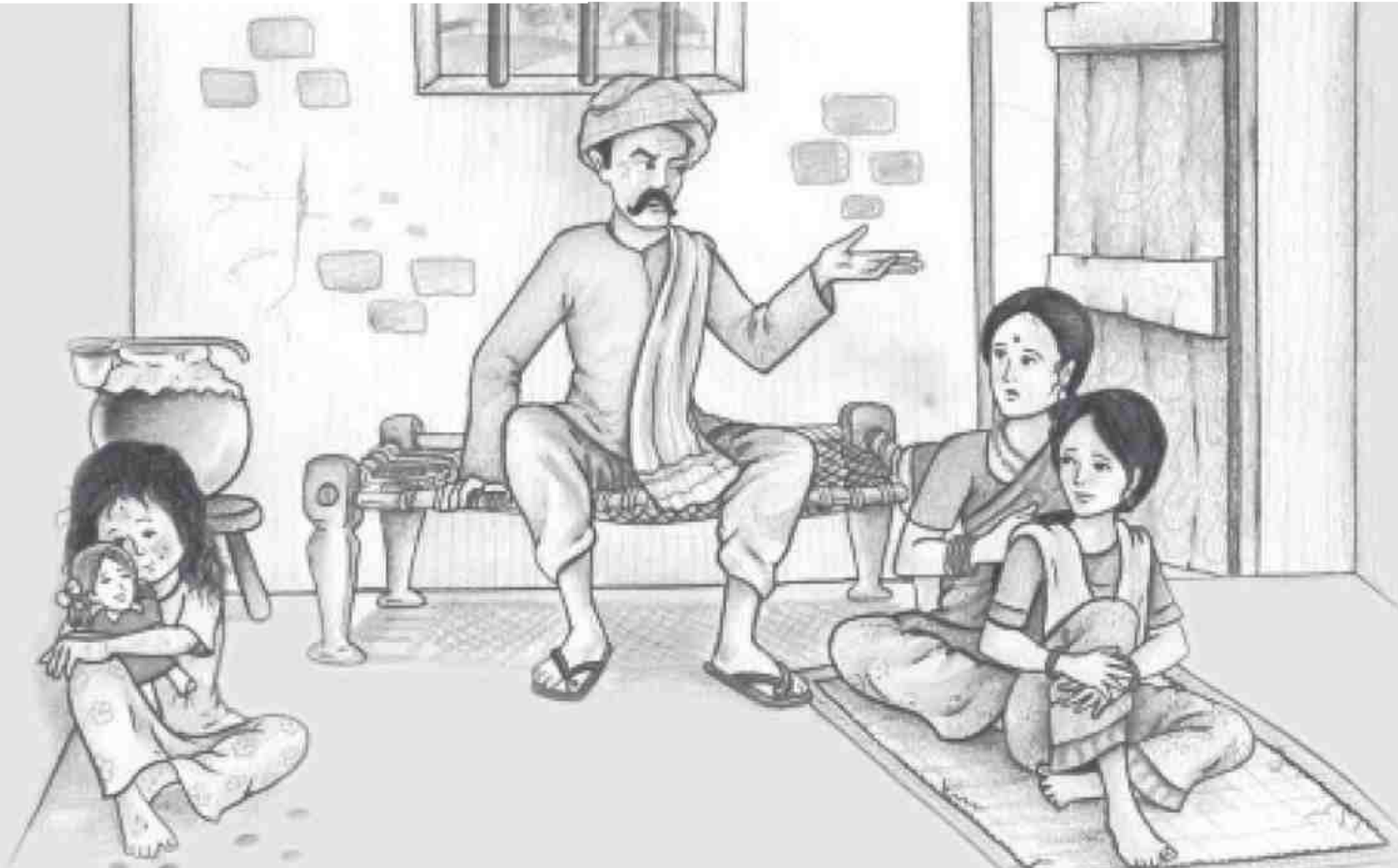


Bholi

— K. A. Abbas



OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Ramlal stood rooted to the ground, his head bowed low with the weight of grief and shame. The flames of the sacred fire slowly died down. Everyone was gone. Ramlal turned to Bholi and said, 'But what about you, no one will ever marry you now. What shall we do with you?'"

