



#### Comprehension Check (Page 115)

1. Why is the author not able to see Bijju?
2. What are the two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mist comes up?

Answers:

1. The author could not see Bijju because of the mist that concealed the hills. He could only hear his voice but could not see him.
2. When the mist comes up, it covers the hills and spreads silence.

#### Comprehension Check (Page 117)

1. When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end?  
How do you prepare to face the monsoon?
2. Which hill-station does the author describe in the diary entry?
3. For how many days does it rain without stopping? What does the author do on these days?
4. Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter? Why?
5. What did the author receive in the mail?

Answers:

1. The monsoon season in Mussoorie begins from June 24/25. By August 2, the people are fed up with rain. It ends by August 31. Then begins winter rains which end by late March. We take out our rain coats and umbrellas to face the monsoon.
2. Mussoorie
3. It rains non-stop for eight or nine days. The author keeps pacing the room and looking out of the window.
4. The rodents and snakes take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns. They do so because their holes are flooded with rain water.
5. The author received a cheque in the mail.

#### Working With the Text (Page 118)

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: Rains in Mussoorie begin in June and end by March. June 24 is the first day of monsoon mist which covered the hills and spreads silence. On August 2 it rained all night and made sleeping difficult. By late March ends winter as well as the rains.

2. Why did the grandmother ask the children not to kill the Chuchundar?

Answer: The grandmother told the children not to kill the Chuchundars because they brought good luck and money.

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

Answer: By the end of the monsoon the greenery is at its peak. The seeds of the cobra lily turn red. A rainbow is formed in the sky.

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) dense mist covers and hides the hills.
- (ii) 'A paradise that might have been.'
- (iii) killing a dog but had to flee when Bijju's mother arrived crying curses.
- (iv) of their bright colours.
- (v) they are covered by a variety of flowers.
- (vi) their holes are flooded with water and these places provide them convenient shelter.

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.'

1. Why has the writer used the word, 'springing'?
2. How is the writer untouched by the rain?
3. How is the writer in touch with the rain at the same time?

Answer:

1. The word 'springing' is used to show suddenness with which water starts leaking.
2. Because he is inside the room.
3. He hears the drumming of rain on the tin roof. He also looks out of the window to see the rains.

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

Answer: A long spell of rain makes life miserable. One is closed up in his room. Everything becomes damp and soggy. Rodents, snakes and insects enter the house for shelter.

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

Answer: At first cobra lily appears with the arrival of the monsoon. When the cobra seeds begin to turn red, it indicates the rains are coming to an end.

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