



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: JANUARY 2025
Worksheet No: 31	Topic: A SHORT MONSOON DIARY BY RUSKIN BOND	Note: TO BE DONE IN PROSE NOTEBOOK

➤ ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruskin Bond (born 19, May 1934) is an Indian author. His first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, published in 1956, received the **John Llewellyn Rhys Prize**. Bond has authored more than 500 short stories, essays, and novels which includes 69 books for children. He was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 1999 and **Padma Bhushan** in 2014.



➤ SUMMARY

A Short Monsoon Diary gives us a glimpse of the diary written and maintained by Ruskin Bond. A diary is a record of personal experiences written day after day over a long period of time. In his diary, Ruskin Bond wrote about the silent miracles of nature as the mountains receive monsoon showers. The monsoon season in Mussoorie begins around the last week of June and continues till the end of August. The cold rains are welcomed in October till the last darkest cloud in March which renders the sky clear for the rainbow after it hails.

S.No.	WORD	MEANING
1.	melancholy	very sad (the mist is called melancholy because it makes people feel melancholy)
2.	blankets	covers
3.	fern	a flowerless plant with feathery green leaves
4.	heralded	announced or brought the news of
5.	imprecations	curses
6.	bloodletting	losing blood (Decades ago, leeches were used to remove blood from a patient's body)
7.	drongo	a song-bird with a stout bill
8.	drumming	falling noisily
9.	disconsolately	unhappily
10.	ravine	valley
11.	crevices	narrow openings or cracks in rock or wall
12.	caress	touching or holding lovingly
13.	menace	threaten



➤ Comprehension Check (Page 115)

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

A. The author could not see Bijju because of the mist that concealed the hills. He could only hear his voice.

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

A. When the mist comes up, it covers the hills and spreads silence. Moreover, it conceals the hills with darkness.

➤ Comprehension Check (Page 117)

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

A. In Mussoorie, the monsoon season begins around June 24-25 and ends by August 31. By August 2, people often feel weary of the constant rain. After the monsoon, the winter rains begin and last until late March. To prepare for the monsoon, people take out their raincoats and umbrellas to stay dry and protected.

2. Which hill-station does the author describe in the diary entry?

A. Mussoorie

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

A. It rains continuously for eight or nine days. During this time, the author spends the days pacing the room and looking out of the window.

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

A. The snakes and rodents take shelter in roofs, attics and godowns, because their holes and burrows are flooded with rainwater during the monsoon.

5. What did the author receive in the mail?

A. The author received a cheque in the mail.

➤ Working with the Text (Page 118)



Q.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.

A. Monsoon arrives on June 24. The first real monsoon shower comes on June 25. The whole of nature welcomes it. The author feels the joy himself and in everything around him.

➤ By August 2, the people become weary of the monsoon. It is so because the movement in the open has become difficult. There is no sunshine for more than a week.

➤ March 23 heralds the end of winter. After a hailstorm, there is a rainbow in the sky. It shows the beauty of nature.

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

A. The grandmother asked the children not to kill the Chuchundar because she believed they brought good luck and wealth. According to her, their presence was associated with prosperity so, she instructed the children to spare them.

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

- A. As the monsoons draw to a close, the greenery reaches its peak, and the seeds of the cobra lily turn red. Additionally, rainbows often appear in the sky. These natural signs indicate that the monsoon season is nearing its end.

Q.4. **Complete the following sentences.**

1. Bijju is not seen but his voice is heard because **dense mist covers and hides the hills.**
2. The writer describes the hill station and valley as **'A paradise that might have been.'**
3. The leopard was' successful in **killing a dog** but had to flee when **Bijju's mother arrived crying curses.**
4. The minivets are easily noticed because **of their bright colours.**
5. It looks like a fashion display on the slopes when **they are covered by a variety of flowers.**
6. During the monsoon season, snakes and rodents are found in roofs and attics because **their holes are flooded with water and these places provide them convenient shelter.**

Q.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.'



a. Why has the writer used the word, 'springing'?

- A. The word 'springing' is used to show suddenness with which water starts leaking.

b. How is the writer untouched by the rain?

- A. The author is untouched by the rain because he is in a room.

c. How is the writer in touch with the rain at the same time?

- A. The writer hears the drumming sound of rainfall on his tin roof. So, he is in touch with the rain. He also looks out of the window to see the rains.

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

- A. A prolonged period of rain makes life uncomfortable, forcing one to stay indoors. Everything becomes damp and soggy. The continuous rainfall also drives insects, rodents, and snakes to seek shelter inside the house.

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

- A. At first cobra lily appears with the arrival of the monsoon. When the cobra seeds begin to turn red, it is an indication that the rains are over.



WEB RESOURCES:

<https://youtu.be/eNirTMzU2mA>
