



Subject: English

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Topic – L8 : A SHORT MONSOON DIARY

Pre Activity : Describe the mood and atmosphere of a city during a heavy monsoon downpour.

Comprehension Check

Question 1. Why is the author not able to see Bijju?

Solution : The author could not see Bijju because of the mist that concealed the hills. He could only hear the voice of Bijju but not see him.

Question 2. What are the two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mist comes up?

Solution : When the mist comes up, the hills appear to change. All the birds sitting on the hills fall silent when the mist comes climbing up the hill. When the mist comes up, it conceals not only the hills but also blankets them in silence.

Question 3. When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end? How do you prepare to face the monsoon?

Solution : The monsoon enters India from east and south somewhere around mid of May. It reaches northern part of the country around second week of June. The monsoon ends around September. We take out our rain coats and umbrellas to face the monsoon.

Question 4. Which hill-station does the author describe in this diary entry?

Solution : In this diary entry, the author describes the beauty of the lovely hill station named Mussoorie.

Question 5. For how many days does it rain without stopping? What does the author do on these days?

Solution : It rained without stopping for eight or nine days. Since there was nowhere to go, the author paced in his room and looked out of the window at a few bobbing umbrellas.

Question 6. Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter? Why?

Solution : The snakes and rodents take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns in order to save themselves from rain water.

Question 7. What did the author receive in the mail?

Solution : The author received a cheque in the mail.

Working with Text

Question 1. Write down the changes that happen as the rains progress from June to March, as mentioned in the diary entries for June 24-25, August 2 and March 23.

Solution : June 24 is the first day of monsoon mist. The hills are concealed by the mist. It blankets the hills with a cover of silence. The real monsoon shower comes on June 25. The whole nature welcomes it. The first cobra lily rears its head from the ferns. By August 2, the people become weary of the monsoon. There is no storm, no thunder, just a steady tropical downpour. People stay in their houses and enjoy the sound of raindrops falling on their roofs. Snakes and rodents take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns. March 23

announces the end of winter. The sky starts to become clear after a hailstorm. A rainbow starts forming in the clear sky. One can enjoy this sight of rainbow which shows the beauty of nature.

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

Solution : The grandmother asked the children not to kill the Chuchundar because it was considered lucky. She said that it brings money.

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

Solution : Wild balsam, dahlias, begonias and ground orchids begin to appear. The seeds of cobra lily are turning red. These signs show that the monsoons are about to end.

Question 4. ‘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’?

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

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

Solution :

(i) The word ‘springing’ means ‘to develop suddenly’. The writer says that tin roofs are prone to developing unexpected leaks.

(ii) The writer was physically untouched by the rain as the tin roof stopped the rain from leaking in.

(iii) The writer was in touch with the rain at the same time because he could feel the rain by listening to its drumming sound on the corrugated tin roof.

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

Solution : When there is endless rain for days together, everything becomes damp and soggy. There is no place for anybody to go to. The hillsides are lush as late monsoon flowers such as wild balsam, dahlias, begonias and ground orchids begin to appear.

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

Solution : When monsoon begins, the first cobra lily appears from the ferns. When the seeds of the cobra lily turn red, it signifies that the monsoon is coming to an end.

Post Activity : Describe a scene when you see a rainbow. How does it make you feel?