



# Bholi – Revision Notes

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## Summary

- The story is about Sulekha, nicknamed Bholi (meaning simpleton).
  - She was the youngest daughter of Ramlal, a village revenue official.
  - As a child, she fell from a cot, injuring her brain → making her slow to learn.
  - Later, smallpox left her face disfigured with pockmarks.
  - Because of her stammer and looks, everyone neglected her, and she lacked confidence.
  - A teacher encouraged her when she was sent to school. The teacher's kindness gave her hope and courage.
  - Years later, her parents arranged her marriage to Bishamber Nath, an old, greedy man who demanded dowry after noticing her pockmarks.
  - Bholi, to everyone's shock, refused to marry him, showing courage and self-respect.
  - She declared she would serve her parents and teach in the village school.
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## Theme

- Education & Empowerment → Education transformed Bholi's life.
  - Self-respect & Courage → Bholi stood up for her dignity.
  - Social Evils → The story criticizes dowry and the neglect of the girl child.
  - Transformation → From a timid, stammering girl to a confident woman.
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## Characters

- Bholi (Sulekha) – Weak, stammering, neglected girl who later becomes strong, courageous, and self-respecting.
- Ramlal – Bholi's father, a village official, traditional-minded.
- Bholi's Mother – Harsh, unsympathetic, concerned only about marrying off her daughters.
- Teacher – Kind, supportive, inspires Bholi to study and be confident.

- Bishamber Nath – Old, greedy, selfish man who demanded dowry.
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### ☀ Message of the Story

- Education is a powerful tool for women's empowerment.
  - True beauty lies in confidence and character, not appearance.
  - One must have the courage to stand against injustice.
  - Society must reject dowry and value girls equally.
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### 🗨 Literary Devices

- Symbolism → Bholi represents suppressed girls in society.
  - Irony → Called "Bholi" (simpleton), yet she shows the greatest wisdom and courage.
  - Contrast → Her transformation from shy to confident.
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### ? Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the author of *Bholi*?  
👉 K.A. Abbas.
  2. What was Bholi's real name?  
👉 Sulekha.
  3. Why was she called Bholi?  
👉 Because she was simple, slow to learn, and stammered.
  4. What disfigured Bholi's face?  
👉 Pockmarks from smallpox.
  5. Who encouraged Bholi to study?  
👉 Her teacher.
  6. Why did Bholi refuse to marry Bishamber Nath?  
👉 Because he demanded dowry and insulted her parents.
  7. What did Bholi decide at the end?  
👉 To serve her parents and teach in the village school.
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## Long Q&A

**Q1. How did education change Bholi's life?**

**Answer:** At first, Bholi was neglected, stammered, and lacked confidence. People treated her as worthless. But when she went to school, her teacher's encouragement gave her courage. Education helped her gain self-respect and confidence. It gave her the strength to reject a greedy man and live with dignity.

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**Q2. What social issues does the story *Bholi* highlight?**

**Answer:** The story highlights issues like gender inequality, neglect of the girl child, and the dowry system. Bholi was treated as a burden because of her looks. The dowry demand of Bishamber shows the greed and injustice in society. But through Bholi's courage, the story sends a message that women must fight against such evils.


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## Value-Based Q&A

**1. What values are shown by Bholi at the end?**

 Courage, self-respect, honesty, and determination.

**2. What lesson does the story give to students?**

 Education is the key to empowerment, and one should never compromise self-respect for societal pressure.