

## Plot

### *Stage 1*

Mother's ardent hope is for the two youngest children to have a better education.

- Mother sells the family store and moves to Upanga, a quiet part of the town, with Aloo and the narrator.
- Aloo is in his last year of school and the narrator is at university.
- Mr Dato, a former teacher in Aloo's school, comes back from America for a visit.
- Aloo begins thinking about pursuing his studies abroad instead of studying at a local university.
- He proceeds to write to universities in America.

### *Stage 2*

Mother does not take Aloo's plan seriously.

- Soon, letters and prospectuses start to arrive from the universities.
- Aloo learns about many different universities and wonders if he is good enough to get there.
- He already has a place at the local university to study agriculture.
- However, Aloo wants to study medicine.

### *Stage 3*

The California Institute of Technology offers Aloo a place with a scholarship.

- Mother refuses to allow Aloo to go and argues that they cannot afford the money for his spending and a plane ticket.
- She is angry that Aloo wants to go away so far from the family.
- Aloo does not speak of the topic again and prepares himself to study agriculture at the local university.

### *Stage 4*

Mother knows Aloo is unhappy and suggests that they go and see Mr Velji, a school officer.

- Mother explains the situation and Aloo shows the documents to Mr Velji.
- Mr Velji tells Mother that going to America will be good for Aloo's education, but she may lose her son.
- That night, Mother asks Aloo to show her the university prospectus.
- Aloo cannot hide his excitement as he shows the prospectus to Mother.

### *Stage 5*

The narrator looks at Mother's face.

- For the first time, the narrator sees Mother as a person and not just as a mother who has always thought of her children's well-being.
- The narrator reminisces of the time after Father died and Mother had to bring up five children on her own.
- Mother refuses to remarry because she does not want to be separated from her children.

### *Stage 6*

Finally, Mother relents and accepts the idea of allowing Aloo to leave home.

- Aloo promises to remember Mother's advice.
- Aloo's first letter is from London, his stopover to visit his old friend from school.
- The letter is full of his excitement and amazement of the city.
- Now that Aloo is "a bird flying high and free", Mother feels uncertain of his return.