

## BHOLI



*Notes*

“Bholi” is a short story written by the renowned Indian author **K. A. Abbas**. It tells the poignant tale of a girl named Sulekha, majorly called “Bholi,” who faces societal challenges due to her physical disfigurement and limited intelligence. The story explores themes of education, self-empowerment, and societal expectations, as Bholi embarks on a journey of self-discovery and transformation. Through the character of Bholi, Abbas sheds light on the struggles faced by marginalised individuals in a traditional society and the transformative power of education and self-confidence. The story captures the reader’s empathy as it unfolds Bholi’s journey from a timid girl to a more confident and empowered young woman.



### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this lesson, the learner:

- Recognises the need of love, encouragement, and education for the disabled to fight against their odds;
- Illustrates the importance of the usage of appropriate language according to social context;
- Constructs agreement and disagreement with reasons, and arrives at conclusions through discussion and debate;
- Argues with proper rationale by carefully evaluating premises.

### 4.1 SECTION I

Her name was Sulekha, but since her childhood everyone had been calling her Bholi, the simpleton.

## Bholi



## Notes

- **Disfigured:** blemished
- **Prosperous:** rich

She was the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain. That was why she remained a backward child and came to be known as Bholi, the simpleton.

At birth, the child was very fair and pretty. But when she was two years old, she had an attack of small-pox. Only the eyes were saved, but the entire body was permanently **disfigured** by deep black pock-marks. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. As a result, she talked very little.



Fig. : 4.1

Ramlal had seven children — three sons and four daughters, and the youngest of them was Bholi. It was a **prosperous** farmer's household and there was plenty to eat and drink. All the children except Bholi were healthy and strong. The sons had been sent to the city to study in schools and later in colleges. Of the daughters, Radha, the eldest, had already been married. The second daughter Mangla's marriage had also been settled, and when that was done, Ramlal would think of the third, Champa. They were good-looking, healthy girls, and it was not difficult to find bridegrooms for them.

But Ramlal was worried about Bholi. She had neither good looks nor intelligence.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.1

This is a story of a girl named Sulekha, nicknamed Bholi, who has faced challenges since childhood. She is the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. She suffered a head injury as a baby, possibly affecting her brain. At the age of two, she had smallpox,

leaving her with disfiguring black pock-marks on her body. She couldn't speak until the age of five and stammered when she finally learned. Bholi's siblings were healthy. So Ramlal was much concerned about Bholi's future due to her lack of good looks and intelligence. This section unfolds themes of beauty, social expectations, and the treatment of individuals with differences.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.1

1. What incident made Bholi a backward child?
2. At what age did Bholi have an attack of smallpox? What was its effect on her looks?
3. Why did Bholi talk very little?
4. What kind of farmer Ramlal was? What was his worry about Bholi?

### 4.2 SECTION II

Bholi was seven years old when Mangla was married. The same year a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The *Tehsildar sahib* came to perform its opening ceremony. He said to Ramlal, "As a **revenue official** you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."

That night when Ramlal consulted his wife, she cried, "Are you crazy? If girls go to school, who will marry them?"

But Ramlal had not the courage to disobey the Tehsildar. At last his wife said, "I will tell you what to do. Send Bholi to school. As it is, there is little chance of her getting married, with her ugly face and lack of sense. Let the teachers at school worry about her."

The next day Ramlal caught Bholi by the hand and said, "Come with me. I will take you to school." Bholi was frightened. She did not know what a school was like. She remembered how a few days ago their old cow, Lakshmi, had been turned out of the house and sold.

"N-n-n-n NO, no-no-no," she shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip.

### Bholi



### Notes

- **Tehsildar:** a revenue officer in India
- **Revenue official:** a government agent responsible for administering and collecting taxes

## Bholi



## Notes

“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 schoolgirls 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 begin to believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home!



