Part 1

**Setting** is very important: Sadao's (the protagonist) house is on the coast, near a series of islands. A flashback to a conversation Sadao had with his father as a child. The islands are a symbol of stepping stones to the future (in the father's words). Japan was very isolationist and the father suggested that Japan's future depended on its relations with the outside world. It also foreshadows the end of the story.

The **exposition**: information about Sadao's background: a surgeon and scientist who trained in America - where unlike most Japanese, exposed to American culture. He remains 'Japanese' in his culture, only allowing himself to fall in love after he was sure Hana was 'Japanese enough' pure in her race - and not against his father's wishes. Hana was also sent to study in America. Despite their adherence to tradition, Sadao and Hana are fortunate to have a marriage based on love.

**Setting**: description of the fog - plays a role in the progression of the plot.
The exposition ends on a dramatic not *it was at this moment*... the man washed up on the beach, they could have missed him easily (the fog).

Part 2

When they reach the man, they discover: 1. He is wounded. 2. He is white. He is unconscious, so they can deal with him or ignore him- no explanations necessary. They are completely alone on the beach and hidden from view by the fog.

A problem solving process: the problem is stated, various options are raised and their consequences are considered and a decision is made, the options:

- Put him back in the sea - no one will know, but they will be causing his death.
- Take him in - they might be arrested
- Turn him in to the authorities - he will certainly die.
Part 3:

They decided to take him in, heal him and then turn him to the authorities. This will allow Sadao to maintain his integrity both as a doctor and a loyal Japanese. We know that the man is a prisoner of war and the descriptions give us clues that he has been treated badly: tortured, a gun wound, like a fowl that has been half starved for a long time.

Sadao protects himself from having any personal feelings for the man: I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. However, it seems that Sadao is trying to convince himself.

Although Sadao and Hana are close, they still have different perspectives. As a loyal Japanese fearing for her own safety she asks: what if he should live? But Sadao, as a doctor and surgeon asks: what if he should die?

The servants are told of the situation and they react as expected of traditional Japanese who have had no experience of any other culture, nor of any medical obligation to save lives. They believe it is wrong to treat the white man and refuse to help.

Part 4:

A description of the operation, Hana helps her husband. Sadao thinks: I do not know why I am doing it. We learn that there are rumors of how prisoners were treated - which seem to be supported by the description of the man.

While treating the man, Sadao refers to him as my friend, like he does to all his patients. He seems to forget he is his enemy. Sadao is professional during the operation, he treats Hana rudely as if she knows what to do (she is not a nurse).

Part 5:

After the prisoner wakes up, Sadao and Hana have to interact with him as a real individual and not just as an anonymous enemy. Hana treats him gently, despite her reservations. Sadao tries to keep his distance (he doesn't want to know his name). Sadao still doesn't know what to do with the American.
There is a lot of tension between the servants and they threaten to leave and accuse their masters of being too influenced by their time in America (which is probably true), Sadao and his wife do not acknowledge this. Sadao believes in his medical obligations and Hana doesn’t understand her own behavior.

Once Sadao is sure that Tom will recover, he has fulfilled his obligations as a doctor and an inner conflict begins: has he healed the American only so he can hand him over and be killed? He begins a letter to the authorities but puts it in a drawer, unfinished.

Part 6:

On the 7th day, two events lead to a critical turning point in the story:

1. The servants leave the house. Since they are superstitious and uneducated, they cannot understand Sadao’s reasons for saving the American’s life. This action prompts Hana to wonder why she and her husband behave the way they do and why they are different. She does not understand that the time in America opened them to another culture and that they perceive Americans as people. They worked and studied with them and probably had American friends. They cannot think of them entirely as an anonymous group called 'the enemy'.

2. Sadao is called to take care of the old General, but the couple’s fear that the messengers have come to arrest Sadao shows that they are running out of time and must resolve the dilemma.

Part 7:

Sadao tells the General of his problem. The General can understand Sadao’s behavior, since he also studied in America. The General is surprisingly honest about his own motivations. He needs Sadao to take care of him and therefore he offers to send his assassins to kill the American. Sadao is happy that the responsibility is now in the General’s hands, but he still has difficulties dealing with the gratitude of the almost healthy Tom.
Part 8:

After three anxious nights, waiting for the assassins, Sadao cannot wait any longer. He has finally come to the resolution of his dilemma: to be loyal to the medical profession and the essential worth of human life. He thinks beyond countries, races and wars. All these come before his loyalty to his country. Therefore, he helps Tom escape, providing him with the equipment and the information he needs.

Once Tom has escaped safely, the conflict is resolved and Sadao is able to return to his prejudices about how repulsive the Americans are.