

**The classic and the contemporary of Japanese cinema:
A comparative study of family relationships in *High and Low* and
*Like Father, Like Son***

Author's Statement

This essay was written as part of a term project for 82-273: Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture with Professor Barbara Litt. The goal of the course was to gain a strong understanding of Japan's history, culture and values. The term project entailed gauging my chosen topic from multiple perspectives.

Being a visual learner has augmented my love for film as a medium of expression. In my freshman year, as part of a final project for a Gen Ed course, I analyzed a Hindi film that became groundbreaking in Indian cinema due to its powerful story and iconic characters. This motivated me to conduct a film analysis in the context of Japanese cinema where I compared two outstanding movies, *High and Low* (1963), and *Like Father Like Son* (2013).

As a cinephile who is intrigued by Japan's civilization, I wanted to explore the differences in family relationships between the two films through cinematic elements such as themes, symbols, and technique, especially from the lens of Japanese culture. While studying these movies, I deeply appreciate their reflection of Japanese people upholding their traditions and values despite the nation's economic and technological advancement.

- Pranav Srinivas