Fig. : 4.2

### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.2

This section marks a turning point in Bholi’s life, as it offers her an opportunity for education and personal growth. In their village, a girls’ primary school opens when Bholi becomes a seven-year-old girl. The Tehsildar urges Ramlal to send his daughters to school but Ramlal’s wife opposes the idea, fearing it will make their daughters less marriageable. She suggests sending Bholi, who has low chances of marriage due to her appearance and lack of intelligence. Reluctantly, Ramlal decides to take Bholi to school, but she is terrified because she doesn’t know what to expect. Her father insists she must wear decent clothes for her first day. Bholi, who usually receives hand-me-downs, is given a clean dress that no longer fits her sister, Champa. She is bathed and groomed, making her believe that school might be a better place than her

home. The section highlights societal expectations regarding girls' education and marriage in a rural setting and sets the stage for Bholi's journey of self-discovery.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.2

1. Why did the Tehsildar ask Ramlal to send his daughters to school? Give two reasons.
2. Why Ramlal's wife disagreed when he consulted her for sending her daughters to school?
3. How finally Ramlal's wife agreed to send Bholi to school?
4. Why did Bholi feel frightened at the idea of being taken to school?

### 4.3 SECTION III

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.

Bholi did not know what exactly a school was like and what happened there, but she was glad to find so many girls almost of her own age present there. She hoped that one of these girls might become her friend.

The lady teacher who was in the class was saying something to the girls but Bholi could understand nothing. She looked at the pictures on the wall. The colours **fascinated** her—the horse was brown just like the horse on which the Tehsildar had come to visit their village; the goat was black like the goat of their neighbour; the parrot was green like the parrots she had seen in the mango orchard; and the cow was just like their Lakshmi. And suddenly Bholi noticed that the teacher was standing by her side, smiling at her.

Bholi



*Notes*

- **Fear-laden:** full of fear
- **Fascinated:** strongly attracted or interested

Bholi



Notes

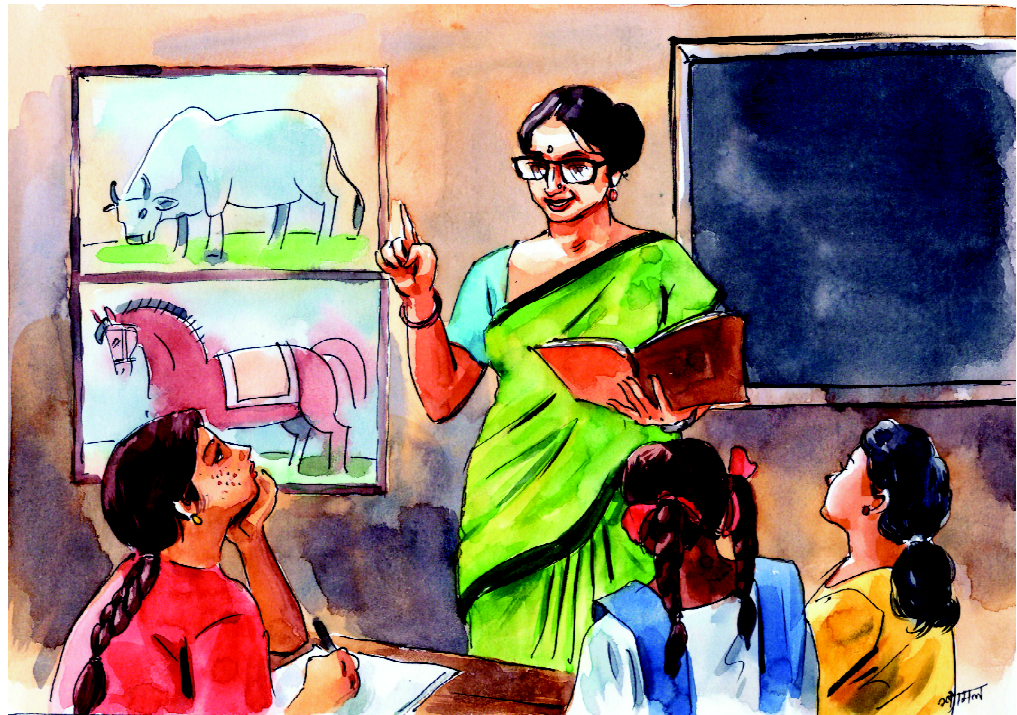


Fig. : 4.3

“What’s your name, little one?”

“Bh-Bho-Bho.” She could stammer no further than that.

Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls who, she knew, were still laughing at her.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.3

Bholi arrives at the school, and her father hands her over to the headmistress. She is filled with fear as she observes the classrooms filled with girls of her age. Although she doesn’t understand what’s happening, she hopes to make a friend among them. While the lady teacher speaks to the class, Bholi is captivated by the colourful pictures on the wall. The teacher notices Bholi and asks for her name, but Bholi stammers. She bursts into tears, feeling helpless. She keeps her head down, avoiding the laughter of the other girls in the classroom.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.3

Complete the following sentences:

1. Bholi was \_\_\_\_\_ when she reached school and saw so many girls of her age.
2. Bholi liked \_\_\_\_\_ pictures on the wall.
3. The teacher, in the class, asked Bholi \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bholi stammered and \_\_\_\_\_ when the teacher talked to her.

### 4.4 SECTION IV

When the school bell rang, all the girls scurried out of the classroom, but Bholi dared not leave her corner. Her head still lowered, she kept on sobbing.

“Bholi.”

The teacher’s voice was so soft and soothing! In all her life she had never been called like that. It touched her heart.

“Get up,” said the teacher. It was not a command, but just a friendly suggestion. Bholi got up.

“Now tell me your name.”

Sweat broke out over her whole body. Would her stammering tongue again **disgrace** her? For the sake of this kind woman, however, she decided to make an effort. She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.

“Bh-Bh-Bho-Bho,” she began to stammer.

“Well done, well done,” the teacher encouraged her. “Come on, now — the full name?”

“Bh-Bh-Bho-Bholi.” At last she was able to say it and felt relieved as if it was a great achievement.

“Well done.” The teacher patted her affectionately and said, “Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else.”

Bholi looked up as if to ask, “Really?”

Bholi



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- **Disgrace:** bring discredit on

Bholi



### Notes

- **Throbbing:** beating with a strong regular rhythm

“Yes, yes, it will be very easy. You just come to school every day. Will you come?”  
Bholi nodded. “No, say it aloud.”

“Ye-Ye-Yes.” And Bholi herself was astonished that she had been able to say it.

“Didn’t I tell you? Now take this book.”

The book was full of nice pictures and the pictures were in colour — dog, cat, goat, horse, parrot, tiger and a cow just like Lakshmi. And with every picture was a word in big black letters.

“In one month you will be able to read this book. Then I will give you a bigger book, then a still bigger one. In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you. People will listen to you with respect and you will be able to speak without the slightest stammer. Understand? Now go home, and come back early tomorrow morning.”

Bholi felt as if suddenly all the bells in the village temple were ringing and the trees in front of the school-house had blossomed into big red flowers. Her heart was **throbbing** with a new hope and a new life.

Thus the years passed.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.4

After school hours, Bholi remains in her corner, sobbing, too afraid to leave. The teacher’s gentle voice calls to her, offering comfort and encouragement. Bholi finally masters the courage to stammer out her name with the teacher’s support. The teacher affectionately reassures Bholi that with time and daily attendance, she will overcome her fear and speak like everyone else. Bholi is given a colourful picture book with words in big black letters and is told she will learn to read it in a month, followed by bigger books. She’s encouraged that she will become more educated than anyone in the village, gaining respect and confidence. Bholi leaves school with newfound hope and determination. The section concludes by indicating that Bholi’s life is about to change positively as she embarks on her journey of education.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.4

Complete the following sentences:

1. The teacher’s \_\_\_\_\_ address touched Bholi’s



heart.

2. She felt relaxed and relieved because \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Bholi could stammer her full name later because \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bholi was assured by the teacher that soon in a month's time she would be able to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4.5 SECTION V

The village became a small town. The little primary school became a high school. There were now a cinema under a tin shed and a cotton ginning mill. The mail train began to stop at their railway station.

One night, after dinner, Ramlal said to his wife, "Then, shall I accept Bishamber's proposal?"

"Yes, certainly," his wife said. "Bholi will be lucky to get such a well-to-do bridegroom. A big shop, a house of his own and I hear several thousand in the bank. Moreover, he is not asking for any dowry."

"That's right, but he is not so young, you know — almost the same age as I am — and he also limps. Moreover, the children from his first wife are quite grown up."

