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Comprehension Check

Question 1:

Why is the author not able to see Bijju?

Solution:

During monsoon the hills of Mussorie mist covers the whole area with a white blanket. The author could not see Bijju because of the mist that concealed the hills

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. It covers the whole area with a white blanket. It conceals the hills. On the other hand, this silences the birds as it gives them a feel of nightfall. So the forest appears deathly still and silent.

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Question 1:

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 2:

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 3:

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

Solution:

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

Question 4:

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 5:

What did the author receive in the mail?

Solution:

The author received a cheque in the mail.

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Working with 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.

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 keep 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 heralds the end of winter. The sky starts to become clear after a hailstorm. And 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 brought 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:

Complete the following sentences.

- (i) Biju 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_____.

Solution:

- (i) Biju is not seen but his voice is heard because of the mist in the surroundings.
- (ii) The writer describes the hill station and valley as a paradise that might have been.
- (iii) The leopard was successful in attacking one of Biju's cows but had to flee when Biju's mother came screaming curses.
- (iv) The minivets are easily noticed because of their bright colours.
- (v) It looks like a fashion display on the slopes when ground orchids, mauve lady's slipper and the white butterfly orchids bloom.

(vi) During the monsoon season, snakes and rodents are found in roofs and attics because they have been flooded out of their holes and burrows.

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’?
- (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.

Working with Language

Question 2:

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.
- (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).

Solution:

- (i) We got out of the school bus. The bell was ringing and everyone was rushing to Class.
- (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
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- (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.)

Solution:

- (a) to fall in small drops – drip
- (b) to make a sound by hitting a surface repeatedly – drum

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

(d) harsh sound made by birds – caw

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

(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.

Solution:

(a) Ramesh drummed on his desk in impatience.

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

(c) The pony swished its tail.

(d) The tinkling of breaking glass woke me up.

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

Question 4:

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

(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, '_____.'

Solution:

(x) (i) I saw thick black clouds in the sky. And sure enough it 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.'