

Plot Diagram for Identities by W.D. Valgardson

1. The man leaves his own home in his car to go for a Saturday afternoon drive.

2. The man meanders (move with no clear direction); the man gets lost in an unfamiliar neighbourhood.

3. The man realizes he is in the inner-city, and ponders his safety, as he notices this 'hood is less secure, safe, well-maintained, etc.

4. He determines he should call his wife.

Rising Action

Climax:

The man leaves his car to call his wife; he chooses to focus on the multiple people outside the store who he assumes are a threat to him (he ignores the police officer watching him).

He moves his wallet to his jacket, puts \$10 bill in his back pocket, so they will steal this instead.

The cop also gets out of the cop car, tells him to put his hand up.

He reaches instead for his ID/wallet.

Falling Action

Resolution:

The man is shot (because the officer assumes the man is reaching for a weapon) and killed.

Exposition

Protagonist: The unnamed man (wealthy/privileged)

Antagonist: The police officer (inexperienced/new)

Setting – Time: Fall; time period prior to cell phones; afternoon to evening ("street lights come on")

Setting – Place: Wealthy suburbs; inner-city/city centre

Internal Conflict: Man vs. fear of the unfamiliar; Man vs. fear of disappointment; Man vs. his own prejudice

External Conflict: Man vs. Man (unnamed name vs. police)

Author's Theme: Assumptions built off of stereotypes or assumptions may be dangerous or harmful. (these assumptions affect both the man and officer)

Symbolism: Lawns/Grass = level of wealth; wallet = identity/privilege
\$10 bill = wealth; gates/fences = level of wealth/separation of wealth

Foreshadowing:

Multiple descriptions of "locks," "fences," "bars on windows" that hint at a lack of security or safety.

Multiple descriptions of being watched "unblinking eyes" and the watchful eye of the police officer.