"So what does it matter?" his wife replied. "Forty-five or fifty — it is no great age for a man. We are lucky that he is from another village and does not know about her pock-marks and her lack of sense. If we don't accept this proposal, she may remain unmarried all her life."

"Yes, but I wonder what Bholi will say."

"What will that witless one say? She is like a dumb cow."

"May be you are right," muttered Ramlal.

In the other corner of the courtyard, Bholi lay awake on her cot, listening to her parents' whispered conversation.

#### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.5

The village has transformed into a small town with new developments like a high school, cinema, cotton ginning mill, and a railway station. Ramlal discusses a proposal from Bishamber for Bholi's marriage with his wife. She approves of the match, because

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- **Splendour:**  
magnificent

of Bishamber's wealth, lack of dowry demand, and indifference to Bholi's physical and mental limitations. In another part of the courtyard, Bholi overhears her parents' hushed conversation, while they agree to the proposal without considering her feelings. This section clarifies the position of girls in the society. It also highlights that even if the locality has changed much to modernisation, the mindset of the local people has not become modern yet. It is also noteworthy that it is Ramlal, the father who is slightly concerned about Bholi's opinion. The mother, despite being a woman, does not find it relevant to seek the bride's consent.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.5

1. What changes came over the village in a few years?
2. How was Bishamber a well to do bridegroom?
3. Why did Bholi's mother not consult Bholi for her marriage?
4. What concerns did Ramlal have about Bishamber?

## 4.6 SECTION VI

Bishamber Nath was a well-to-do grocer. He came with a big party of friends and relations with him for the wedding. A brass-band playing a popular tune from an Indian film headed the procession, with the bridegroom riding a decorated horse. Ramlal was overjoyed to see such pomp and **splendour**. He had never dreamt that his fourth daughter would have such a grand wedding. Bholi's elder sisters who had come for the occasion were envious of her luck.

When the auspicious moment came the priest said, "Bring the bride."

Bholi, clad in a red silken bridal dress, was led to the bride's place near the sacred fire.

"Garland the bride," one of his friends prompted Bishamber Nath.

The bridegroom lifted the garland of yellow marigolds. A woman slipped back the silken veil from the bride's face. Bishamber took a quick glance. The garland remained poised in his hands. The bride slowly pulled down the veil over her face.

"Have you seen her?" said Bishamber to the friend next to him "She has pockmarks on her face."

"So what? You are not young either."

“May be. But if I am to marry her, her father must give me five thousand rupees.”

Ramlal went and placed his turban — his honour — at Bishamber’s feet. “Do not humiliate me so. Take two thousand rupees.”

“No. Five thousand, or we go back. Keep your daughter.”

“Be a little **considerate**, please. If you go back, I can never show my face in the village.”

“Then out with five thousand.” Tears streaming down his face, Ramlal went in, opened the safe and counted out the notes. He placed the bundle at the bridegroom’s feet.



Fig. : 4.4

On Bishamber’s greedy face appeared a triumphant smile. He had gambled and won. “Give me the garland,” he announced.

Once again the veil was slipped back from the bride’s face, but this time her eyes were not downcast. She was looking up, looking straight at her prospective husband, and in her eyes there was neither anger nor hate, only cold contempt.

Bishamber raised the garland to place it round the bride’s neck; but before he could do so, Bholi’s hand struck out like a streak of lightning and the garland was flung into the fire. She got up and threw away the veil.

Bholi



Notes

- **Considerate:** showing careful thought

## Bholi



## Notes

- **Startled:** getting a sudden shock
- **Izzat:** honour or reputation
- **Contemptible:** detestable

### LET US UNDERSTAND 4.6

Bishamber Nath, a prosperous grocer, arrives with a grand wedding procession for his marriage to Bholi. The wedding is extravagant with music and decorations. Ramlal, is thrilled to see his daughter's lavish wedding, while her elder sisters envy her good fortune. During the wedding ceremony, Bishamber Nath notices Bholi's pockmarks. He demands an additional dowry of five thousand rupees, causing Ramlal to plead and eventually comply to avoid humiliation. After that when Bishamber Nath was agreed to proceed with the ceremony, Bholi suddenly unveils herself. In a bold move, she flings the garland into the fire, discards her veil and looks at Bishamber Nath with cold contempt.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.6

1. How was the grand procession for Bholi's wedding?
2. How did Ramlal feel about the grandeur of Bholi's wedding?
3. What condition did Bishamber lay down to marry Bholi and why?
4. What happened when Bholi's veil was removed a second time?

