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CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CH-8 : Bholi

Part – 1

Bholi : The Simpleton Child

ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

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1. Bholi : The Simpleton Child
2. The Teacher's Touch & Bholi's Awakening
3. Bholi's Bold Stand

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Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, also known as K. A. Abbas, was an Indian film director, screenwriter, novelist, and a journalist in the Urdu, Hindi and English languages. His works include 74 books, 90 short stories, 3000 journalistic articles and 40 films.

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"Bholi" named Sulekha is about a neglected girl whose life changes when she starts going to school.

–Khwaja Ahmad Abbas

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BEFORE YOU READ

From her very childhood Bholi was neglected at home. Why did her teacher take special interest in her? Did Bholi measure up to her teacher's expectations?

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



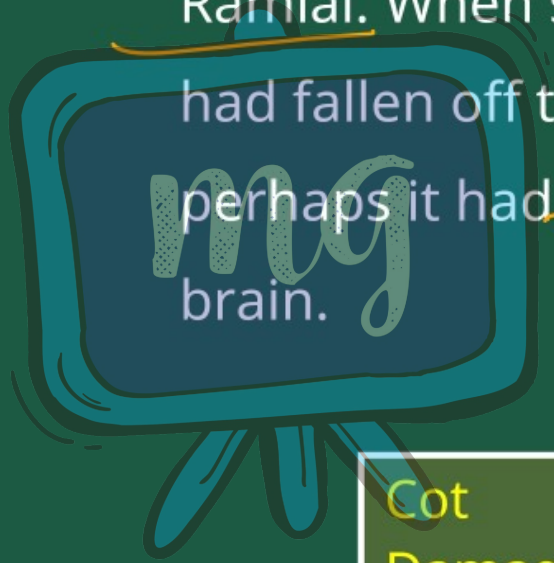


Simpleton : कम अक्ल/मूर्ख

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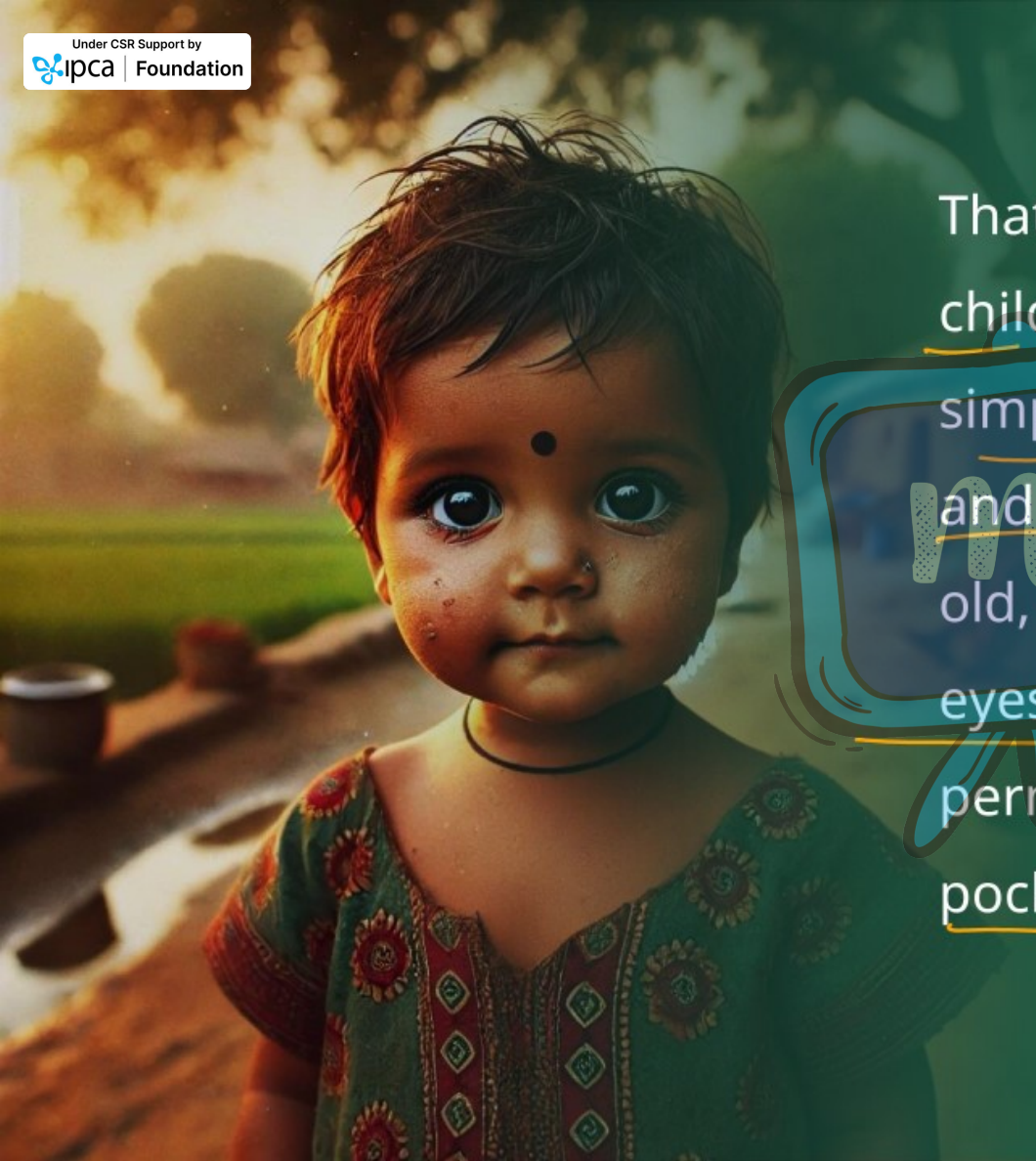
She was the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain.



