

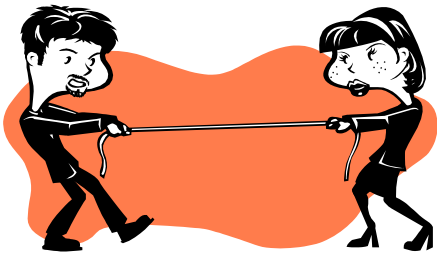
Notes: Conflict in Literature

A **conflict** is either when two sides are in opposition with one another (against each other) or when there is another struggle of some sort.

Without _____, a story is a _____ of unconnected events. Conflict _____ the story _____.

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You need to know the two major **categories** of conflict. The first is called _____ conflict. It occurs _____ the body of the main character. The second, _____ conflict, occurs *inside* a character's mind or emotions.



Category 1: External Conflicts

A) _____ vs. _____ (_____)

This type of conflict is when **one character** or **group of characters** is in opposition with another character (or group or characters).

EX: Harry Potter vs. Voldemort in *Harry Potter* books; The Empire vs. the Rebels in "Star Wars;" Sulley vs. Randall in *Monsters Inc.*

B) Character vs. _____ (elemental)

This type of conflict is when the character struggles against something in the natural world. This could be the weather, an animal, an epidemic disease, etc.

EX: Survival stories are about this type of conflict, such as in *Hatchet* (by Gary Paulsen), *The Cay* (by Theodore Taylor), or *The Hunger Games*.

C) _____ vs. _____ (_____)

This type of conflict is when a character goes against the accepted values, beliefs, traditions, or goals of a majority of society, such as an entire community, state, or country.

EX: Stories about African -Americans living during segregation, such as *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; Jewish people in the Holocaust, such as in *Number the Stars*. Belle's situation in *The Little Mermaid* is another example.

Category 2: Internal Conflicts

Character vs. _____ (mental/emotional)

This type of conflict happens in the character's mind or emotions, usually when the character is struggling to make a decision about something.

EX: Katniss from *The Hunger Games* has a mental conflict over whether to form an alliance with Pru or stay as an individual fighter.

You may learn some more specific examples of types in later years, but the major ones are those discussed above.