And Sulekha said in a voice that was calm and steady. "Don't you worry, Pitaji! In your old age I will serve you and Mother and I will teach in the same school where I learnt so much. Isn't that right, Ma'am?"

The teacher had all along stood in a corner, watching the drama. "Yes, Bholi, of course,"

she replied. And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece."

- (A) Ramlal stood rooted to the ground because he:

- (a) was moved by what he heard.
- (b) was influenced by Bholi's words.
- (c) was in a state of shock.
- (d) was in an immovable position.

- (B) Bholi had refused to get married as:

- (a) her father couldn't afford the dowry that was demanded.

- (b) the bridegroom had been greedy and was disrespectful.
- (c) the bridegroom had insulted her father.
- (d) her father was getting her married to a man older to her.
- (C) Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of 'contemplating' as used in the extract.
- (a) Contemplating sharing my belongings with someone is definitely tough.
- (b) She took some time to respond as she was contemplating what to say.
- (c) I was contemplating my reflection in the mirror and was speechless.
- (d) She was contemplating though the pages of the document that was with her.
- (D) Why did the teacher stand in one corner watching the drama?
- (a) She was elated to see what was happening.
- (b) She wanted to see what Bholi would be doing.
- (c) She didn't want to interfere in a family matter.
- (d) She had faith in Bholi standing up for herself.
- (E) Pick the option that includes the correct matches of Column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
(I) Bholi	(i) independent and confident
(II) Ramlal	(ii) burden less and free
(III) Teacher	(iii) sense of contentment and accomplishment
	(iv) embarrassed and anxious

- (a) (I)-(ii), (II)-(iv), (III)-(iii)
- (b) (I)-(i), (II)-(iv), (III)-(iii)
- (c) (I)-(iii), (II)-(ii), (III)-(i)
- (d) (I)-(iii), (II)-(iii), (III)-(iv)

Ans. (A) (c) was in a state of shock.

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that Ramlal's "head bowed low with the weight of grief and shame". Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (B) (b) the bridegroom had been greedy and was disrespectful

Explanation: Bholi's groom Bishamber was a greedy old man. To compensate for Bholi's pock-marked face, he demanded a dowry of rupees five thousand. Thus, Bholi

decided to refuse to get married to him. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (C) (b) She took some time to respond as she was contemplating what to say.

Explanation: The term 'contemplating' means 'to think or ponder about something deeply'. Here, option (c) represents the same meaning of the word 'contemplating'. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (D) (d) She had faith in Bholi standing up for herself.

Explanation: Bholi's teacher was there at the wedding and she viewed the entire scenario with her eyes. She was proud of Bholi taking stand for herself. She looked at Bholi with "a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece." Hence, (d) is the right answer.

- (E) (b) (I)-(i), (II)-(iv), (III)-(iii)

Explanation: Bholi was independent and confident, Ramlal was embarrassed and anxious due to Bholi's dismissed marriage and the teacher had a sense of contentment and accomplishment looking at Bholi taking a stand.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

New clothes had never been made for Bholi. 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! When they reached the school, the children were already in their classrooms. Ramlal handed over his daughter to the headmistress. Left alone, the poor girl looked about her with fear-laden eyes. There were several rooms, and in each room girls like her squatted on mats, reading from books or writing on slates. The headmistress asked Bholi to sit down in a corner in one of the classrooms.

- (A) New clothes were never made for Bholi because:

- (a) she was a neglected child.
- (b) she was mischievous.
- (c) she was a rude child.
- (d) she was an adopted child.

- (B) Why had Bholi received a new dress of her sister Champa?

- (a) she was going to attend a party.
- (b) she was going to her aunt's house.
- (c) she was going to the school.
- (d) she was going to be adopted by someone.

