## Paraphraser.io, Standard:

Li Cunxin was born into a poor family in a small rural village in Shandong province, where he intended to work as a field worker. At first abandoned but selected after a teacher's suggestion during a visit to the school, Li seemed bewildered by the rough preliminary examination in the provincial capital, Qingdao. Chosen to Beijing to audition for a spot at Mrs. Mao's Dance Academy, he was accepted into her ballet school after passing a series of physical tests.

It was followed by seven years of arduous training. He struggled at the academy, unable to excel when trying to deal with his homesickness. There is no freedom in the rigid schedule where he must balance hours of dance lessons with strenuous classes. He also campaigned to join the Communist Youth Party, surviving rigorous interviews; after entering, part of his additional time is spent in meetings. But Cunxin didn't care; he now has a vocation:

serving glorious communism. The arrival of a new teacher, less yelling than this one, has changed his sinister view of dance. It puts more emphasis on having fun and knowing strengths and weaknesses. Professor Xiao kept an eye on Cunxin, discovering something the other professors had never seen before. The professor also stood out (dangerously) from others in the academy due to his dedication to classical ballet, which was considered too Western to be taught in school (as opposed to its dynamic form). political establishment and austerity favored by Madam Mao). His determination and courage, coupled with Professor Xiao's guidance and motivation allow him to be at the top of his class, taking on more and more roles. This led to him being reluctantly allowed by the Academy to travel abroad in Ben Stevenson's Houston Ballet as a guest student for six weeks, the government slightly loosening the censorship. to Western culture due to the change of location.

In the United States, he began to question the orders of the Chinese Communist Party in which he had grown up. America is not filled with filthy-looking capitalists, and the wealth and size of buildings and people make it clear that China is the poor country, not America. However, he knew that this feeling was too dangerous to express, and when he returned to China, although he loved all things American, he lowered his voice and recited communist propaganda to submit a report so he can come back in two months. time. However, despite the lies, the government refused to let him return to the United States. Three months later, he got his visa and left, this time for an entire year, to dance at the Houston Ballet. He begins a secret love affair with aspiring American dancer, Elizabeth Mackey, keeping him a secret so his government doesn't find out and fire him. He was quickly promoted to soloist and granted another 5 months. In the past month, Cunxin didn't want to leave, so he and Elizabeth rushed to get married so that Cunxin could stay in the United States indefinitely, avoiding a defection that could have consequences for his family. Arriving at the Chinese consulate to announce his decision while trying to prevent a backlash against Stevenson, the Chinese resident diplomat forcibly detained Li in order to force him to return to China. ; when he continued to refuse to leave the country of its own accord, the Party agreed to release him and let him stay, but stripped him of his citizenship and declared that he could never return to his homeland. Devoted to his family, Cunxin continued to dance, but his relationship with Elizabeth ended in divorce, which he cited as his youth and cultural differences.

Cunxin was quickly promoted to lead dancer, made several debuts and won awards, but suffered a serious back injury that kept him out of competition for more than two months. Despite the setback, he continued to dance and soon after the Chinese government allowed his parents to come to America to visit him after he was cut off from his family for six years. They came to see him in The Nutcracker and sobbed when they reunited, and the audience gave a standing ovation. Li met and married Australian ballerina Mary McKendry, and they eventually returned to her old village. Cunxin reunites with his old teacher Xiao and performs for him and his parents, but feels inexplicable guilt over the huge difference between his way of life and the lives of the rest of the world. back in the village, but consoled himself with the thought that he had accomplished everything. your mother always wanted for you. They returned to America and continued to dance.

Sophie, the first child of Cunxin and Mary, was born severely deaf, to their devastation. Mary gave up her career to care for her, and Sophie led a normal life because of it, taking dance lessons in the footsteps of her parents. They later had two other children, in perfect health, but decided to move to Mary's hometown, Australia. Their farewell show, Romeo and Juliet, was broadcast live across China to five hundred million viewers. In Australia, he continued to dance, but also got a job running one of Australia's largest stockbrokers. He continued to visit his mother and village, never forgetting where he came from.