

CHAPTER-VIII

A SHORT MONSOON DIARY

I. Comprehension check

Question 1.

Why is the author not able to see Bijju?

Answer:

Due to mist on the hillsides, the author can hear Bijju calling his sister but can't see him.

Question 2.

What are the two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mist comes up?

Answer:

The mist covers the hillsides with extreme silence. Moreover, it conceals the hills with darkness.

II.Comprehension check

Question 1.

When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end ? How do you prepare to face the monsoon ?

Answer:

Monsoon season begins in the end of June and ends in the end of August. To prepare to face the monsoon, we purchase raincoats etc

Question 2.

Which hill-station does the author describe in this diary entry ?

Answer:

Mussoorie

Question 3.

For how many days does it rain without stopping ? What does the author do on these days ?

Answer:

It rained for 8 or 9 days without stopping. The author has no way to go outside. He has to sit in the room and look out of the window.

Question 4.

Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter ? Why?

Answer:

The snakes and rodents took shelter in the attics, houses, godowns as all the burrows and holes were filled with rain water.

Question 5.

What did the author receive in the mail ?

Answer:

He received a cheque.

Working With the Text

Question 1.

Look carefully at the diary entries for June 24-25, August 2 and March 23.

Now write down the changes that happen as the rains progress from June to March.

Answer:

In the beginning of monsoon in June, the rainfall was less, temperature was warm, humidity but not much cold on the hillsides. But mist is seen all over there. Once the monsoon set in late July and early August heavy all night rain-showers are felt. It was a tropical downpour. At the end of winter in March the black clouds overcast the sky, It hailed for half an hour. There were snow and snow everywhere changing from 24-25 June to March 23.

Question 2.

Why did the grandmother ask the children not to kill the chuchundar ?

Answer:

The grand mother asked the children not to kill the chuchunder as it has been treated lucky.

Question 3.

What signs do we find in Nature which show that the monsoons are about to end ?

Answer:

When the lush monsoon growth reaches its peak and seeds of the cobra lily turn red, these signs show that monsoons are about to end.

Question 4.

Complete the following sentences.

(i) Bijju is not seen but his voice is heard because

.....

(ii) The writer describes the hill station and valley as

.....

(iii) The leopard was successful in but had to flee when

(iv) The minivets are easily noticed because

(v) It looks like a fashion display on the slopes when

(vi) During the monsoon season, snakes and rodents are found in roofs and attics because

Answer:

(i)there was mist all around over hills

(ii) paradise

(iii)lifting up a dog..... Bijju's mother approached there.

(iv)they have bright colours

(v) different flowers rear their heads from the rocks

(vi) their holes get overflowed with rain.

Question 5.

‘Although tin roofs are given to springing unaccountable leaks, there is a feeling of being untouched by, and yet in touch with, the rain,

(i) Why has the writer used the word ‘springing’?

Answer:

The roof has many holes, moreover it is not a plain one. That’s why the writer has used this word

(ii) How is the writer untouched by the rain ?

Answer:

The rain is not directly pouring on the writer.

(iii) How is the writer in touch with the rain at the same time?

Answer:

The writer is continuously listening to the crackling sound of downpour on the tin roof, so he is supposed to be in touch with the rain.

Question 6.

Mention a few things that can happen when there is endless rain for days together.

Answer:

We used to sit idle in the room, watch TV, have hot tea with pakoras, play only indoor games and enjoy the rain from the windows. Weather becomes cold and wet. We are stuck to the rooms.

Question 7.

What is the significance of cobra lily in relation to the monsoon season, its beginning and end ?

Answer:

In the beginning of the season, cobra lily, rears its head from the ferns. At the end of the monsoon season, its seeds started turning red. However we can say that cobra lily's blooming season starts with the monsoon and ends with the ending of the season.

Working With Language

Question 1.

Here are some words that are associated with the monsoon. Add as many words as you can to this list. Can you find words for these in your languages ?

**downpour floods mist cloudy powercuts
cold umbrella**

Answer:

insects, frogs, diseases, hailstorm, wets all around, water-blocked drains, mosquitoes, raincoats etc.

Question 2.

Look at the sentences below.

(i) Bijju wandered into the garden in the evening.

(ii) The trees were ringing with birdsong.

Notice the highlighted verbs.

The verb wandered tells us what Bijju did that evening. But the verb was ringing tells us what was happening continually at same time in the past (the birds were chirping in the trees). Now look at the sentences below. They tell us about something that happened in the past. They also tell us about other things that happened continually, at the same time in the past.

Put the verbs in the brackets into their proper forms. The first one is done for you.