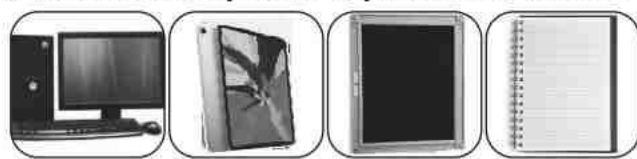
(C) ② Bholi's hair was 'matted' means that her hair was:

- (a) dry and not-oiled.
- (b) dull and long.
- (c) thick and strong.
- (d) long and shiny.

(D) Why did Bholi feel that she was taken to a 'better place than home'?

- (a) She would get to play there.
- (b) She would meet her friends.
- (c) She would be buying new clothes.
- (d) She was taken care of for that.

(E) Which of the options represent a 'slate'?



(a) (b) (c) (d)

Ans. (A) (a) She was a neglected child

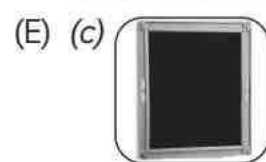
Explanation: As Bholi was weak-minded and had pock-marked face, she was considered as a dumb ugly cow by her family. They never paid attention to her. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(B) (c) She was going to the school

Explanation: Bholi was going to start her school. Her father asked her mother to dress her in decent clothes for the same. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(D) (d) She was taken care of for that

Explanation: When Bholi was taken to school, her mother oiled her hair and made her wear a clean decent dress. This was done for the first time to Bholi as she had always been neglected by her family. So, she thought that the place was 'better than home'. Hence, (d) is the right answer.



Explanation: The word 'slate' is a wooden board that is used to write on with chalk on it by students. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"What's the matter with you, you fool? Shouted Ramlal. "I am only taking you to school." Then he told his wife, "Let her wear some decent clothes today or else what will the teachers and the other school girls think of us when they see her?"

New clothes had never been made for Bholi. 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 believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home! When they reached the school, the children were already in their classrooms."

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

(A) Why did Ramlal call Bholi a fool? This was because:

- (a) Bholi had become hysterical and was screaming.
- (b) Bholi shouted in fear and pulled her hand away.
- (c) Bholi was behaving foolishly and was running away.
- (d) Bholi had been behaving very strangely with her father.

(B) Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of 'decent' as used in the extract.

- (a) He gets a decent amount of salary.
- (b) One must be decent when having a conversation with strangers.
- (c) She was dressed in a decent manner for the interview.
- (d) It was very decent of him to lend me some money.

(C) Pick the option that best describes how Bholi felt at the end of her first day in school.

- (a) lost and scared
- (b) calm and peaceful
- (c) elated and peaceful
- (d) hopeful and elated

(D) ② Why was Bholi's hair matted?

- (a) It was entangled and oiled.
- (b) It was never oiled or combed.
- (c) It was not combed regularly.
- (d) It was unkempt and oiled.

(E) What fear did Bholi have when she was told about being taken to school?

- (a) She thought she was going to be neglected by her parents.
- (b) She thought her parents were going to get rid of her.
- (c) She felt that she would be thrown out of the house and sold.
- (d) She thought her parents were thinking of ways to throw her out.

Ans. (A) (b) *Bholi shouted in fear and pulled her hand away.*

Explanation: When Bholi's father grabbed her by hand to take her to school, she remembered that his father had taken their cow Lakshmi in the same way to sell. She thought that he was throwing her out of the house like their cow. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(B) (c) *She was dressed in a decent manner for the interview.*

Explanation: The term 'decent' in the extract means an appealing or nice dress. Here, option (c) represent the same meaning of the word 'decent'. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(C) (d) *hopeful and elated*

Explanation: Bholi's teacher was very soft towards her. She talked to her in a polite manner and told her that very soon; she would stop stammering and learn to read like other children. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(E) (c) *She felt that she would be thrown out of the house and sold.*

Explanation: When Bholi's father grabbed her by hand to take her to school, she remembered that his father had taken their cow Lakshmi in the same way to sell. She thought that he was throwing her out of the house like their cow. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type-I Questions (SA-I) [2 marks]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

4. Ramlal was worried about Bholi as she didn't have good looks.

Counter the belief that it's important for a girl to be good looking and give a reason for the same.

