

Class X - English

Bholi

CBSE NOTES

Bholi - Mastery Worksheet

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Mastery Questions

1. Why was Bholi's father worried about her? Discuss the societal norms that influenced his concerns.

Hint: Consider the societal expectations from women during that time and how Bholi's condition affected her marriage prospects.

Solution: Bholi's father was worried about her because she lacked good looks and intelligence, which were considered essential for marriage in their society. The societal norms valued physical beauty and intelligence in women, making it difficult for Bholi to find a suitable match. This reflects the patriarchal mindset where a woman's worth was often judged by her appearance and marital prospects.

2. Compare and contrast Bholi's life before and after she started going to school.

Hint: Focus on her self-perception and how others treated her before and after her education.

Solution: Before school, Bholi was neglected, had low self-esteem, and was considered a burden due to her stammering and pockmarks. After attending school, her teacher's encouragement helped her gain confidence, improve her speech, and envision a future where she could stand up for herself. This transformation highlights the power of education in changing one's life.

3. How did Bholi's teacher play a pivotal role in her transformation? Discuss the qualities of the teacher that made her effective.

Hint: Think about the teacher's approach to teaching and how it differed from Bholi's experiences at home.

Solution: Bholi's teacher was patient, kind, and encouraging, which helped Bholi overcome her fear of speaking. The teacher's belief in Bholi's potential and her method of positive reinforcement were crucial in building Bholi's confidence. This shows the importance of supportive educators in students' lives.

4. Why did Bholi initially agree to marry Bishamber and later refuse? What does this reveal about her character development?

Hint: Consider Bholi's motivations at both stages and how her education influenced her decision.

Solution: Bholi initially agreed to marry Bishamber to uphold her family's honor, showing her selflessness. However, she later refused when he demanded dowry, demonstrating her newfound self-respect and courage. This shift indicates her growth from a submissive girl to a confident individual who values herself.

5. Analyze the significance of Bholi being called Sulekha at the end of the story.

Hint: Reflect on the meaning of names and identity in the story.

Solution: Calling Bholi Sulekha at the end signifies her complete transformation and reclaiming of her identity. It marks her journey from being seen as a 'simpleton' to becoming a self-assured individual who can make her own decisions, symbolizing her empowerment.

6. Discuss the role of education in Bholi's life. How does it empower her to challenge societal norms?

Hint: Think about how education changed Bholi's perspective on her rights and self-worth.

Solution: Education empowered Bholi by improving her self-esteem and giving her the courage to stand against injustice, like refusing the dowry demand. It enabled her to see beyond the societal norms that initially oppressed her, showcasing education as a tool for social change.

7. What does Bholi's story tell us about the treatment of girls in society? Compare it with the current scenario.

Hint: Compare past and present societal attitudes towards girls' education and rights.

Solution: Bholi's story highlights the discrimination and low expectations from girls, especially those with disabilities or imperfections. While progress has been made, similar attitudes persist in some areas, underscoring the need for continued efforts towards gender equality and education for all girls.

8. How does the story 'Bholi' critique the dowry system? Provide examples from the text.

Hint: Look for instances where dowry influences characters' decisions and the consequences thereof.

Solution: The story critiques the dowry system through Bishamber's demand for money to marry Bholi, reducing marriage to a transaction. Bholi's refusal to comply challenges this practice, highlighting its exploitative nature and advocating for dignity over dowry.

9. Explain the symbolism of the garland being thrown into the fire by Bholi.

Hint: Consider the garland as a symbol of marital acceptance and what its destruction signifies.

Solution: Throwing the garland into the fire symbolizes Bholi's rejection of the oppressive marriage and her breaking free from societal expectations. It represents her fiery resolve to not be commodified or disrespected, marking a pivotal moment of defiance and self-assertion.

10. Imagine you are Bholi's teacher. Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts on her transformation and her act of defiance.

Hint: Focus on the teacher's observations of Bholi's growth and the emotional impact of her final act of defiance.

Solution: As Bholi's teacher, the diary entry would express pride in her transformation from a timid girl to a confident individual who stands up for herself. It would reflect on the challenges she overcame and the hope her story brings for other girls in similar situations, emphasizing the transformative power of education.

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