

## **The Unexpected**

### **By Ibrahim Ali**

One day in 2013, when I was 12 years old, my dad's friend said to us, "Wasocotin," as I came inside the house.

My aunt yelled saying, "Ibrahim, America aa usocota."

I excitedly replied, "Ruunti miya ...?" I couldn't believe it.

My journey to America was outstanding and depressing. Leaving the place where I was born and my friends, all of that was difficult. I couldn't do anything but follow my family. We arrived a week later at the airport and waited for half an hour for the airplane to come. While waiting for the airplane, we were saying goodbye to our families and friends.

Finally, the airplane arrived. It felt stupendous flying on a plane! My stomach flipped, and it felt terrific being in the air. The plane took us to Nairobi's airport. After that we got into another plane that took us to Switzerland. We sat in that airport for a couple of hours. We called our aunts and uncles to tell them that we were in Switzerland, and we had seen how Switzerland money looks. The silver coins we examined looked more like U.S. quarters. Then my dad called his friend in America, who he knew back in Africa. He told him that we were two flights away. Next, we flew to Chicago and stayed there for only a few hours until we flew to North Dakota, which was our destination.

My journey to America was huge because we needed a better life. It was also important we get an education. I figured out the kind of life that people have in the U.S. I also learned that flights can be fun if you have the right people sitting by you!

## **Somali Language Glossary**

**“Wasocotin”**

“You guys are leaving”

**“Aa usocota.”**

“You’re going.”

**“Ruunti miya?”**

“Really?”

## **About the Author**

Ibrahim Ali is in the 9th grade at Davies High School. He was born in Nairobi and came to the U.S. in 2013. His favorite sport is basketball. He is kind. He loves McDonalds.