Ans. It is an old belief that for a girl to get married, it is very important to look pretty. Beauty and good looks have always been related to fair and smooth skin. However, it is not true. A girl should be educated and independent to get married. She should be a good homemaker rather than just being an eye-candy.

5. "If girls go to school, who will marry them?" In spite of this, Ramlal sent Bholi to school. State the reason. [Delhi Gov. 2021]

Ans. It was a belief in the olden times that it is difficult for the educated girls to get married. However, Ramlal decided to send Bholi to school because he thought that Bholi was an ugly dumb girl who anyway won't be able to get married to anyone.

6. What filled Bholi, a dumb cow, with a new hope in her? [CBSE 2015]

Ans. Bholi's teacher's kind and loving gestures towards her filled her with a new hope of becoming a skilled human. Bholi's teacher told her that very soon, she would stop stammering and learn to read like other girls of her age.

7. How did you feel when you read about Bholi being ignored and ill-treated by her parents as a child? [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. I feel really sad and disappointed at the fact that even her parents neglected and treated her in a bad way as she was a victim of mishaps. This ignorance led to a sense of fear, insecurities and inferiority in her. I believe she too deserved to be treated equally despite her dull mind and pock-marked face.

8. ② Bholi was fascinated by the walls of the classroom. Why?

9. Do you think Bholi could have confidently refused to marry Bishamber if she weren't educated? Give reason/s.

Ans. No, if Bholi would have been uneducated, she would have never been able to refuse to marry Bishamber. Her education was the only reason behind her confidence and strength that made her resolute and repulsive to take a stand for herself.

10. What happened to Bholi when she was two years old?

Ans. When Bholi was two years old, she got an attack of small-pox. The disease affected her entire body, leaving only her eyes. There were big black pock-marks left all her body due to the disease.

11. How would you have reacted if you were one of the guests witnessing Bholi's wedding when she refused to marry Bishamber Nath?

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. If I were one of the guests witnessing Bholi's wedding, I would have felt proud of her. The decision that she took for her life was commendable. It would have inspired me to become strong and independent.

12. ② Why was Sulekha later called 'Bholi'?

13. Do you think Bholi's father would have agreed to the match if her mother hadn't insisted upon it? Why/ Why not?

Ans. No, Bholi's father would not have agreed to the match if her mother hadn't insisted upon it. On receiving the proposal, Ramlal thought that Bholi would reject it as the prospect was a fifty-year-old man. However, it was when his wife insisted that nobody else would marry Bholi that Ramlal agreed for the match.

Short Answer Type-II Questions (SA-II) [3 marks]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

14. Bholi's parents accepted the match for her though Bishamber Nath was nearly the same age as her father. Bholi also accepted her parents' decision without voicing her opinion.

(a) What does this tell you about the social conditions prevailing in our society?

(b) How do you think these problems can be addressed?

Ans. (a) The acceptance of such an unsuitable proposal for Bholi by her parents tells us that girls like Bholi who are dull and not good-looking, are treated as a burden even by their parents.

(b) These problems can only be addressed if the girls are educated. Once educated and independent, the girls can voice their own opinion in taking the important decisions of their lives.

15. Do you agree that the teacher was an artist and Bholi was her masterpiece? Why/ why not? [Delhi Gov. 2021]

Ans. Yes, I believe that the teacher was an artist and Bholi was her masterpiece. Her teacher carved and shaped her strong and independent future like an artist. The teacher's love, care and concern for her turned her from a shy insecure girl to an independent lady. Bholi's decision to call off her marriage with an old greedy man was her teacher's artwork that was finally completed.