(i) We (get out) of the school bus. The bell (ring) and everyone (rush) to class.

We got out of the school bus. The bell was ringing and everyone was rushing to class.

(ii) The traffic (stop). Some people (sit) on the road and they (shout) slogans.

(iii) I (wear) my raincoat. It (rain) and people (get) wet.

(iv) She (see) a film. She (narrate) it to her friends who (listen) carefully.

(v) We (go) to the exhibition. Some people (buy) clothes while others (play) games.

(vi) The class (is) quiet. Some children (read) books and the rest (draw).

Answer:

(ii) The traffic stopped. Some people were sitting on the road and they were shouting slogans.

(iii) I wore my raincoat. It was raining and people were getting wet.

(iv) She saw a film. She was narrating it to her friends who were listening carefully.

(v) We went to the exhibition. Some people were buying clothes while others were playing games.

(vi) The class was quiet. Some children were reading books and the rest were drawing.

Question 3.

Here are some words from the lesson which describe different kinds of sounds.

drum swish tinkle caw drip

(i) Match these words with their correct meanings.

(a) to fall in small drops

(b) to make a sound by hitting a surface repeatedly

(c) to move quickly through the air, making a soft sound

(d) harsh sound made by birds

(e) ringing sound (of a bell or breaking glass, etc.)

Answer:

(a) to fall in small drops — drip

(b) to make a sound by hitting a surface repeatedly—drum

(c) to move quickly thro' the air, making a soft sound-tinkle

(d) harsh sound made by birds—caw

(e) ringing sound (of a bell or breaking glass, etc.).-swish

(ii) Now fill in the blanks using the correct form of the words given above.

(a) Ramesh on his desk in impatience.

(b) Rain water from the umbrella all over the carpet.

(c) The pony its tail.

(d) The of breaking glass woke me up.

(e) The of the raven disturbed the child's sleep.

Answer:

(a) was drumming

(b) was dripping

(c) is tinkling

(d) ringing

(e) cawing

Question 4.

And sure enough, I received a cheque in the mail.

Complete each sentence below by using appropriate phrase from the ones given below.

sure enough	colourful enough	serious enough
kind enough	big enough	fair enough
brave enough	foolish enough	anxious enough

(i) I saw thick black clouds in the sky. And it soon started raining heavily.

(ii) The blue umbrella was for the brother and sister.

(iii) The butterflies are to get noticed.

(iv) The lady was to chase the leopard.

(v) The boy was to call out to his sister.

(vi) The man was to offer help.

(vii) The victim's injury was for him to get admitted in hospital.

(viii) That person was to repeat the same mistake again.

(ix) He told me he was sorry and he would compensate for the loss. I said, ‘.

Answer:

- (i) I saw thick black clouds in the sky. And sure enough it soon started raining heavily.
- (ii) The blue umbrella was big enough for the brother and sister.
- (iii) The butterflies are colourful enough to get noticed.
- (iv) The lady was brave enough to chase the leopard.
- (v) The boy was anxious enough to call out to his sister.
- (vi) The man was kind enough to offer help.
- (vii) The victim's injury was serious enough for him to get admitted in hospital.
- (viii) That person was foolish enough to repeat the same mistake again.
- (ix) He told me he was sorry and he would compensate for the loss. I said, "Fair enough."

Speaking

Question 1.

Do you believe in superstitions? Why, or why not ?

Working with your partner, write down three superstitious beliefs that you are familiar with.

Answer:

No, I don't believe in superstitions. They misguide the people. Every good or bad can happen in the conscience of the bearer. In India every 6th person may believe in such orthodox myths. Some familiar superstitions are

(i) Don't step out of the house, if any one sneezes or calls from your back.

(ii) You must stop and change your chappals if a black cat crosses or cuts your way.

(iii) If you see a corpse in the morning while going out of the house, there is some good news for you.

(iv) If a crow caws on the parapet of your house, someone is coming to your house.

(v) If a man's right eye is flickering, some good news is awaiting.

Question 2.

How many different kinds of birds do you come across in the lesson ? How many varieties do you see in your neighbourhood? Are there any birds that you used to see earlier in your neighbourhood but not now? In groups discuss why you think this is happening.

Answer:

In the lesson, scarlet, minivets and drongos are mentioned. We generally see sparrows, pigeons, crows, parrots in our neighbourhood. Vultures are not seen and parrots are occasionally seen on the remaining trees. Pollution and industrialization have caused so much damage to the greenery, a number of birds are not seen generally in our neighbourhood

Writing

Question 1.

