

A goes to school. the
family lives in



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

A Wall of Fire Rising is a short story written by Edwidge Danticat. This story was first published in 1995. The short is about a family of three: Guy, Little Guy, and Lilli. Lilli is the mother of Little Guy and Guy's wife. Guy is the father and works different jobs to take care of his family, and their son Little Guy goes to school.

The family lives in a poor town called Shantytown. In order to entertain themselves, they go as a family to the Assad's hot air balloon. The Assads are the rich owners of the sugar mill. Guy is intrigued by the balloon and is always talking about it. Guy got a job working at the Sugar Mill but he was not as happy.

Guy's mind is always filled with the chance of flying the balloon to somewhere better than where they are now. Guy questions Lilli about her thoughts on how a man is judged after they are gone. Lilli responds and Guy immediately remembers his father and began to compare himself to his father, whom he did not want to be like. One morning Lilli found Little Guy staring at the sky. Lilli was shocked to see Guy inside of the air balloon. Lilli and Little Guy made their way to the Sugar Mill.

People from the community watched as Guy soared into the sky and landed close by the crowd. The balloon drifted away and Guy died as a result of leaping from the balloon and bleeding out. Lilli looks at her husband for the last time, and told the sugar mill workers not to close Guy's eyes because he enjoyed looking at the sky.

Analysis: The title of the story comes from a line of the play that Little Guy is memorizing for school. Freedom is one of the major themes of the story. They

are a underprivileged family, who sometimes did not have a meal to eat and had to find a means of suppressing hunger. Guy believes that a man should be able to provide for his family, something that his father was unable to do. Guy felt worthless because he did not have a steady job and this increased his fear of becoming like his own father.

Guy constantly questions Lilli about her beliefs on how a man is judged after they are gone. This makes Lilli fear that Guy will leave her and Little Guy in his quest for freedom. After Guy's suicide, Lilli's fears became prominent. The hot air balloon symbolizes freedom in the story. Guy often thinks about flying the balloon in search of a better future. At the end of the story, Guy uses the balloon as his way of committing suicide.

This is because he thought that committing suicide was the only way out and to the only way to achieve freedom.