16. You've read the quote: 'A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influences top.' In the context of this statement, comment on the role of Bholi's teacher in her life.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. Bholi's teacher was the reason behind her extreme transformation from a shy insecure girl to a strong opinionated lady. The teacher understood that Bholi needed love and 'special' care as she was a differently-abled child. The teacher had instilled such confidence and strength in Bholi that not only did she overcome her fear and stammering but also took a stand at her marriage by refusing to marry the old greedy man for dowry.

17. ② Should girls be aware of their rights and assert them? Should girls and boys have the same rights, duties and privileges? What are some of the ways in which society treats them differently? When we speak of 'human rights', do we differentiate between girls' rights and boys' rights?

18. You and your friend have a conversation about the prevalent discrimination between boys and girls, even today. Write the dialogue.

You may begin like this:

Friend: I don't think discrimination in terms of gender is a thing of the past.

You:

Friend: Yes, I agree, Though we are in the 21st century it still continues in a blatant manner in many parts of the country.

You:

Ans. Friend: I don't think discrimination in terms of gender is a thing of the past.

You: Exactly. Even today one can see visible differences in both the genders when it comes to late night-outs or choice of professions.

Friend: Yes, I agree, Though we are in the 21st century it still continues in a blatant manner in many parts of the country.

You: I believe things do not change on their own over time; one has to do something to change them. Education is the biggest weapon for girls. An educated girl will never compromise for anything less.

19. Which character traits of Bholi have had an everlasting impression on you? Why?

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. Bholi's immense strength to speak up at the most delicate time of her life had an amazing impression on me. She knew that Bishamber was a greedy man who wanted to 'compensate' for her pock-marked face. This kind of cheap behaviour demanded the exact repercussion as She had made. The way she strongly stood for herself against the groom and the entire society norms inspired me a lot.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

- 20.** Imagine you are Bholi and you have been invited by a girl's secondary school in another village to address a group of students about being independent, fearless and breaking stereotypes. Write that speech.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. Hello everybody!

My name is Bholi and today I am here amongst you all girls to tell you about the importance of being independent, fearless and strong. I was born as a very fair and a pretty child. But fatefully, when I was just ten months old, I fell off the cot and a part of my brain was damaged. Then at the age of two I had smallpox. It ruined my face with pock-marks. I also stammered as a child. One day, I met my teacher. She changed my life. She taught me to read and I stopped stammering gradually. She turned me into an extremely courageous lady. When I grew up, my father fixed my marriage to a rich fifty-year-old man who was very greedy. On the day of marriage, he asked for fifty thousand rupees as dowry to 'compensate' for my pock-marked face. Then I decided to call off the marriage and spend all my life serving my parents and becoming a teacher myself. That fearless decision changed my life. I broke the stereotype of marrying an old greedy man just because I don't look pretty. So, independence and fearlessness are important for breaking the stereotype. Girls should be educated and never compromise for anything less.

- 21.** Bishamber Nath was a greedy old man. He asked for fifty thousand rupees from Ramlal as a dowry to 'compensate' for his daughter's pock-marked face.

Imagine yourself as the writer of the story "Bholi" and write an imaginary conversation between Ramlal and Bishamber Nath when the latter asks for dowry.

Ans. Bishamber: Whaaaaaat! This girl's face is full of pock-marks. I can't marry someone with such a disfigured face.

Ramlal: No Bishamberji...don't say this. You are my daughter's future. Her life will end if you won't marry her. We have a huge respect in the village. We will lose our honour if you refuse to marry my daughter.

Bishamber: You are a poor father. I understand Ramlal. Okay, if you say so...I will keep your respect. Give me five thousand rupees as compensation then. I will manage it.

Ramlal: Bishamberji...I have spent all my savings on the wedding procedures. I have nothing left to give you as dowry. Please don't change your mind. Marry my daughter. She is innocent.

Bishamber: I don't care Ramlal. Look at her face. Who can marry her except me? If you want your daughter to be married, give me the dowry I demand.

- 22.** Read the extracts given below and compare the personality of Bholi in both of them.

