

Lesson 9:

BHOLI

GIST

From a very young age, Bholi was neglected at home. She had remained a backward child and had contracted small-pox at the age of two which left her permanently disfigured by deep black pock-marks. She was late to start speaking and she stammered which made the other children make fun of her. This resulted in her speaking very little, until she went to school and learned to read and write with the help of a dedicated teacher.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was Ramlal worried about his daughter Bholi and not about his other children?
2. Why did the Tehsildar come to Ramlal's village? What did he ask Ramlal to do? Answers
1. Ramlal was worried about Bholi because she had neither good looks nor intelligence. She stammered and had pock-marks on her face. He was worried, that nobody would marry her.

2. The Tehsildar came to the village to perform the opening ceremony of the new primary school for girls that was being opened there. He asked Ramlal to set an example to villagers as he was a representative of the government, and send his daughters to school.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Bholi agree at first to an unequal match and then why did she reject the marriage soon after? What does this tell us about her?

HINTS

Bholi a simpleton, not so good looking but educated --- Parents' decided to get her married --- Found an old, lame, widow but a wealthy shopkeeper, Bishamber --- Parents persuaded her to marry – though it is an unequal match --- Somehow she agrees--- The day of the marriage arrives - when the marriage was about to take place --- The priest ask herto garland Bishamber ---Bishamber glanced at her pock marked face and refused to garland Bholi --- He demanded five thousands rupees as a dowry --- Bholi's father was ready to pay two thousand --- But Bholi rejected this demand and refused to marry him --- Bholi asked her father not to request him --- She said that she would teach in the school and live with her parents --- It shows that the education she has got has made her independent, confident and able to take decision in her life ---She was not the same Bholi but totally changed Bholi --- as School education turned Bholi

2. The chapter 'Bholi' highlights the discrimination against the girl child. Analyze this statement. 'Nature does not discriminate, but society does'.

From time immemorial the world has discriminated against the girl child. The chapter, 'Bholi' throws, up many instances. Ramlal's sons go to school and college. His daughters are not educated because it would be difficult to marry them off.

Her mother does not think it necessary to take Bholi's consent for her marriage. The groom is an old and lame widower. Still he demands dowry. Her father is ready to pay him. It is the girl herself who realizes that she is being demeaned and hence opposes the marriage. She raises her voice against the man's undue demand and refuses to marry him. She is criticized and humiliated for standing up for her dignity. But she is firm and decides the course of her life. From the dumb cow and stammering fool, she transforms herself into a bold girl who is ready to speak her mind.

UNSOLVED QUESTIONS SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Bholi's mother favour Bishamber as a suitable husband for Bholi?
2. Who is the artist in the story? What is masterpiece? How did she become a masterpiece?
3. Why were all the relatives amazed to hear Bholi speak up and reject the proposal of Bishamber?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did Bholi's teacher play an important role in changing the course of her life?
2. How significant is the education that Bholi received, to her life and decisions?

HINTS

Bholi's teacher changed the direction of Bholi's life through her love and affection --- she filled her mind with hope and faith --- She told Bholi to cast out all fear from her mind --- It was because of her guidance that Bholi developed her personality now she could face all the problems of life with great courage and confidence.

HINTS

This is very significant because Bholi is now no more Bholi (Simpleton) --- She had grown wiser and more self-confidence due to her education and her teacher's training --- She proves that education is like a philosopher's stone which can turn a base metal into gold.