### 4.7 SECTION VII

“Pitaji!” said Bholi in a clear loud voice; and her father, mother, sisters, brothers, relations and neighbours were **startled** to hear her speak without even the slightest stammer.

“Pitaji!” Take back your money. I am not going to marry this man.”

Ramlal was thunderstruck. The guests began to whisper, “So shameless! So ugly and so shameless!”

“Bholi, are you crazy?” shouted Ramlal. “You want to disgrace your family? Have some regard for our *izzat*!”

“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.”

“What a shameless girl! We all thought she was a harmless dumb cow.”

Bholi turned violently on the old woman, “Yes, Aunty, you are right. You all thought I was a dumb-driven cow. That’s why you wanted to hand me over to this heartless creature. But now the dumb cow, the stammering fool, is speaking. Do you want to hear more?”



Fig. : 4.5

Bishamber Nath, the grocer, started to go back with his party. The confused bandsmen thought this was the end of the ceremony and struck up a closing song.

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 he contemplates the completion of his masterpiece.



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**LET US UNDERSTAND 4.7**

At her wedding, Bholi suddenly speaks clearly and loudly, surprising everyone. She refuses to marry Bishamber Nath, denouncing him as mean, greedy, and contemptible. Her family and guests are shocked, but she stands her ground, rejecting the marriage proposal. Bholi's actions lead Bishamber Nath and his party to leave, ending the ceremony abruptly. Despite her father's concerns about her future, Bholi expresses her determination to serve her parents. She decided to teach at the school from where she got education, with the teacher's support and satisfaction. Her decision to reject the marriage proposal, is a powerful statement about her self-worth and the importance of choosing a partner who respects her. The teacher's role in Bholi's journey symbolises the positive impact of education and empowerment. Bholi's newfound strength and the teacher's satisfaction with her decision suggest that Bholi's future is one of self-reliance and fulfilment.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.7**

1. Why did Bholi refuse to marry Bishamber?
2. Bholi's decision not to marry Bishamber showed that she was now:
  - a) shameless and ill-mannered
  - b) bold and confident
  - c) a dumb and harmless cow
  - d) sharp and rude
3. What did Bholi plan to do in the future after rejecting the marriage proposal?
  - a) She wanted to become a teacher.
  - b) She intended to leave her family.
  - c) She was going to marry someone else.
  - d) She planned to live alone.
4. There was a light of deep satisfaction in the teacher's eyes. Why?

## CHARACTER SKETCHES

### Bholi

Bholi, the titular character, undergoes a significant development. She evolves from a timid and vulnerable girl into a strong, determined, and empowered young woman. At the beginning of the story, she is labelled as “Bholi” (meaning “simpleton”) due to her physical disfigurement from smallpox and her stammer. These challenges make her an easy target for ridicule and exclusion. Despite her initial vulnerability, Bholi exhibits determination and resilience to attend school, facing her fears and the teasing of other children. As Bholi receives support and encouragement from her teacher and gains an education, she undergoes a significant transformation. Her journey illustrates that one’s potential should not be judged solely by physical attributes or societal expectations. She defies stereotypes and proves that anyone can overcome challenges and gain self-worth through education and self-confidence. Her character serves as an inspiration, advocating for the importance of education, self-confidence, and empathy in overcoming societal challenges and discrimination.

### The Teacher

The teacher is a compassionate and empathetic figure who believes in the power of education to transform lives. She is consistently supportive and encouraging towards Bholi, helping her gain confidence and overcome her limitations. The teacher serves as an advocate for Bholi’s empowerment and challenges traditional gender roles and societal prejudices by providing her with the opportunity to learn and grow. Her positive influence on Bholi’s life is evident as Bholi’s self-esteem and communication skills improve under her guidance. The teacher’s character symbolises the transformative impact of a dedicated and caring educator on a student’s life, highlighting the importance of educators who inspire and uplift their students.

