**Reference(s)**: [The eyes are not here (by Ruskin Bond) - English World (google.com)](https://sites.google.com/site/tmuenglishworld/text-and-essays/the-eyes-are-not-here)

1. Ruskin Bond is one of the revered authors of Indian-English literature. British by birth, he is well known for*Jungle Book*. His relation with Dehradun has spanned for decades.
2. “Beautiful is certain/ but uncertainty is more beautiful” – Nobel Laureate Wislawa Szymborska wrote these lines in the poem ‘Love at First Sight’. In the short story,‘The Eyes are not Here’, Ruskin Bond has penned the most beautiful truth of life whereby we, humans, oscillate between the polarity of sight and perception. Our triviality in this universe is proven when we miserably grapple to come to terms with a monolithic certainty and reality.
3. The story is about two blind characters: a man and a woman. The story involves a game of pretence and a silent confession of human bonding. For some, apparent reality is important, while for these two, it is all about how they comprehend others.
4. One day the blind man was travelling by a train alone when he became aware of a woman’s presence into the compartment at Rohanna, who was seen off by her uncle and her commanding aunt.
5. The blind man was going to Mussourie via Dehradun; the girl was headed for Saharanpur.
6. The man always pretended to appear as someone who can see to fool his fellow passengers. But this time, he didn’t know the girl was playing the same game with her.
7. On being asked about Mussourie in the month of October, the man through his memory presents a beautiful picture leaving the girl wonderstruck. Probably in this moment of awe, she even missed eyesight. But the irony was none of them were particularly aware of the other’s truth.
8. The man who had been also taken away with the girl’s beautiful laughter, the fragrance of her hair and the sound of her heels slapping on her slippers. His deduction of beauty is understandably different to those who are guided by plain sight. He tried to imagine through his remaining senses how the girl looked.
9. The girl had also grown fond of the man’s company and she returned his compliments with some from her side as well.
10. When the girl got off at Saharanpur, the man felt that a part of him was sliced off. Actually in their worlds of darkness, both of them had found hope; light in each other.
11. A fellow-traveller joined the man and the game of pretence was restarted. However, the man broken from within wanted his new fellow-traveller to tell him how the girl looked.
12. The man told him though she was beautiful and had lovely eyes, it was useless as she was physically blind.
13. Basically, the girl had defeated the man at his own game. Afteral, all of us pretend every once or twice.
14. This deduction points out how we, those who have all the senses, pass judgements on the apparent reality. People bereft of the five senses “have to take in only the essentials, whatever registers most tellingly on their remaining senses.” It means the difference between sight-perception or eyesight-insight (\*nazar-nazariya) demarcates how much of truth can we actually comprehend.