

Class X - English

Bholi

CBSE NOTES

Bholi - Practice Worksheet

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Practice Questions

1. Why was Bholi's father worried about her?

Hint: Consider Bholi's physical and mental condition and the societal norms of the time.

Solution: Bholi's father was worried about her because she had neither good looks nor intelligence. She was disfigured by small-pox marks and stammered, which made her marriage prospects bleak. In their society, a girl's marriage was considered essential, and Bholi's condition made it difficult to find a suitable groom for her. Her father feared that she would remain unmarried, which was a significant concern for him as a parent in their societal setup.

2. For what unusual reasons was Bholi sent to school?

Hint: Think about the societal expectations and the pressure from the Tehsildar.

Solution: Bholi was sent to school because her parents thought there was little chance of her getting married due to her ugly face and lack of sense. They believed that sending her to school would shift the responsibility of worrying about her future to the teachers. Additionally, her father was pressured by the Tehsildar to set an example by sending his daughters to school, and Bholi was chosen as she was considered the least likely to be married off.

3. How did Bholi's teacher play an important role in changing the course of her life?

Hint: Focus on the teacher's methods of encouragement and the impact on Bholi's self-esteem.

Solution: Bholi's teacher played a pivotal role in her life by showing her kindness and encouragement, which she had never received before. The teacher helped Bholi overcome her stammer by patiently listening to her and motivating her to speak without fear. She also instilled confidence in Bholi by assuring her that education would empower her and make her respected in society. This support transformed Bholi from a timid girl into a confident individual who could stand up for herself.

4. Why did Bholi at first agree to an unequal match and later reject the marriage?

Hint: Consider Bholi's sense of duty versus her self-respect and the role of education in her decision.

Solution: Bholi initially agreed to the unequal match with Bishamber Nath because she wanted to uphold her family's honor and believed it was her duty to comply with her parents' wishes. However, she later rejected the marriage when Bishamber demanded a dowry upon seeing her pock-marks, revealing his greed and lack of respect for her. This act of defiance showed her newfound self-respect and the courage to stand against injustice, reflecting her transformation through education.

5. Why is Bholi called Sulekha again at the end of the story?

Hint: Think about the significance of names and identity in the story.

Solution: Bholi is called Sulekha at the end of the story to signify her complete transformation and reclaiming of her identity. Throughout the story, she was referred to as Bholi, meaning the simpleton, highlighting how society viewed her. By the end, she has overcome her stammer and gained confidence, proving herself to be intelligent and capable. Calling her Sulekha, her real name, symbolizes her liberation from the derogatory label and her emergence as a strong, independent individual.

6. How does the story 'Bholi' highlight the issue of gender inequality?

Hint: Consider the different opportunities and expectations for boys and girls in the story.

Solution: The story 'Bholi' highlights gender inequality through the treatment of Bholi and her sisters compared to their brothers. While the sons are sent to the city for education, the daughters are considered burdens, with their worth tied to their marriage prospects. Bholi's lack of education initially and her parents' willingness to marry her off to an older man for money reflect the societal devaluation of girls. The story critiques these norms by showing Bholi's empowerment through education and her refusal to accept an unjust marriage.

7. What role does education play in Bholi's life?

Hint: Focus on the changes in Bholi's character and her actions post-education.

Solution: Education plays a transformative role in Bholi's life by empowering her with confidence and self-respect. Initially, she is a timid girl, neglected and ridiculed by her family and society. However, her teacher's encouragement and her own efforts in learning help her overcome her stammer and gain a sense of self-worth. Education enables her to challenge societal norms, as

seen when she refuses the unjust marriage, showcasing her ability to think independently and stand up for her rights.

8. How does the story 'Bholi' reflect the changing social attitudes towards girls' education?

Hint: Compare the traditional and modern views on girls' education presented in the story.

Solution: The story 'Bholi' reflects the changing social attitudes towards girls' education through the contrasting views of Bholi's parents and her teacher. Initially, her parents see no value in educating girls, believing their ultimate role is to get married. However, the teacher represents progressive thinking, emphasizing the importance of education for empowerment and self-reliance. Bholi's transformation and her decision to teach at the end of the story symbolize the potential of education to change societal perceptions and improve the status of women.

9. What message does the story 'Bholi' convey about the importance of self-respect?

Hint: Consider Bholi's actions and decisions in the context of self-respect.

Solution: The story 'Bholi' conveys that self-respect is crucial for personal dignity and empowerment. Bholi's journey from a submissive girl to a confident individual who rejects a demeaning marriage proposal highlights the importance of valuing oneself. Her ability to stand up against injustice, despite societal pressure, underscores the message that self-respect enables individuals to challenge oppressive norms and make choices that honor their worth. The story encourages readers to cultivate self-respect and assert their rights.

10. How does the story 'Bholi' inspire readers to challenge societal norms?

Hint: Focus on Bholi's defiance and the role of education in enabling her to challenge norms.

Solution: The story 'Bholi' inspires readers to challenge societal norms by showcasing the protagonist's courage to defy expectations. Bholi's refusal to marry a greedy and disrespectful man, despite societal and familial pressure, serves as a powerful example of standing up against injustice. Her transformation through education demonstrates that change is possible when individuals are empowered to think critically and act courageously. The story motivates readers to question and resist norms that undermine dignity and equality.

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