## Paraphraser.io, Creative:

Li Cunxin was born into a poor family commune in a small rural village in Shandong Province, where he was destined to work as a field laborer. Initially overlooked but picked on by a teacher during a school visit, Li appears bewildered by the brutal pre-screening in the provincial capital of Qingdao. Chosen to travel to Beijing to attend Mrs. Mao's Dance Academy, he is accepted into the dance school after passing a series of physical tests.

Seven years of hard training followed. He struggles at the academy and fails when he tries to deal with homesickness. There is no freedom in her busy schedule, when she has to juggle hours of dance lessons with demanding academics. He also tries to be part of the Komsomol party and goes through rigorous interviews; after admission, he still spends some time in meetings. But Cunxin doesn't care; now he has a calling:

in the service of glorious communism. The arrival of a new teacher, less inclined to scream, changes his gloomy attitude towards dance. It focuses more on entertainment and learning about strengths and weaknesses. Teacher Xiao observes Cunxin and sees something that other teachers have never seen before. The teacher also differs (dangerously) from the rest of the academy in his devotion to classical ballet, which is considered too Western to be taught in school (as opposed to the rigid and politically motivated form favored by Madame Mao). His determination and courage, along with Teacher Xiao's advice and motivation, made him the leader of the class, and he was offered more and more roles. As a result, he reluctantly received the Academy's permission to travel abroad for six weeks as a guest student with Ben Stevenson's Houston Ballet Company, as the government eased some of its censorship of Western culture in the wake of the upheavals there.

In the United States, he begins to question the dictates of the Chinese Communist Party under which he grew up. America is not full of grim-looking capitalists, and the sheer wealth and scale of buildings and people make it clear that China is a poverty-stricken country, not America. But he knows it's too dangerous to express, and back in China, even though he loved every corner of America, he tones it down and recites Communist propaganda before giving his report that he'll be able to return in two months. weather But despite the lie, the government refuses to allow him to return to the United States. After three months, he manages to get a visa and this time dances with the Houston Ballet for a whole year. He begins a secret affair with an aspiring American dancer, Elizabeth Mackey, and keeps it a secret so his government doesn't find out and send him back. He is quickly promoted to soloist and given another five months. For the past month, Cunxin has been reluctant to leave, so he and Elizabeth are rushing their wedding so that Cunxin can stay in the United States indefinitely, avoiding a departure that could affect his family. While visiting the Chinese consulate to announce his decision, in an attempt to avoid some backlash against Stevenson, a Chinese diplomat forcibly detains Li in an attempt to force him to return to China; when he still refuses to leave of his own free will, the party agrees to release him and force him to stay, but strips him of his citizenship and declares that he will never be able to return to his home country. Concerned about his family, Cunxin continues to dance, but his relationship with Elizabeth ends in divorce, citing youth and cultural differences.

Cunxin is quickly promoted to the status of a main dancer, holding many previews and winning awards, but he seriously injures his back and is unable to perform for more than two months. Despite his failure, he continued to dance, and soon the Chinese authorities allowed his parents to come to America to visit him after being separated from his family for six years. They come to see him in The Nutcracker, and they gather again to cry as the audience applauds. He meets and marries an Australian dancer, Mary McKendry, and they finally return to his old village. Cunxin meets up with his old teacher Xiao and performs for him and his parents, but feels inexplicably guilty about the vast difference between how he lives and how the rest of the village lives, but consoles himself by thinking that he has done everything. mom always wanted him. They return to America and continue dancing.

Sophie, Cunxin and Mary's first child, is born profoundly deaf, to their destruction. Maria gives up her career to take care of her, and Sophie lives a normal life as a result, even taking dance lessons following in her parents' footsteps. They have two more perfectly healthy children, but decide to move to Maria's home country of Australia. Their farewell performance of Romeo and Juliet will be broadcast live across China to five hundred million viewers. In Australia, he continues to dance, but also takes a job as a manager of one of Australia's largest brokerage firms. He keeps visiting his mother and his village and never forgets where he comes from.