The monsoons are a time of great fun and even a few adventures: playing in the rain and getting wet, wading through knee-deep water on your way to school, water flooding the house or the classroom, powercuts and so on. Write a paragraph describing an incident that occurred during the rains which you can never forget.(See picture Textbook)

Answer:

An Incident I can never forget

The monsoons are a time of great fun and even a few adventures playing in the rain an deep water on back home from school, water flooding the house or the class room etc. can be enjoyed. But there was a day when I did not like the rain. I was on my way to school.

As I was about to get into the bus, it started raining. After a few minutes, it started very heavy rain. The roads were flooded. There was water water everywhere. When I got down the bus at my stop I was unable to think what to do. I got down and started walking in knee-deep water slowly. I was fully drenched. When I reached school, there was a horrible scene awaiting. The school ground was over watered. The benches were floating on the water. The memory of that day still remains in my mind.

Summary of A Short Monsoon Diary

In this article, we will be studying A Short Monsoon Diary summary. This chapter consists of a few extracts from the diary of Ruskin Bond. The chapter describes the author's experiences in Mussoorie during the monsoons. On the first day of monsoon, the mist covered the hills. Bijju was calling his sister but the author could not see him due to mist. The next day the rain was warm and humid. Due to the monsoon, one can see leeches, leopard, and birds.

After a few days, rain stops and the Sun shines. Animals, birds, and people are out once again. It rained non-stop for more than a week which made everything damp. One can see the monsoon growth everywhere. The author says that this year monsoon continued for longer than usual. In January, Ruskin Bond wrote a poem on winter rain. He feels lonely now. In March, the winter ends and one can see a rainbow.

ON THE GRASSHOOPER AND CRICKET

Working with the poem

Question 1:

Discuss with your partner the following definition of a poem.

A poem is made of words arranged in a beautiful order. These words, when read aloud with feeling, have a music and meaning of their own.

Answer:

A poem is an artistic piece of speech or a few lines which are expressed by the poet like a song with rhythms and metaphors. There is a musical element in the arrangement of words in a poem. The beautifully arranged words in a poem enhance the essence and meaning of the poem. The rhythmic expressions in it carry several ideas and reflect the imaginative power of the poet. An interesting and musical poem has a lasting impact in the minds of the readers as it gives an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the lines in the poem.

Question 2:

‘The poetry of earth’ is not made of words. What is it made of, as suggested in the poem?

Answer:

The poetry of earth is not just made of words, rather it is composed of the rhythmic songs produced by nature’s beautiful creatures. The musical element of nature never ceases to mesmerize us with its ever changing seasons. Summer and winter are considered to be the most difficult seasons for many creatures such as the grasshopper and cricket. These seasons bring with them a lot of joy, sorrow and excitement to such creatures. During summer, the grasshopper excitedly hops around tirelessly in joy and when he is tired, he rests beneath a pleasant weed. On the other hand, a cricket sings with a shrill voice during the dark and lonely nights of the winter season.

Question 3:

Find in the poem lines that match the following.

(i) The grasshopper's happiness never comes to an end.

(ii) The cricket's song has a warmth that never decreases.

Answer:

(i) In summer luxury — he has never done

With his delights,

(ii) The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever

Question 4:

Which word in stanza 2 is opposite in meaning to 'the frost'?

Answer:

In stanza 2, the word that is opposite in meaning to 'the frost' is 'warmth'. The word frost indicates a cold or chill experience. On the other hand, warmth in the poem refers to the cricket's song which brings in warm feelings and can make one feel drowsy and sleepy.

Question 5:

The poetry of earth continues round the year through a cycle of two seasons. Mention each with its representative voice.

Answer:

The poetry of earth continues round the year through summer and winter. During summer season, the grasshopper hops with joy tirelessly depicting the beautiful poetry of earth. While in the winter season, the cricket's song is like a mesmerizing poetry of earth. Hence, in the poem two different creatures are used as a reference to wisely explain the difference of the two seasons.

Summary of On the Grasshopper and Cricket

In this article, we will be reading On the Grasshopper and Cricket summary. This poem is a fine piece of Petrarchan sonnet by the famous poet John Keats. He wrote this poem in December 1816. It is inspired by the beauty of nature. Poets usually find beauty and poetry in spring and good weather. But Keats is different as he finds nature beautiful in all seasons including hot summer and cold winter.

The poet symbolizes the grasshopper as hot summer and the cricket as a very cold winter. He says that even when the birds stop singing during the hot summers, the Earth still sings. The grasshopper sings tirelessly during this time flying from the hedge. The poet further says that during the cold winter also the Earth keeps expressing pleasure through cricket. A cricket sings through the stones.