

## ***Chapter-8 A Short Monsoon Diary***

- *Comprehension check.*

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

*Author is not able to see Bijju because of the mist.*

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

*The two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mists open up are:-*

- The hills get concealed and become silence.*
  - The hills become deathly still like midnight.*
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3. *When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end? How do you prepare to face the monsoon?*

*The monsoon season begins at the end of June and ends with the first week of October.*

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

*The author describes Mussoorie in this diary entry.*

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

*It rained continuously for nine days. The author has nowhere to go and remains in the house looking out the house at the umbrellas.*

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6. *Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter? Why?*  
*Snakes and rodents take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns because their holes and borrows have been flooded.*
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7. *What did the author receive in the mail?*  
*The author recieved a check in the mail.*
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- *working with the text*

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?*

*24<sup>th</sup> of June is the first day of the monsoon mist. The mist makes the hills silent. June 25 marks the first real early monsoon fire. The days become warm and humid unlike the rest of the year. The valley can be described in one sentence as 'a paradise that might have been'. The first lily plants grow up. By August 2 rain becomes constant. There are no storm, no thunder, but tropical downpour. In the last of the August lily flowers start to come up. By March 23 the winter ends, A hailstorm with the darkest cloud ever seen by the author clears the sky.*

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2. *Why did the grandmother ask the children not to kill the Chuchundar?*  
*The grandmother asked the children not to kill the Chuchundar because they are lucky and bring money.*
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3. *What signs do we find in Nature which show that the monsoons are about to end?*  
*The sign which shows that the monsoons are about to end is that the seeds of cobra lily are turning red. Other signs are the fashion display of white butterfly and rearing of the heads of wild dahlia, red and yellow magenta.*
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4. *Mention a few things that can happen when there is endless rain for days together?*

*A few things that can happen if it rains for a few days are that it would cause a flood, it could destroy homes, cause a huge loss of money.*

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

*Cobra lily is shown in relation to the monsoon as in the beginning the first cobra lily appears to mark the start of the monsoon. Till the end of the monsoon the lily is fully matured and its seed start to turn red signifying that monsoon is about to end.*