise to accept Bishamber's marriage proposal even though Bishamber was an old man whose children from the first wife were already grown up.



Q4. Bholi's real name is Sulekha. We are told this right at the beginning. But only in the last but one paragraph of the story is Bholi called Sulikha again. Why do you think she is called Sulekha at that point in the story?

Ans. Bholi's real name was Sulekha. When she was ten months old, she fell off the cot. It damaged some part of her brain and made her a witless child. Bholi was the name given to Sulekha on account of everyone treating her as a simpleton and considering her as a backward child. The name Bholi symbolized her ignorance and low confidence. However, the author mentions her real name Sulekha again after mentioning it in the beginning of the story. This is a deliberate attempt on the part of the author to show that Sulekha has finally attained her true identity by literally throwing aside the veil that hid her personality. She is no longer a dumb and deaf girl but a girl who has her own individuality.

Writing work :

Bholi's story is different in the sense that pockmarks have made her ugly, but there are numerous instances when a beautiful girl's marriage proposal has been broken because of the dowry demand.

Q1. If you were at that place, how would you react to the situation?

Ans. I would have called the police and handed over Bishamber to them for demanding dowry and insulting Bholi and her parents.

Q2. What role can you play in minimizing /eliminating the menace of dowry?

Ans. I would take a pledge never to give or accept any dowry and would encourage all young boys and girls to do the same in their life.

Draw character-sketches of the following:

1. **Bholi's parents:** Bholi's parents had three sons and four daughters. The sons had been sent to the city to study. Of the daughters. Radha was the eldest. She along with Mangla, the second the daughter of Ramlal was married. The third daughter was Champa about whom her parents were not much worried. Bholi, the fourth daughter was the matter of concern for them. When she was ten months, she fell off the cot. It damaged some part of her brain. So she remains mentally backward. At the age of two, she had an attack of small pox. All her body had black pockmarks. Moreover she stammered badly. The parents were naturally worried about her. Both Bholi's father and mother were followers of tradition and had not carriage to stand up against bad customs of the society.



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2. Bishamber: Bishamber was a middle-aged grocer. He was almost as old as Bholi's father. He limped while walking. He had grown-up children from his first wife. Even then Bholi's parents accepted his marriage proposal. They had their own reasons for it. Bishamber was quite rich. He had a big shop and a house. He had a lot of money in the bank. And he was demanding no dowry. But at the same time of marriage, seeing ugly pockmarks on Bholi's face, he starts demanding a big dowry. In spite of pitiable pleadings by Bholi's father, the mean fellow refuses to budge. And then Bholi shows her own true mettle. She refuses point blank to marry such a mean person.