- (A) "N-n-n-n NO, no-no-no," she shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip. "What's the matter with you, you fool?" shouted Ramlal. "I am only taking you to school." Then he told his wife, "Let her wear some decent clothes today, or else what will the teachers and the other school girls think of us when they see her?"
- (B) "For the sake of your izzat," said Bholi, "I was willing to marry this lame old man. But I will not have such a mean, greedy and contemptible coward as my husband. I won't, I won't, I won't."

Ans. Bholi's personality in both the extracts is extremely opposite. Bholi turned from a shy, and insecure girl to a strong and independent lady after education.

- (A) Bholi was a dull child who used to stammer while speaking. She also had pock-marks all over her face. Her family used to ill-treat her and ignore her completely. The children used to mock her for stammering so she talked very less. The bad treatment meted out to Bholi made her a child full of fear, insecurities and inferiority complex.
- (B) As she grew up, Bholi turned out to be a strong confident lady who took a stand for herself at her wedding day. The education that she had had turned her from a shy and insecure child to a confident lady. She boldly refused to marry a greedy old man. She loudly voiced her opinion and didn't settle for something she didn't want.

23. On her first day at school, Bholi's teacher promised her - "People will listen to you with respect and you will be able to speak without the slightest stammer."

Did Bholi become what her teacher promised her to be? Elaborate with the help of examples from the text. [Delhi Gov. 2021]

Ans. Bholi's teacher was right when she said that people would listen to her respectfully and she would stop stammering. Earlier, Bholi was considered an ugly and dumb child who would never be able to get married. However, after her teacher's efforts and love, Bholi turned from a shy insecure girl to a strong and confident lady. She stopped stammering. When she grew up, her father fixed her marriage to a rich fifty-year-old man who was very greedy. On the day of marriage, he asked for fifty thousand rupees as a dowry to 'compensate' for Bholi's pock-marked face. Due to this Bholi decided to call off the marriage and spend all her life serving her parents and becoming a teacher herself. Her parents listened to her and the marriage was cancelled only because she was educated to take a stand for herself.

24. Bholi took a strong decision to call off her wedding with the old greedy man for dowry. Her teacher was proud of her at her great stand.

Imagine yourself as the writer of the story "Bholi" and write an imaginary conversation between her and her if Bholi comes to ask her teacher if what she did was right.

Ans. Bholi: Ma'am, have I taken the right decision? Or have I messed it all up? Should have got married to Bishamber?

Teacher: Bholi what you did was truly commendable dear. You are such a strong lady now. Bishamber was a pathetic man. Moreover, he wasn't suitable for you in anyway. Such

men must be boycotted from the society itself. You made the right decision at the right time.

Bholi: Thank you so much ma'am. What I did today was only possible because of you. If you wouldn't have come in my life as my guardian, I would have never been able to do anything.

Teacher: Bholi you were already talented my child. You just needed a helping hand. The masterpiece that I carved is completed today!

Bholi: I am blessed to have you as my teacher.

25. How did education change Bholi's personality? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Bholi used to be a meek girl. She had pock marks on her entire body. Her brain was damaged when she was just ten months old. She was also a slow learner. She could not speak till she was five. Later, she suffered from stammering while speaking. She was sent to school just as formality. Her parents were not serious about her studies. But her teacher changed her life. She encouraged her to speak properly and to become independent. She taught Bholi what was good and what was bad and how to differentiate between the right and wrong? Education changed her personality completely. Even then she behaved like an obedient girl and agreed to marry Bishamber who was fifty years old. She could not stand his demand of dowry and hence, refused to fulfil his demand of five thousand rupees and denied marrying him. Thus, education changed her attitude towards life.

26. ✍️ Ramlal wasn't ready to accept the proposal of Bishamber Nath when he received it. His wife insisted him to say yes as she thought that nobody would marry Bholi.

Imagine yourself as the writer of the story "Bholi" and write an imaginary conversation between Ramlal and his wife when his wife gives reasons to agree to the proposal.