

- Bholi Summary

Bholi Summary

Bholi is a story by K. A. Abbas that revolves around a simple girl named Sulekha, nicknamed Bholi. She is the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. As a child, Bholi suffered a fall that possibly caused brain damage, and later, an attack of smallpox left her face disfigured except for her eyes. She also stammered while speaking, which made her a target of ridicule among children. Despite her weaknesses, her father decided to send her to school when a primary school opened in their village, even though her mother opposed this decision.

At school, Bholi was encouraged by her teacher to speak and learn. The teacher gave her a book with colorful pictures and motivated her by saying that she would soon be able to read and earn respect. Over time, the village developed and a high school was established. When Bholi reached marriageable age, her father arranged her marriage to Bishamber, a wealthy but old and lame widower with grown-up children. Bishamber was shocked by Bholi's pockmarked face and demanded extra money to marry her. On the wedding day, Bholi courageously refused to marry him, flinging the garland into the fire and declaring her decision to remain unmarried and become a teacher to serve her parents.

Key Elements

- **Characters:** Bholi (Sulekha), Numberdar Ramlal (father), Bishamber (prospective husband), Bholi's teacher
- **Themes:** Self-respect, empowerment through education, challenging traditional norms, gender equality

- **Setting:** A rural Indian village progressing from primary to high school education

Important Quotes

- "She took a vow never to get married. She decided that she would become a teacher and serve her parents in their old age." – This shows Bholi's determination and self-respect.
- "The teacher smiled and encouraged her to speak." – Highlights the positive influence of education and encouragement.

Glossary

- **Disfigured:** Defaced or damaged in appearance.
- **Stammered:** To speak with involuntary pauses or repetitions.
- **Pockmarked:** Marked with scars or pits on the skin.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is Bholi and what challenges did she face in her childhood?
- Why did Bholi's father decide to send her to school?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the role of Bholi's teacher in her transformation.
- What was Bishamber's reaction when he saw Bholi, and why?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how Bholi's decision to refuse marriage reflects the theme of self-respect and empowerment.
- Discuss the significance of education in changing Bholi's life and societal status.

Answer Key

Level 1 – Easy

- Bholi is a girl who was disfigured by smallpox and stammered, which made her a target of ridicule.
- Her father wanted her to get an education to improve her life despite opposition from her mother.

Level 2 – Moderate

- The teacher encouraged Bholi to speak and learn, giving her hope and confidence.
- Bishamber was shocked by Bholi's pockmarked face and demanded extra money to marry her.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Bholi's refusal to marry Bishamber shows her self-respect and courage to stand against unfair treatment.
- Education empowered Bholi to gain confidence and change her social status, enabling her to make independent decisions.

Quick Reference

- Bholi's real name is Sulekha.
- She was disfigured by smallpox and stammered.
- Her father sent her to school despite opposition.
- She refused to marry an old, greedy man and chose to become a teacher.

