

Suggested Answers:

Activity 1: Settings

Physical	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Uhuru Street (a noisy and busy part of the town). ◆ Upanga (a very quiet part of the town). ◆ Central part of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Present day Tanzania. ◆ Society values education. ◆ School officers and teachers are respected. ◆ If a widow remarries, her children from the first marriage will have to go to a children’s home.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 2: Plot Diagram

Phase	Event
Exposition	Mother sells the family store and moves to Upanga with Aloo and the narrator. She wants her two youngest children to have a better environment and to do well in their studies.
Rising action	Aloo meets Mr Dato and starts dreaming of going to America to study medicine. He writes to American universities for information. Finally, he gets an offer and scholarship from a famous university.
Climax	Mother says the family cannot afford to send Aloo to America. Aloo is upset and prepares to study agriculture at a local university.
Falling action	Mother asks Mr Velji for advice. He says that it is a good opportunity for Aloo. Later, Mother gives in and agrees to send Aloo to America. She makes him promise not to marry “a white woman” and also not to “smoke or drink”.
Resolution	Aloo writes to his family when he stops over in London to visit his friend. Mother stares into the future.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 3: Describing Characters

Character	Description
Aloo	Ambitious/Clever/Determined/Resourceful/Obedient
Mother	Loving/Independent/Responsible/Self-sacrificing
Mr Velji	Helpful/Understanding

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 4: Finding Evidence

1. **Aloo** - the youngest child in the family

Trait	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He wants to study medicine in America instead of agriculture in Tanzania
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He scores all A's in his school examination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He is willing to work in America to earn money to pay for his expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourceful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He finds the names of American universities in books before he writes to them - He writes to American universities for information

2. **Mother** - a widow

Trait	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She does not want to be separated from her children, so she refuses to remarry - She sells her store and moves to a quiet part of the town to provide a better environment for her two youngest children to study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She raises her five children alone after her husband's death
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She reminds Aloo not to smoke and drink
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-sacrificing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She allows Aloo to go to America although she is worried that he may not return to her

3. Mr Velji - a school officer

Trait	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He gives his advice when Mother comes to consult him.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He understands that Mother is worried to 'lose' her son if she allows Aloo to go to America.

4. Narrator - Aloo's elder sibling

Trait	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Narrator plays cards with Mother when she is sad.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Narrator understands how Mother must struggle to raise the children on her own without a husband.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observant: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Narrator notices when Mother feels sad and when Mother is deep in thoughts.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 5: Themes and Lessons Learnt

Theme	Evidence	Lesson Learnt
Realising worthwhile dreams.	Aloo dreams of studying abroad. Therefore, he writes to universities in America to get the necessary information. He is determined to know as much as he could. Finally, the California Institute of Technology offers him a place and a scholarship.	We must not be afraid to go out and learn about the unknown.
The importance of family support.	At the beginning, the family owns a store in Uhuru Street in town. Then, Mother decides to sell it off and move the children to Upanga, a quieter part of the town. It is a lonely and frightening place and Mother feels lonely sometimes. At their former place, she had friends. However, the new area provides a better environment for Aloo and his sibling to study.	We must give as much support as we could to family members.

Theme	Evidence	Lesson Learnt
A mother's love and sacrifice.	Initially, Mother is reluctant to allow Aloo to study abroad. She is worried he may not return to her after finishing his studies. Besides, Mother thinks that they cannot afford the cost. Later, she realises that she should give Aloo the chance to get a better education.	We must learn to let go and give a chance to family members to achieve their dreams.
The determination to succeed.	Aloo firmly believes that he should follow his dream to study abroad despite Mother's reluctance. Aloo feels Mother should allow him to accept the scholarship and study overseas. He promises to work while studying to repay the loan.	We must be determined and follow our dream to be successful.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 6: Enrichment

1. Reason (s):
 - Aloo scores all A's in his school examination
 - He comes from a lower social economic background
 - He writes a very impressive letter of application

2. - Pupil's own opinion
 - Advantage: Benefits the economy of the country
 - Disadvantage: May restrict the students to certain disciplines (agriculture)

3. He will come back successfully and change the future of his family/He will be highly sought after.

4. Yes/No. Reasons.

Accept any relevant answers.

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