



HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Assignment

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(Class 10th – English)

BHOLI

(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
(24)	Contempt	The feeling of disrespect



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(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



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 another 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.

The Servant

Q. Why did Gerasim been going about in vain in the village?

Ans. Gerasim had been called to the village for military duty, but he was not drafted (selected). So he had nothing to do in the village. Life in the village seemed dull to him. He was not used to village life. From the early boyhood, he had been living in Moscow, so, living in the village, he didn't feel happy. He felt that he had been wandering about the village in vain.

Q. Where had he been working? Why did he return to his village?

Ans. Gerasim had been working under a merchant in Moscow.

He returned his village to join military duty but he was not drafted (selected) there.

Q. What did the coachman tell Gerasim when he narrated his story?

Ans. When Gerasim narrated his story, the coachman started giving him a long sermon on honesty and faithfulness. He said that worker's don't serve their employers whole heartedly. They serve them so-so, that the employers have no good opinion of them. That is why when they come back again for the job, they are refused. The coachman said that we should work in a way that our employers miss us when we leave them. And if we come back again, they would at once dismiss the man who has taken our place. Thus he told Gerasim indirectly that if he had served his master sincerely, he would not have to hanker for a job now. Moreover, he told him that he would request his master to give him some employment.

Q. How did the coachman persuade his master to employ Gerasim?

Ans. The coachman had an oily tongue. He first tried to convince his master that it was no longer worth to keep Polikarpych as a servant. He had become too old to do his job well. Moreover being clever Yogor told many lies about Polikarpych to his master. The coachman painted polikarpych in a very dark colors. He was perfect in his glib art. Thus succeeded at last in persuading his master to dismiss polikarpych and employ Gerasim who, he said, was a young man from his village and was without a job. He told his master that the new boy for whom the request was made was very dutiful and punctual and would do everything if he was given a job.



Q. Why was the master reluctant to disengage the old servant?

Ans. The master was reluctant to discharge the old servant because he had been working with him for fifteen years. He had never any complaint against him. He knew the servant did not do some of the things very properly. But that was not his fault. He had become old and had not the strength of a young man, the master had real sympathy for his old servant. He thought it a sin to leave him to starve in his old age. That was why the master was not willing to dismiss him.

Q. What did Gerasim hear while crossing the yard?

Ans. He heard women cursing herself and also her fate. She said that they had nowhere to go and would have to beg. She criticized the masters but said that their master was provoked by the coachman, who was a serpent. The old woman burst out sobbing. She said that the coachman had ruined them.

Q. What did the old couple think about the master?

Ans. the old couple was much development with their master. They had served him honestly and faithfully for fifteen years but now in their old age he had suddenly asked them to go. The old woman said that their master cared only for his own advantage. He had no sympathy for them. But the husband said that the master was not so much to blame but it was the coachman who had poisoned his ears and said things against them.

Q. What was the effect of the old couple's conversation on Gerasim?

Ans. Gerasim had heard all that the old couple had said. Their conversation stabbed him like a dagger. He realized what misfortune he would be bringing for the old couple. It made him sick at heart. He stood there for a long while. He was sad and remained lost in thought. He finally decided not to work there as it would be unfair and unjust to be the cause of removal of the cold couple from the job. He realized what misfortune he would be bringing the old people by working there.

Q. How does story reflect the humility like of Gerasim?

Ans. Gerasim was kind hearted. He had a human heart which had sympathy for others. When he heard the voice of the old woman, it rent his heart. He decided not to do the job as it would be unfair to be the cause removal of the couple. He thought that they will be deprived of job in their old age. He was a good person. He would possibly have got the job but finally decided not to work there.

Writing Work:

Compare the contrast the characters of Gerasim and the coachman.



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Ans. Gerasim and the coachman have only one thing in common. They are from the same village. But in their character they are poles apart. One is the opposite of the others. Gerasim is humble; the coachman is cunning. Gerasim is kind and loving; the coachman is proud. Gerasim is simple – hearted; the coachman unfeeling and hardhearted. Gerasim is a man of few words; the coachman has a glib tongue. And lastly Gerasim is soft-spoken; the coachman is abusive.

All these points of contrast can be seen at every step in the story Gerasim frankly admits that his previous master has refused to take him back. The coachman at once taken it to mean that Gerasim had not been honest and faithful to his master. And he gives a proud description of his own honesty and faithfulness. No doubt, he helps Gerasim to get a bog with his master. But all the episodes show more of his cunning than helpfulness. And the contrast becomes so clear at the end of the story when Gerasim overhears the old couple's conversation and refuses to take their place. Yegor flies into a rage and calls him an idiot. We see a devil in one and an angel in the other.

Q. Theme of the story, (The Servant)

Ans. The theme of the story, "the Servant" is sincerity and humility. This theme runs across the whole story. Humility and sincerity are the real wealth of a person. The material wealth though needed by a person, is not everything. One cannot achieve all happiness from wealth. Sincerity gives a long lasting pleasure. It makes us light –hearted. Sincerity in a person makes him a human being. If we lack sincerity, we are worse than a beast. We see in the story at the end that Gerasim feels light – hearted even though he loses the position which he badly needs.

Discussion:

Imagine you have been working somewhere and you lost job. Where would you like to go and why? And what would you do there?

Ans. I would go anywhere to get a suitable job. But I would never beg for anyone's favor. I would like to have the job on my own merit and not on anyone's recommendation. I would go to my old employer also if he had no complaint against me. There too I would not accept the job at anyone else's cost I always want to be happy and light hearted at the place of my work. This can be possible only if I get job that I really deserve.