### Ramlal, Bholi’s Father

Initially, Ramlal appears to be a somewhat indecisive and concerned father. He is hesitant to accept the proposal for Bholi’s marriage and expresses reservations about the groom’s age and physical condition. His character reflects the dilemma faced by parents in traditional societies, torn between societal expectations, financial considerations, and the well-being of their children. He ultimately seems to care about Bholi’s future and is willing to consider unconventional options, such as sending her to school, despite his initial concerns.



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**Bholi's Mother**

Bholi's mother is portrayed as practical. She is more focused on securing Bholi's future through marriage. She is not initially concerned with Bholi's personal happiness or aspirations, highlighting the societal pressure on parents to arrange suitable marriages for their children, especially daughters. Her character exemplifies the traditional mindset that values financial security and conformity to societal norms over individual desires and empowerment.

**DO YOU KNOW**

- The full name of K. A. Abbas is Khawaja Ahmad Abbas.
- He is the Screenwriter of the famous Bollywood film *Mera Naam Joker*.
- He was awarded the National Film Award four times.
- He wrote in English, Hindi and Urdu.
- His autobiography is named as *I Am not an Island: An Experiment in Autobiography* was first published in 1977.

**LET'S DO**

1. Prepare a case history of a child of your locality who was denied the right to education.
2. Make a case history of a child who limps and is being mimicked by friends and objectified for making fun.

**LET'S TALK**

1. Talk about the provision of girls' education in India.
2. Going to school was a turning point in Bholi's life. Discuss the statement with examples from the story.

**LET'S LEARN****GRAMMAR**

Consider the following sentences:



- a) I **have lived** here for two years.
- b) I **lived** there last year.
- c) Bholi was given a dress which her sister **had discarded**.

The first sentence emphasises a connection between past actions and the present. It is expressed through the **Present Perfect tense**. It is formed with “have/has” followed by the past participle form of the main verb. For ex,

- She **has travelled** to Europe several times.
- They **have lived** in this city for ten years.
- We **have just finished** watching the movie.
- The company **has released** a new product line.

The second sentence (I **lived** there last year.) focuses on completed actions in the past and is expressed through the **Simple Past** tense. It is formed with the past form of the main verb. For ex,

- They **finished** their homework before dinner.
- He **played** basketball with his friends last weekend.
- We **visited** our grandparents during the holidays.
- The movie **ended** late last night.

Thus, the present perfect tense is used to indicate actions that started in the past and have a connection to the present. On the other hand, the simple past tense is used for actions that are completed in the past with a specific time reference.

In the third sentence (Bholi was given a dress which her sister **had discarded**.) there are two finite verbs and both of them are in the past tense. Yet, they are denoting two different actions. One action is of Bholi getting a dress and the other one is discarding that dress by her sister. We come to know from the story that at first Bholi’s sister discarded her dresses and then only Bholi got a dress.

Now, to describe an action that was completed before another action took place we use **Past Perfect Tense**. It is formed by using the past tense of the auxiliary verb ‘have’, which is ‘had’ followed by the past participle of the main verb. For the other action, which took place later on, we use **Simple Past Tense**.



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Therefore, for the action of discarding the dress past perfect tense is used and for the action of Bholi's getting dress Simple Past tense is used.

The followings are some more example of this kind:

- When the teacher came up to Bholi, all the girls **had left**.
- Bholi decided not to marry Bishamber after he **had demanded** extra money from her father.
- Bholi went to school after her father **had been advised** by the Tehsildar.
- The teacher was worried because Bholi **had not spoken** a single word.

Here, the verbs that are in bold happen earlier than their respective underlined verbs.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.8

1. Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.
  - i. I have bought a new house last week.
  - ii. I have found my book. It was under the mat.
  - iii. How many plays Tagore wrote?
  - iv. When I got home last night, I found someone broke into the flat.
  - v. Where have you been last evening?
  - vi. Premchand has written many short stories.
2. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets.
  - i. When the authorities \_\_\_\_\_ (wake up), most of the forest \_\_\_\_\_ (disappear).
  - ii. Children in that village \_\_\_\_\_ (be) healthy because their parents \_\_\_\_\_ (taken care) of their immunisation.
  - iii. I \_\_\_\_\_ (can) decide quickly since my teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me how to make conscious decisions, way back in school.

