

**Page no-47****Question 1. Why is Bholi's father worried about her?**

Bholi's father is concerned because she isn't like other children. After falling from a cot as a baby, her brain was slightly damaged. She learned to speak late and stammers. Her face and body are covered with pockmarks, so her father fears for her marriage prospects.

**Question 2. Why is Bholi sent to school for an unusual reason?**

Bholi's father, Ramlal, is a government official, and the Tehsildar requested he send his daughters to the new village school. Although Ramlal's wife believes schooling harms girls' marriage chances and didn't want her daughters to attend, they sent Bholi—who had poor prospects anyway—to satisfy the Tehsildar.

**Page no-48****Question 1. Did Bholi enjoy her first day at school?**

At first, Bholi was scared and even cried when the teacher asked her name. She sat quietly in a corner but became fascinated by the classroom's colorful pictures and the teacher's kindness. By the end of the day, she was looking forward to coming back.

**Question 2. Was Bholi's teacher different from people at home?**

Yes, very different. At home, Bholi was neglected, unwashed, poorly clothed, and mocked. Her teacher never made fun of her stammer or appearance. Instead, she encouraged and cared for Bholi tenderly, which touched her deeply.

**Page no-51****Question 1. Why did Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?**

They accepted because Bishamber, a prosperous grocer, didn't ask for a dowry.

**Question 2. Why did the marriage not take place?**

At the wedding, Bishamber demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees when he saw Bholi's pockmarked face. Bholi refused to marry such a greedy man and stood up for her dignity, ending the marriage.

**Page no-55**

**Think About It****Question 1. What made Bholi feel school was better than home despite her fears?**

On her first day, her parents dressed her nicely, bathed her, and styled her hair—care she never had before. This special treatment made her feel she was going somewhere better.

**Question 2. How did Bholi's teacher change her life?**

Bholi was timid and stammered at first, but her teacher's kindness and encouragement gave her confidence. She learned to read and write and grew into an independent girl aware of her rights.

**Question 3. Why did Bholi first agree to an unequal marriage but later reject it? What does this show about her?**

She initially agreed to satisfy her parents, but when dowry demands arose, she refused. This shows she was no foolish or timid girl; she stood up for her rights and dignity without fear.

**Question 4. Why is Bholi called Sulekha only near the end of the story?**

'Bholi' means a simple or naive person, which described her early in the story. 'Sulekha' means a person with a beautiful grasp of letters, symbolizing literacy and maturity. After her education, by asserting herself during marriage, she reveals her true identity as Sulekha.

**Talk About It**

**Question 1. How can you help change social attitudes like those in this story?**

We can fight against dowry, promote equal rights and opportunities for both boys and girls, and respect people with differences, treating everyone equally.

**Question 2. Should girls know and assert their rights? Do boys and girls have the same rights and privileges in society? How are they treated differently?**

Girls must definitely be aware of their rights and stand up for them. Though law says all are equal, society often favors boys—for education, freedom, and choices—while girls are prepared mainly for marriage and homemaking. Awareness and education are key for girls to claim their rightful place.

**Question 3. Did the characters in the story speak English? If not, which language? What clues show this?**

No, they likely spoke Hindi. Names like Ramlal and Bholi, and words like 'numbardar', 'tehsildar sahib', 'izzat', and 'pitaji' indicate the Indian, Hindi-speaking setting.