

The Taste of Watermelon

by Borden Deal

The taste of Watermelon is a story written by Borden Deal and it is narrated in first person by a 16 year old boy who has just moved from the town to the countryside and has a crush on Willadean Wills. He is described through indirect characterization by showing his actions, such as when he tries to steal the watermelon in a bright night knowing that Mr. Wills, Willadean's father, is patrolling it, in order to fit in on the new group. By this we get to know that he is a brave and consistent boy who does whatever to get what he wants. Mr. Wills, was the best farmer, he transmitted fear and imposed respect. He raised excellent watermelons. He was possessive and protective, selfish and competitive, which is shown through his actions, by indirect characterization, such as when he stays with the watermelons seeds, without lending not even one to his neighbours, in order to save the best ones only for him. Or through description, direct characterization, such as shown in this statement: "Mr. Wills was a big, dark, and heavy-set man with a face eyes that were like windows and a nose that looked down on you as if you were a rat." The narrator wants to steal the best watermelon in order to challenge himself, for approval and integration, and to conquer Willadean, a slim and tall girl of which everyone is in love with. She is described in a direct and indirect way, by description and retelling. The story has a direct type of opening due to setting and situation details are described in the beginning. Setting takes place in the countryside, where a bunch of farmers live. It is set in the states because of the language used. For example 'golly' and 'gosh'. It is set in around the 1970s, the time it was written in. We could divide the passage from page 316 according to

the difference in content between the first part, in which the narrator describes through dialog and retelling what is happening, and the second part in which, among other things, he shows his feelings and opinion towards the events.

The first part could be from the beginning of the passage until the moment the narrator starts to give his point of view of what happened, until "... ~~They go~~ away, ~~Chen~~ now ~~is~~ gone." Which is all shown with literal language. The narrative methods could be either direct, by retelling and description of actions and events, such as shown in this statement "~~He~~ saw ~~he~~ was ~~destroying~~ ~~ing~~ ~~every~~ ~~melon~~ in ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~he~~ was ~~stealing~~ ~~them~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~man's~~ ~~feet~~ ~~s~~ ~~were~~ ~~narrow~~, ~~concentrating~~ ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~stomach~~ ~~distention~~." or indirect, through dialog, for example: "'~~They've~~ ~~surely~~ ~~seen~~ ~~Chen~~?' ~~he~~ ~~yelled~~ ~~they~~ ~~took~~ ~~what~~ ~~was~~ ~~his~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~me~~.'" In this part of the passage, different themes emerge, such as confusion shown in the statement "~~Mr. W~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~the~~ ~~melon~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~man's~~ ~~feet~~ ~~s~~ ~~were~~ ~~narrow~~." or Violence, regarding Mr. Wills as shown here too: "~~Mr. W~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~the~~ ~~melon~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~man's~~ ~~feet~~ ~~s~~ ~~were~~ ~~narrow~~". Characters are described indirectly through their actions, in first place, Mr. Wills is described as a violent and impulsive man who is protective of his watermelons and seeds, we get to know this due to he spends whole nights patrolling them and taking care, maybe because he is a very competitive man. His violence is shown in this statement: "~~Mr. W~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~the~~ ~~melon~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~stealing~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~man's~~ ~~feet~~ ~~s~~ ~~were~~ ~~narrow~~". Narrator's father is the other character described in this first part of the passage. He is characterized as a brave and caring man, who makes himself responsible for the rest of the people in the village by facing Mr. Wills who is being overwhelmed by his own anger, which is possible

The second part of the division of this passage, would start in the paragraph "I saw two women who were so old and decrepit" that is when the narrator starts to give his opinion and feelings about what has happened, and would finish at the end of the passage. The second part it is still narrated with a literal language and the narrative methods used are direct, through retelling and descriptions of actions and events, and indirect through dialogues. The themes that emerge in this second part, could be either, fear, as shown here: "We do not know where they are now, or how they feel. They may have died, or they may be suffering from some terrible disease." or regret, from the boy who is ashamed of what he did, such as shown in this statement: "I saw two women who were so old and decrepit, so poor and so miserable. I felt sorry for them, and I thought of my father's words: 'Do not let your heart grow hard'". Characters are described through indirect methods by showing their opinions and feelings. Concerning Mr. Wills, in the second part, he is shown as a person who suffers a lot, and goes through a lot of pain and grief. He was very protective of his family and looked after them as good as he could by raising the best watermelons, this is shown in this statement: "... she loved him more than anything else, and she was always looking after him, and making sure he was comfortable. She was a very kind woman, and she was always there for him, no matter what. She was his mother, and she loved him very much. As regards the narrator, who is also described in this part of the passage, he is shown as a sensible boy who is ashamed of his actions, and felt guilty of what he did. We can observe that he was a bit naive and he was not conscious of the consequences his actions could bring, as shown

in this statement:

~~"I saw the first of the new
machines. I have seen the old ones, but
not the new ones. They are different."~~

We can conclude that this passage is very important in the plot due to the fact that it is the moment of climax after which everything changes, new themes emerge, and there is a very effective and detailed description which was all explained in the previous paragraphs.