- iv. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (appreciate) the lovely painting that she \_\_\_\_\_ (make).
- v. We \_\_\_\_\_ (run) outside to look at the new car uncle \_\_\_\_\_ (buy)
- vi. My aunt \_\_\_\_\_ (like) the sweater I \_\_\_\_\_ (knit) for her.

### VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

Look at the table given below. Notice the word transformation. Some nouns have been transformed to verbs.

Noun	Verb
consultation	consult
fascination	fascinate
suggestion	suggest
achievement	achieve
encouragement	encourage
affection	affectionate
astonishment	astonish
consultation	consult



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.9

1. Transform the nouns given below in verbs and vice versa:

Nouns	Verbs
a) Conversation	_____
b) _____	Humiliate
c) Consideration	_____
d) _____	Announce



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- e) Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ Contemplate
- g) Completion \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fill in the blanks with suitable words given in the brackets.

- a) Bholi suffered \_\_\_\_\_ (disfigure, disfigurement) following a bout of smallpox. As a result, she became withdrawn and spoke very seldom. When she did speak it was with a \_\_\_\_\_ (stammer, stammering) and children mimicked her. This \_\_\_\_\_ (mimic, mimicking) and \_\_\_\_\_ (humiliate, humiliation) prevented her \_\_\_\_\_ (grow, growth).
- b) Then she met her teacher who treated Bholi with \_\_\_\_\_ (understand, understanding) and spoke to her as an \_\_\_\_\_ (intelligence, intelligent) person. She provided her with a book to read and a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage, encouragement). As a result, she lost her fear and blossomed into a self-confident girl. This was her \_\_\_\_\_ (triumph, triumphant) over her shortcoming.

### LET'S WRITE

Draft a poster for a seminar to create awareness against teasing a specially-abled person. You may follow the format given below:

NAME OF ISSUING AUTHORITY
<u>TAGLINE</u>
<u>TITLE/NAME OF THE EVENT</u> (exhibition, workshop, etc.)
SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS
ILLUSTRATION (WITH A CAPTION)
<u>WHEN (date and time) AND WHERE</u>
ENTRY FEES (if any) AND <u>OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</u>
CONTACT INFORMATION



### WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- The importance of accessible education and its transformative power in empowering individuals
- One's self-worth is not solely determined by physical appearance or societal expectations
- The importance of treating all individuals, regardless of their physical appearance or abilities, with empathy and compassion
- The significance of and need for gender equality and equal educational opportunities for girls
- The impact of societal pressures on individual choices



### TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Bholi's meeting with her teacher was a turning point in her life. From then on there was no looking back. She bloomed into a thinking individual with self-esteem and decision-making skills. Illustrate this with examples from the story.
2. Society is by and large insensitive to a person who does not fit into its concept of 'normal'. Illustrate this with reference to Bholi's situation.
3. Do you think Bholi would have had a better childhood if her parents had been suitably advised or counselled? Discuss, mentioning her parents' attitude and general treatment given to her.
4. "New clothes had never been made for Bholi. The old dresses of her sisters were passed on to her." What light does this statement reflect about her parents' behaviour?
5. Here is a table of cause and effect of certain actions and events match them:

Cause	Effect
i. Bholi was nervous.	a) Bholi kept looking at the pictures in the classroom.
ii. The teacher assured Bholi that	b) Bholi was sweating all over

