

NCERT Solutions:

Q1. Why is Bholi's father worried about her?

Ans- Bholi's father is worried about Bholi. It is because she has neither good looks nor intelligence like his other children. He is worried that no one will marry her when she comes of marriage's age.

Q2. For what unusual reasons is Bholi sent to school?

Ans- Bholi is sent to school not for education because there is little chance of her getting married due to her ugly face and lack of sense.

Q3. Does Bholi enjoy the first day at school?

Ans- Bholi was afraid at first. She even wept when the teacher asked her name. She just sat in a corner. But the beautiful pictures on the classroom wall attracted her. The gentle, kind and loving manner of her teacher made her comfortable. She was looking forward to her new life by the time the first day ended. Thus, although initially she did not enjoy it, by the time she went home she had liked school.

Q4. Does she find her teacher different from the people at home?

Ans- She finds her teacher different from the people at home. She finds the teacher's voice soft and soothing. In all her life she had never been called like that. The teacher called her by her name.

Q5. Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans- Bholi's parents accepted Bishamber's marriage proposal because he had a big shop, his own house and several thousand in the bank. He did not even ask for dowry. Her mother thought that Bholi was lucky to get such a well-to-do bridegroom.

Q6. Why does the marriage not take place?

Ans- The marriage does not take place. It is because the bridegroom demands a dowry of five thousand rupees. Bholi refuses to marry such a person who demands dowry.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1. Why was Ramlal worried about Bholi and not about his other children?

Ans- Ramlal was worried about Bholi because she was stupid. She had neither good looks nor intelligence. She stammered also. She had pock-marks on her face. Ramlal worried about her that nobody would marry her when she came of age. Other children were well. Girls had been married and gone.

Q2. Why did Bholi's mother not want to send Bholi to school?

Ans- Bholi's mother did not want to send Bholi to school. She thought that no one would marry girls if she went to school. In those days, girl education was not popular. Bholi's mother thought that no one would marry Bholi due to her ugly face and lack of sense. Schooling was another drawback.

Q3. Why did the other children make fun of Bholi?

Ans- Bholi could not speak till she was five. When at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. Bholi was also not beautiful. She looked disfigured due to deep black pock-marks. So the children made fun of her more due to stammering.

Q4. Why did the marriage not take place?

Ans- The marriage did not take place. Bholi refused to marry Bishambar as he demanded dowry. She won't be the wife of such a greedy man. So the marriage didn't take place.

Q5. Why was Sulekha nicknamed Bholi? Why did Sulekha start stammering?

Ans- Sulekha was nicknamed Bholi because she was a simpleton. Anyone could befool her. She had fallen from a cot. She had damaged her head. Some part of her brain might have been damaged. She started speaking at the age of five. She stammered also.

Q6. How did Bholi's mother favour Bishamber as a suitable husband for Bholi?

Ans- Bholi's mother favoured Bishamber because he had a big shop. He had a house of his own. He had several thousands in the bank. Secondly he did not know that Bholi had pock-marks on her face. He was also not demanding any dowry.

Q7. How did Bholi say she would live when she refused to marry Bishamber?

Ans- Bholi said to her father not to be worried about her. She told him that she would serve them in their old age. She would teach in the same school. Also she would live with them.

Q8. How was marriage a grand show in the village?

Ans- Bishamber came with a large number of friends and relatives. There was a brass band playing a popular tune from an Indian film. The bridegroom sat on a decorated mare. This all was a fanfare for the village.

Long Answer questions :-

Q1. Describe the change that came in Bholi due to her receiving the education?

Ans- The chapter Bholi describes two phases of Bholi's life. First phase before she gets education and the second phase what education makes her. Education has brought out these changes. Bholi is a simpleton. She has pock-marks over her face. She stammers. She is ugly. But when she receives education. She becomes wise and normal. Her father decides to marry her to an aged person. He is Bishamber, the grocer who is lame and has children also by his first wife. He demands dowry of five thousand rupees on the day of the marriage. Bholi refuses to marry him due to this reason.

Q2. Write down the character sketch of Bholi?

Ans- 'Bholi' was actually 'Sulekha'. Since her childhood everyone had been calling her Bholi, the simpleton. She had fallen off the cot when she was a baby. Perhaps, it had damaged some part of her brain. Then she had smallpox and her face

was disfigured by pock-marks. Bholi also used to stammer. She was not very wise nor beautiful. But her education changed her personality. She now knew what was good or what was bad. Her father Ramlal agreed to marry her to Bishamber. But he demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees. On the marriage day Bholi refused to marry him. Education had thus made Bholi a wise and mature girl.

Q3. Describe how and why Bholi refuses to marry Bishamber.

Ans- Bholi has received education. Her father decides to marry her to Bishamber the grocer. He is rich. He has a good shop and a big house. He is lame and aged. He has children by his first wife. They are now grown up. Bholi's father thinks that no one would marry Bholi. She has pock-marks over her face. The priest asks Bholi to garland Bishamber but when Bishamber glances at Bholi. He refuses to marry Bholi due to these pock marks. He first demands five thousand rupees as a dowry. But Bholi refuses to marry Bishamber she asks her father to take the money back. She says that she will teach in the school and live with her parents.

Comprehension Questions:-

Read the given passage and answers the questions that follow:

"Pitaji! take back your money, I am not going to marry this man"

Q1. From which lesson this line has been taken?

Ans- Bholi

Q2. Who said the above line?

Ans- Bholi

Q3. To whom does she say this line?

Ans- Her father (Ram Lal)

Q4. Why did she say this line?

Ans- She says this line because she doesn't want to get married to Bishamber.

Q5. Find the word in the given line which means 'Father'

Ans- Pitaji.

MCQ

- Q1. Who is the writer of the story 'Bholi'?**
a. Leslie Norris b. Ruskin Bond
c. K A Abbas d. Robert Frost
- Q2. What did Bishamber demand as dowry?**
a. Money b. Refrigerator
c. Television d. All of the above
- Q3. What was in her eyes when the veil was pulled down the second time?**
a. Hate b. Fear
c. Contempt d. None of the above
- Q4. Who comforted Bholi?**
a. Her friend b. Her father
c. Her mother d. Her teacher
- Q5. How is the situation of the house described?**
a. Poor b. Miserable
c. Prosperous d. Fine
- Q6. At what age did she begin to speak?**
a. 2 b. 5
c. 4 d. 1
- Q7. What do you mean by the word simpleton?**
a. Simple b. Foolish
c. Basic d. None of the above
- Q8. At what age did Bholi begin to speak?**
a. Three b. Four
c. Five d. Six
- Q9. How many children did Ramlal have?**
a. Four b. Five
c. Six c. Seven
- Q10. How many daughters did Ramlal have?**
a. One b. Two
c. Three d. Four
- 2 (a). Money
3 (c). contempt
4 (d). her teacher
5 (c). prosperous
6 (b). 5
7 (b). foolish
8 (c). five
9 (d). seven
10 (d). four

Answer Key

- 1 (c). K A Abbas