Cot	:	पालना
Damaged	:	क्षतिग्रस्त

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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 smallpox. Only the eyes were saved, but the entire body was permanently disfigured by deep black pock-marks.

Disfigured : विकृत

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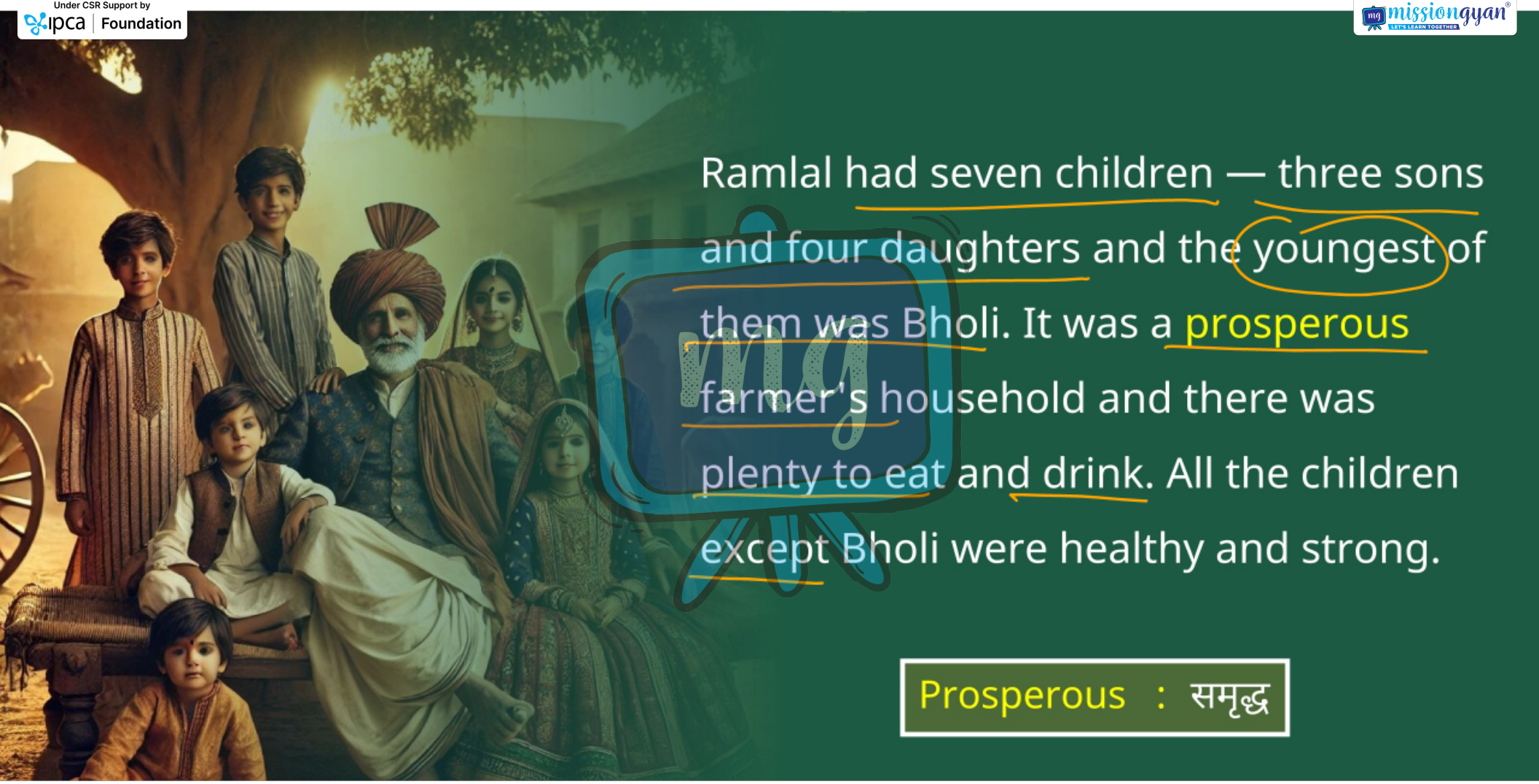
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Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. As a result, she talked very little.

Stammered	:	हकलाना
Mimicked	:	नक़ल उतारना / करना

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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.

Prosperous : समृद्ध