“Identities” paragraph

"The first appearance deceives many". In the short story "Identities" by W.D Valgardson an innocent man is wrongfully shot and killed. This story is set in the North which is considered to be "the ghetto", a place in Winnipeg where the crime rates are very high. The unqualified police officer had no proof that the man had any intentions of doing anything wrong or illegal. Although the man had a "sketchy" appearance that was not enough information for the officer to determine him a thief or criminal. The officer was new to the job, inexperienced, and was feeling nervous being in a strange and "unsafe" neighbourhood. It is agreeable that the man should have been paying more attention to his surroundings, however, the police officer should have been calmer and had more patience. As the officer was new to the job and seemingly not ready to be out patrolling on his own, he should have been accompanied by a superior. Had the officer simply ask the man a few more times to halt and stop moving then he could have avoided shooting him. Instead of shooting him the officer could have dealt with the situation less lethally, he could have used a mace or pepper spray on him rather than immediately pulling out his gun. In conclusion, the officer was not justified to shoot the man as he was very nervous and unqualified which lead him to make a snap judgment on the man based on just his appearance.