

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of watermelon rind. It consists of dark green, wavy-edged shapes representing the outer rind, which are filled with a lighter green, intricate pattern of small, repeating floral or leaf-like motifs. The overall effect is a dense, textured green background.

# The Taste of Watermelon

---

**BORDEN DEAL**

# PLOT SUMMARY

The narrator thinks back to the time when he was 16 years old, an outsider in a farming community he recently shifted to. He recalls how in a sudden impulse he decided to go and steal Mr. Wills' (a prize watermelon grower) biggest watermelon, which he had been guarding for a long time, in an effort to assimilate in a town where stealing of melons was considered to be nothing more than 'judiciously borrowing a sample', and to impress his friends and Mr Wills' pretty young daughter. The narrator does succeed, however the act does not give him the triumph he expected to feel but rather feelings of guilt as he finds out Mr Wills' real motivation for growing the melon. Later he goes and apologizes to Mr. Wills and contrary to his assumption of a strict, stone-hearted man, Mr. Wills willingly forgives him and accepts the idea of a helping hand.



# CHARACTER ANALYSIS(1)

The protagonist

- A 16 year old boy who goes and steals the watermelon of Mr. Will in an effort to prove to his friends that he was one of them.

Q1. Write down five adjectives you would use to describe him.

Q2. What does the quote below tell you about his character?

---

*To this day I don't know why I said them. It was all mixed up with Willadean and the rumor of Mr. Wills having his gun loaded with double-ought buckshot and the boys still thinking of me as an outsider.*

---

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS(2)

Mr. Wills

- Portrayed at the start as a cold-hearted, harsh man who grew the best watermelons in town

---

*Mr. Wills was a big man. He had bright, fierce eyes under heavy brows and, when he looked down at you, you just withered. The idea of having him directly and immediately angry at one of us was enough to shrivel the soul*

---

- However, his motives turn out to be very different in the end as he happens to be a caring man who adores his family



# CHARACTER ANALYSIS(3)

## Mrs. Wills

- A pale, sickly character who turns out to be the entire drive behind her husband's obsession with guarding the melon.
- A caring woman who simply wants to be a part of her society as she merely wanted to share the melon with the community and host her neighbours

---

*She was a wraith of a woman, pale as a butter bean. Sometimes she would sit for an hour or two on their porch in the cool of the day. They didn't visit back and forth with anybody though.*

---

# THEMES

Themes employed in the story are:-

1. Guilt
2. Redemption and forgiveness
3. Immaturity vs Maturity
4. Moral Courage
5. Appearance vs Reality
6. Social acceptance
7. Youth and Adolescence



# CONNECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

Connection and acceptance are employed in both the cases of Mrs. Will and the narrator; the narrator who feels it necessary to steal the watermelon to fit in with his friends, and Mrs. Will who wants to fit in with the community by sharing the melon. Thus the melon is a tool for their acceptance, wielded in different ways.



# APPEARANCE VS REALITY

The use of symbolism has been used to portray this theme as the fact that everyone assumes that the shotgun is loaded with double ought buckshot, symbolizes how everyone presumes him to be an intimidating and formidable character. However, the fact that the shotgun was loaded with salt symbolizes that Mr. Wills in reality was a kind hearted, forgiving person



# GUILT AND IMMATURITY

After realizing that Mr. Wills is deeply disturbed about losing his melon, the narrator feels guilty, who's conscience doesn't allow him to 'sleep that night.'

This shows the narrator's moral conscience and his gradual maturity, as opposed to his earlier immaturity and his reckless actions, usually out of peer pressure, as discussed earlier.





# WRITE DOWN IMPORTANT QUOTES ON THIS SLIDE:

1. (page no: )

2. (page no: )

3. (page no: )

4. (page no: )

5. (page no: )

6. (page no: )

7. (page no: )

Bye Bye.

