An Unjust Death

Have you ever been mistaken for someone who could be very dangerous or thought to be suspicious? In the short story, “Identities” by W.D. Valgardson, this exact event happened to a man minding his own business. In the story, a man went out for a drive in his Lamborghini in a poor neighbourhood, he stepped out of his vehicle, started walking, and was soon stopped and shot by a police officer. The officer had no need to shoot the man and therefore the officer was unjustified when he made the decision to shoot the man. One of the reasons the police officer is not justified is because the officer acted too quickly. When the officer stops the man, the man turns around and, “reaches into his pocket to pull out his wallet.” The officer does not know what the man was doing so the officer shoots him. The officer was too quick to make that decision, he should have taken more time to see what the man was doing. Not only could the officer have made the man explain what the man is doing; but also, the officer could have made the man move slowly. Another reason is that the officer was too jumpy, the officer is new and just recently out of training. The officer is, “inexperienced… [and] nervous because of the neighborhood” so he may not have been making the correct choices, although he did come out of the academy. So, he should have been calmer, plus he should have taken his time. The officer should know how to deal with the situation in a more harmless way. To sum up, the officer made lousy decisions due to being nervous, fresh out of the academy, and reacting too quickly, but that does not protect him from being justified when shooting the man.