



A SHORT MONSOON DIARY

BY RUSKIN BOND

Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.



SUMMARY

June 24

The writer describes the beauty of nature. At the same time, he also describes how the newly appeared monsoon mist makes a blanket and conceals the hills and affects all the elements of nature. The birds fall silent, their song could no longer be heard. The mist brings with it a death-like silence. The writer then hears the voice of Bijju, who is calling his sister. The writer cannot, however, see him because of the mist.

June 25

To the writer, the place appears like a paradise. He could feel the warm and humid early monsoon rain; see the cobra lily flowers emerging out of its plant leaf and so on. It appeared as if all his senses were overpowered with the beauty of the hill station.

SUMMARY

June 27

The writer describes the entry of some seasonal visitors with the onset of the rainy season. These visitors are leopards, scarlet minivets and a thousand leeches. The leopard distressed everyone with its naturally brutal and violent tendencies. It attacked the dog from the servant's quarters and Bijju's cow, but fled at the approach of Bijju's mother. The scarlet minivets, on the other hand, added to the beauty of nature because of their bright colours. However, these minivets were chased away by some other set of birds like the drongos. The rains also provided food to various other birds, as the insects were to be found in abundance.

August 2

The writer describes how the rains helped him to be awake all night, for he liked the sound of rain falling on the tin roofs. Also, the leaking of tin roofs made the writer feel in constant with the rain, despite the rain not touching him.

SUMMARY

August 3

The writer describes the scene after the rain stops. The begins to show up from behind the clouds, the crow shakes off rain water from its feathers, the women resume work and so on. The song of the whistling thrush ends the silence and appears like a “dark sweet secret”.

August 12

Endless rain becomes the topic of discussion of this particular day. It had been eight or nine days of continuous rain and the writer hasn't seen the sun for these many days. The cold is much less, but there is mist everywhere. The appearance of the late monsoon flowers catches the attention of the writer.

SUMMARY

August 31

Describing the last day of August, the writer notes the lush monsoon growth, the blossoming of flowers and orchids, beautiful butterflies and so on; as if all of these were doing a fashion show. Snakes and rodents, on the other hand, don't remain far behind too. 'chuchundars', shouts the grandmother of one of the children, bring luck and money and the writer links it up with his receiving of a cheque.

SUMMARY

October 3

The monsoon rain gets replaced by winter rain and snow at high altitudes. The evening gets marked by a hailstorm, but later the hills suffuse with golden light.

January 26

The writer almost ends up writing poetry. He describes the silence and loneliness in the absence of his friend. The rain creates a certain rhythm, but it stops too often. He feels that just like him the trees too become grey because of loneliness. March 23 It is the end of winter. The writer could see the rainbow forming.

NEW WORDS

- Melancholy — very sad
- Blankets — covers
- Fern — a flowerless plant with feathery green leaves
- Heralded — announced or brought the news of
- Imprecations — curses
- Blood letting — losing blood
- Scarlet minivet — bright red bird like a cuckoo

NEW WORDS

- Drongo — a song-bird with a stout bill
- Drumming — falling noisily
- Disconsolately — unhappily
- Ravine — valley
- Crevices — narrow openings or cracks in rock or wall
- Caress — touching or holding lovingly
- Menace — threaten

HOME ASSIGNMENT

- Make sentences using the new words you have learnt today.
- Write a diary entry for the next five days about how you connect with nature.