Chapter 8 Summary

After leaving the children’s home Alem is required to stop at the Home Office in Croydon for screening on his way to his new foster home.

In the screening Alem was photographed, fingerprinted, interviewed and given a number. On the way out he was given a piece of paper, which he had to sign to confirm his number. The government requires all asylum seekers to go through this process.

Alem went to live with Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald and Ruth, their only child, who was seventeen years old. Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald were born in Ireland but Ruth was born in Manor Park. Alem was surprised at how comfortable he felt with the family. Mrs Fitzgerald told him that they had fostered many children in the past, some of whom were teenagers from various parts of the world. After a couple of weeks Alem asked to go to school.