

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

The writer Ruskin Bond, in this diary entry tells about the silent miracles of nature and life's little joys and regrets.

June 24 was the first day of monsoon mist. The mist was saddening. It concealed the hills and spread silence. The birds stopped singing suddenly.

June 25 brought early monsoon rain. It became warm and humid. The mist afforded some privacy also. A boy asked him to describe the hill-station and the valley in one sentence. Ruskin only said that it could have been a paradise.

On June 27, the rains marked the arrival of animals like a leopard and thousands of leeches. The leopard lifted a dog from the servants quarter below the school. Since the rains were there, the insect eating birds had no dearth of food.

All night on August 2, the rain drummed on the tin roof. But there was no shower, no thunder.

On August 3, the rain stopped and the clouds began to break up. The song of the whistling thrush emerged.

On August 12, there was endless rain and permanent mist. The writer had nowhere to go. He only looked out of the window.

On August 31, snakes and rodents rushed out of their flooded holes. They took shelter in roofs and godowns. The grandmother told the children not to kill the 'chuchundars' because they were lucky and brought money.

By October 3, the monsoon rain made way for the winter rain and snow at higher altitudes. A hailstorm in the evening hit the place. The writer was quite alone in the house. He heard only the rhythm of rain. It enveloped the house.

By March end, the winter also ended. Mussorie had black clouds over it. It hailed for half an hour. When it cleared the sky, a rainbow was formed across it.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 115)

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

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

Ans. 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?

Ans. The monsoon season in Mussorie 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. Which hill-station does the author describe in the diary entry?

Ans. Mussoorie

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

Ans. It rains non-stop for eight or nine days. The author keeps pacing the room and looking out of the window.

4. Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter? Why?

Ans. The rodents and snakes take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns. They do so because their holes are flooded with rain water.

5. What did the author receive in the mail?

Ans. The author received a cheque in the mail.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(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.

Ans. 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?

Ans. 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?

Ans. 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 _____

Ans. (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.'

- (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?

- Ans.** (i) The word 'springing' is used to show suddenness with which water starts leaking.
 (ii) Because he is inside the room.
 (iii) 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?

- Ans.** 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?

- Ans.** 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.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 118)

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

- Ans.** rain, water, fog, raincoats, thunder, dampness, lakes etc.
 In my language I find the alternative words like the following:
 बौछार, बूँदाबाँदी, तुषार, धुंध, शीत, छतरी, रेनकोट, आंधी, इत्यादि।

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).

- Ans.** (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.

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.).

(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.

Ans. (i) (a) drip (b) drum (c) swish (d) caw (e) tinkle

- (ii) (a) drummed (b) dripped (c) was swishing
 (d) tinkle (e) caw

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, '_____'

- Ans. (i) sure enough (ii) big enough
 (iii) colourful enough (iv) brave enough
 (v) anxious enough (vi) kind enough
 (vii) serious enough (viii) foolish enough
 (ix) Fair enough

SPEAKING

(Page 120)

1. Do you believe in superstitions? Why, or why not? Working with your partner, write down three superstitious beliefs that you are familiar with.

Ans. Truly speaking, I don't believe in superstitions. These are blind beliefs. The ignorant and conservative people observe them. Superstitions have no scientific base or proof. The common superstitions are:

- (i) 13 is an ominous number.
 (ii) Don't start a new project on Saturday.
 (iii) Stop if a black cat crosses your path.

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.

Ans. We come across different kinds of birds in this lesson. These are minivets, drongos, tree creepers and crows. We see sparrows, pigeons, and nightingales in our neighbourhood.

Earlier we used to see big birds like kites and parrots in our neighbourhood. But these have become extinct now.

WRITING

(Page 121)

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, power cuts and so on. **Write a paragraph describing an incident that occurred during the rains which you can never forget.**

(See NCERT Text Book Page 121)

Or

Write a poem of your own about the season of spring when trees are in full bloom.

Ans. Do yourself.

□□□

★ On the Grasshopper and Cricket

John Keats

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

This nature poem draws attention to the musical notes of birds and insects going on forever. This music is provided by the grasshopper on hot summer noon and by the cricket in cold winter. Thus, every season has its own kind of joy and music.

On a hot summer day, the birds seek shelter in the cool shade of trees. But it is time for merry making for the grasshopper. He flies from one fence to another singing all the time. When he is *weary* of singing, he rests under some wild plant.

The birds remain silent and hide in winter. Also on a frosty day there is utter silence on all sides. Then suddenly the silence is broken by the song of a cricket. Its voice comes from a pile of stores. Thus, the music of the earth is endless.

To a person feeling sleepy, the cricket's sound appears to be coming from distant grassy hills.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

(Page 123)

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.

Ans. Very true. Poetry is different from prose because it arranges best words in a musical order. However, a poem being short, musical and interesting is easy to learn by heart and to remember for a long period.

2. 'The poetry of earth' is not made of words. **What is it made of, as suggested in the poem?**

Ans. The poetry of earth is made of the chirping of birds in trees, and a grasshopper's sound. They sing joyfully without a long break.

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.

Ans. (i) He has never done with his delights.

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

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

Ans. 'warmth'

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

Ans. The two major seasons in a year are summer and winter. Both are rich in music. In summer, the representative voice is that of the birds and the grasshoppers. In winter, the cricket is the prime singer.