



# The Madera Ranch and Water Bank

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# *Themes*

There are many themes in the story of "Like Water for Chocolate," but these are the main ones we have explained the most.

- Traditions
- Personal freedom
- Expressing emotion through food/cooking
- Strength in Women

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# *Traditions*

Throughout the story Tita is bound by her family's traditions. She is the youngest and cannot marry, but she breaks tradition and has a boyfriend, Pedro, anyway. Rosaura also subjects her daughter Esperanza to the same tradition of serving her mother until she dies. Throughout this story, Tita has to overcome the barrier of her family's tradition in order to be with the one she loves. In the end, Tita gets passed this obstacle and dies in the arms of Pedro. This story is a book of recipes that has been passed down from generation to generations in the De la Garza family, from Nacha to Tita to Esperanza, and eventually to her daughter the narrator.

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## *Personal Freedom*

Within the story “Like Water for Chocolate,” the theme of personal freedom of Tita’s actions were restricted by Mama Elena. Although she could have left the ranch she stayed for many, many years because she thought Pedro was her true love. However, Mama Elena and her rules ruined her emotions for Pedro as Pedro was too marry Rosaura, her older sister. In the quote, “Here's what I do with your orders. I'm sick of them. I'm sick of obeying you.” Tita finally stands up for herself and her freedom, but in the end Mama Elena isn't very pleased.

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# *Expressing emotion through food/ cooking*



Through Tita's life, her escape from Mama Elena consisted mostly of her cooking food. Tita uses food to convey her emotions to others. Through one dish Tita expressed her love for Pedro, and through another she expressed her sadness to Pedro's and Rosaura's wedding guests. Also, as Tita grew up she learned from Nacha that recipes were passed down from her family. The kitchen in "Like Water for Chocolate," symbolized many ideas such as nourishment, heritage, and growth.

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# *Strength in Women*



Mama Elena is a symbol of this. Mama Elena is able to raise a family and run a ranch all by herself as shown by the quote, “I've never needed a man for anything; all by myself, I've done all right with my ranch and my daughters.” Mama Elena also shows strength by standing up to the revolutionaries. Another example is that Gertrudis becomes a general in the army and eventually very rich. She shows up to the wedding in a fancy car and dress. Tita is also shows strength by overcoming the obstacle that is mama elena

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**Personal Freedom**

Personal Freedom is the ability to make choices and decisions without being forced or coerced. It is the freedom to live your life as you see fit, within the bounds of the law and the rights of others. Personal freedom is a fundamental right that is essential for a free and democratic society.



### Traditions

Throughout the story this is noted by her family's traditions. One is the strong and quiet work, but also to make a difference and to a business. There is a strong focus on the quality of the product. It is important to the family to make sure that the product is of the highest quality. This is done by using the best ingredients and by following the traditional recipes. The family has a long history of making the product, and they are proud of their traditions. They want to make sure that the product is passed on to the next generation.



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