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Class 10 English (Footprints without Feet) Notes

Bholi



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Lesson - 9
Bholi

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Key Points :

Characters :
Sulekha - Bholi

Before school

Bholi - A simpleton- fourth and youngest daughter of Numberdar Ramlal .

- At birth she was very fair and pretty- ten months old\, fallen off the cot on her head and damaged some part of her brain. When of only two she had an attack of small pox. Only the eyes were saved entire body was permanently disfigured by deep black pockmarks.
- Could not speak till she was five, but when could, she just stammered.
- When Ramlal caught Bholi to take her to school - was frightened to remember how the small cow was taken out in the same way but never to return.
- New clothes had never been made for her only old dresses of her sisters were passed on to her. No one cared to mend or wash her clothes.
- On school day got a clean dress she was even bathed and oil was rubbed into her dry and matted hair- she believed that she was being taken to a place better than her home.

At School

-- Children were in classroom-the poor girl looked at the teacher with fear-laden eyes.

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

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

-- She was given a book which had colourful pictures of birds and animals that attracted her.

-- The teacher assured that in one month she would be able to read that book. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at her. People would listen to her with respect and she would be able to speak without the slightest stammer.

-- 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.

-- Years rolled by little primary school became a high school. The mail train began to stop at their railway station.

Marriage Day

-- Bhishamber Nath - He came with a big party of friends and relative with him for the wedding. Ramlal was overjoyed to see such pomp and splendour. Bholi's elder sisters who has come for the occasion were envious of her luck. Refuses to marry her pock marks.

-- Ramlal placed his turban at Bishamber's feet and begged him to take two thousand rupees. "No. five thousand or we go back,

keep your daughter". Tears streaming down Ramlal went in, opened the safe and counted out the notes. On Bishamber's greedy face appeared a triumphant smile. A changed Bholi- confident and bold

"Pitaji Take back your money. I am not going to marry this man".

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?

Calm and steady- Don't worry - in your old age I would serve you and mother and I will teach in the same school where I learnt so much. Isn't that right, Ma'am?"

"Yes, Bholi, of course," She replied.

-- **Ram Lal** had seven children- three sons and four daughters Girls other than Bholi were good looking, healthy so it was not difficult to find bridegrooms for them.

Bholi was seven when a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The tehsildar sahib came to perform its opening ceremony. He asked Ramlal to send his daughters to school as he was the revenue official and the representative of the government in the village.

Ramlal had no courage to disobey the Tehsildar. They send Bholi to school as she was ugly and blockhead "They thought- Let the teachers at school worry about her".

Years passed - Bholi is young now

Ask his wife whether to accept Bishamber's proposal- she consented.

-- **Bhishamber Nath**

Positives - A big shop, a house of his own several thousand in the bank, not asking for any dowry.

-- Negative - almost the same age as a Ramlal-limps. childdren from his first wife are quite grown up Ramlal wife's response- Forty-five or fifty- no great age for a man lucky does not know about her pock marks and her lack of sense.

Passage - 1

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 pockmarks. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered.

a. When was the pretty girl attacked by small pox?
b. How badly did the attack affect the little girl.
c. When was she able to speak?
d. When at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. "What state of mind of the girl does it show?
e. Give the noun form of 'save'
f. Give the opposite word for 'permanently'.

Passage-2

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

a. Why was Ramlal worried?
b. Who was Mangla?
c. Was Mangla sent to school? Why, Why not?
d. Why did the tehsildar visit Bholi's village?
e. How did Bholi get this name?
f. Why did the Tehsildar insist Ramlal to send her daughters to school?
g. One who shows intelligence is _____.

Passage - 3

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.

a. Why did Ramlal catch Bholi by the hand?
b. Why was Bholi frightened?
c. Who was Lakshmi?
d. What did lakshmi remind, Bholi?
e. Give the Noun form of 'remembered'

Short Questions

1. Bholi was not treated equally in her family. Give examples.
2. Why did Bholi's father get ready to send her to school?
3. Why did Bholi not want to go to school?
4. Why did Bholi find the school a different place?
5. How did the teacher contribute in making Bholi a confident and bold girl?

6. Why did Ramlal get ready to marry Bholi to an aged person?
7. Bhishamber Nath first refused to marry Bholi but soon he got ready. Why?
8. Why did Bholi flatly refuse to marry Bhishamber Nath though she had consented in the beginning?
9. Why was everyone shocked to hear Bholi denying for the marriage?
10. How did Sulekha become Bholi?