Bholi

*Notes*

Bholi



Notes

<p>she would get respect from all and she would be the most learned person.</p> <p>iii. The teacher patted Bholi affectionately.</p> <p>iv. Bholi couldn't understand what teacher taught.</p> <p>v. The headmistress had asked her there in the corner.</p> <p>vi. There were many girls of Bholi's age in the class.</p> <p>vii. The teacher asked Bholi to get up suggested manner.</p> <p>viii. She feared her stammering tongue would betray and disgrace her again.</p> <p>ix. The teacher was very encouraging spoke in soothing words.</p> <p>x. The teacher affectionately patted her.</p> <p>xi. The teacher assured better treatment from people of the village.</p>	<p>her body.</p> <p>c) Bholi became hopeful of a better tomorrow.</p> <p>d) The class girls were laughing the at her.</p> <p>e) Bholi could overcome her to sit nervousness soon.</p> <p>f) Bholi hoped she would make friends with any one of the girls.</p> <p>g) Bholi sat in a corner of the in a class.</p> <p>h) Bholi's heart throbbed with new hope for new life.</p> <p>i) Bholi had no fear of being and laughed at.</p> <p>j) Bholi left the corner where she sat for a long time.</p> <p>k) Bholi felt cheered up and confident.</p>
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6. Given below are the events in a jumbled form. Rewrite them in order as they occur in the story.
- Bishamber refused to marry Bholi and demanded money.
  - The marriage was a show of great pomp and splendour.
  - The teacher felt a deep satisfaction on seeing Bholi as a bold and confident girl.
  - The bandsmen got confused and struck up a closing song.

- e) Bishamber was considered a well to do bridegroom for Bholi by her parents.
- f) Bholi confidently told her father to take back the money and refused to marry Bishamber.
- g) A great transformation had taken over the village.
- h) The guests called Bholi shameless and a disgrace to the family.



### ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

#### 4.1

1. Bholi had fallen off from the cot and some part of her brain was damaged.
2. Bholi had an attack of small pox when she was only two years old.  
It left black pock-marks on her whole body; only eyes remained intact.
3. Bholi talked very little because she stammered while speaking. She was laughed at and mimicked by the children.
4. Ramlal was a prosperous farmer.

He was worried about Bholi's marriage as she had neither good looks or intelligence.

#### 4.2

1. A new primary school for girls was opened and new admission was required. Ramlal, being representative of the government in the village was expected to get an example before the villagers.
2. Because of her apprehension that it would be difficult to get them married off if they were educated.
3. First, it would satisfy Tehsildar, and secondly Bholi being with ugly face and little sense had very little chance to get married.
4. Bholi was frightened at the idea of being taken to school because she had no idea of what a school is. She had seen earlier that a cow was being taken out of the house to be sold and guessed the same possibility.



*Notes*

## Bholi



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*Notes***4.3**

1. hopeful
2. colourful
3. to get up and tell her name
4. couldn't tell full word

**4.4**

1. soft and soothing
2. no one had ever called her like this way
3. the teacher encouraged her
4. read the school book

**4.5**

1. The village became a small town. Primary school became a high school. A cinema hall and a cotton ginning mill had come up. The mail train had begun to stop.
2. Bishamber had a big shop, a house of his own and several thousand rupees in the bank.
3. The mother regarded Bholi as a senseless, dumb cow. She felt Bholi did not have enough courage to either refuse or revolt.
4. Ramlal was concerned that Bishamber was not very young, and limped, and had children from his first wife who were grown up.

**4.6**

1. The procession included a brass band playing music from an Indian film, with the groom riding a decorated horse.
2. Ramlal was overjoyed and had never imagined that his fourth daughter would have such a grand wedding.
3. Bishamber Nath demanded five thousand rupees from Bholi's father when he saw the pockmarks on her face.



4. When Bholi's veil was removed for the second time, she looked at Bishamber Nath with cold contempt and threw the garland into the fire.

**4.7**

1. Because Bholi felt that Bishamber was a greedy and despicable man.
2. b) bold and confident
3. a) She wanted to become a teacher
4. Because the teacher was satisfied that learning in the school had transformed the stammering dumb cow Bholi into a very bold and confident girl

**4.8**

1.
  - i. Wrong. I bought a new house last week.
  - ii. Right
  - iii. Right
  - iv. Right
  - v. Right
  - vi. Right
2.
  - i. woke up; had disappeared
  - ii. were; had taken care
  - iii. could; had taught
  - iv. appreciated; had made
  - v. ran; had bought
  - vi. liked; had knitted

**4.9**

1.
  - a) Converse
  - b) Humiliation
  - c) Considerate
  - d) Announcement

Bholi



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*Notes*

