

What is conflict?

Notes

Conflict is defined as a struggle or problem between forces.



Conflict is important because it is the challenge or struggle the protagonist must face in a story. Without it, we would have no plot.

Don't forget that there can be more than one conflict in the plot of a story.

Conflict can fit into two main categories: internal or external.



Internal conflict is a mental or emotional struggle that occurs within ones self.



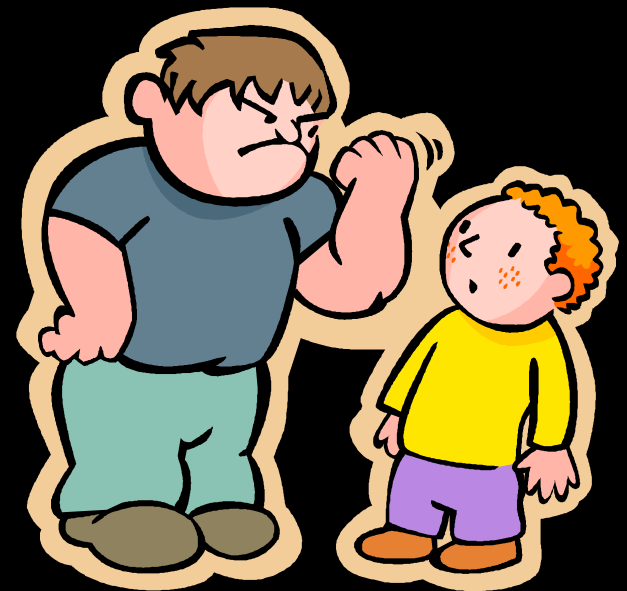
External conflict is a problem that happens between two characters or another outside force.

There are four main types of **conflict**.

1. Person vs. Person

➤ A person struggles against another person. This struggle can be physical, but can also be a struggle of ideas or emotions.

- Example:
A child gets teased by a bully on the school yard.



Examples of Person vs. Person

- Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader
- Dorothy and the Wicked Witch of the West
- Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty
- Katniss Everdeen and President Snow

Harry and Voldemort

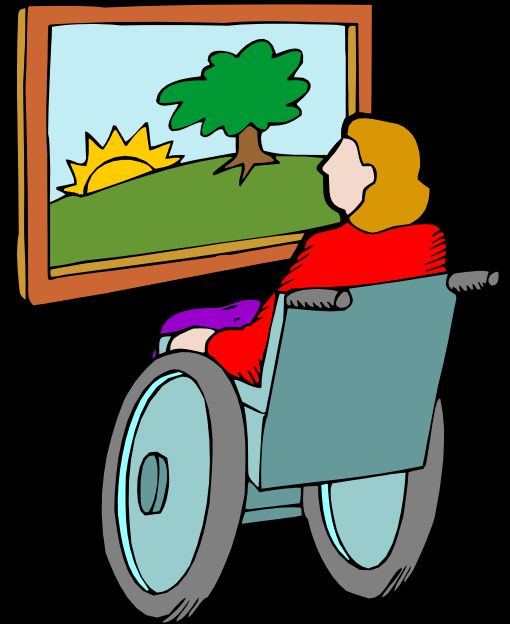
Voldemort's Death - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

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2. Person vs. Nature

- A person struggles against forces of nature. This can include forces like storms, struggles against animals, and struggles against physical ailments, like disease.
- Example:
A child in a wheelchair struggles with the inability to walk after an accident.



Examples of Person vs. Nature

- In Hatchet, Brian struggles to survive in the Canadian wilderness
- In Titanic, the characters struggle against the Atlantic ocean
- In The Wizard of Oz, Dorothy has conflict with the tornado, the apple trees, and the poppies.
- In The Life of Pi, Pi must survive on a boat adrift on the ocean with a tiger on board!

Hunger Games Forest Fire

The Hunger Games - Forest Fire Scene HQ



3. Person vs. Society

➤ A person struggles against the society in which he or she lives. It is usually a fight against social traditions, rules, or laws.

- Example:
Simon is not served ice cream in his town because they don't provide services for "little people"



Examples of Person vs. Society

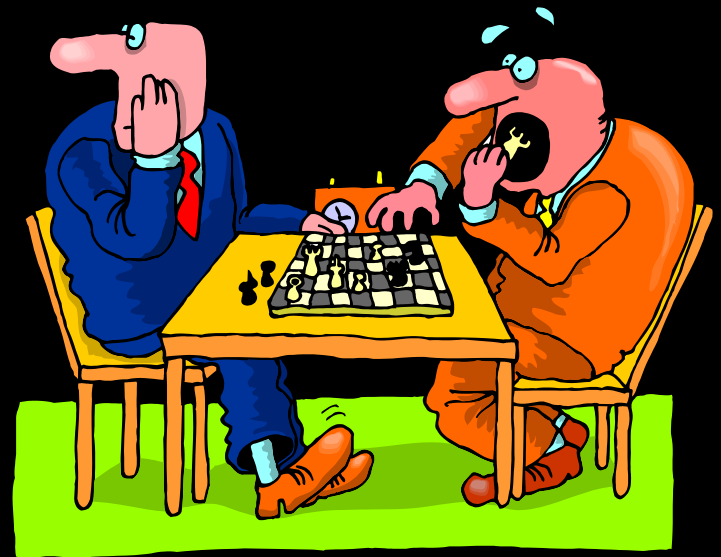
- In *The Incredibles*, super heroes are not allowed to be super because society fears their power.
- In *The Hunger Games*, Katniss fights against her oppressive society for freedom.
- In *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur must struggle to stay alive in a society that eats pigs.
- In *Star Wars*, Luke and the other rebels fight against The Empire.

Rudy

4. Person vs. Self

➤ A person struggles with something within his or her own mind, usually having to do with a choice between right and wrong, or overcoming mixed emotions or feelings.

- Example:
A student must decide whether or not to cheat on a test.



Aladdin

Conflict - Man v. Self



What conflicts can you spot in this short film?

Plot Device



Assignment: Part 1

1. Write your name at the top of your loose leaf.
2. Fold your paper so that it creates 4 quadrants.
3. Name each quadrant a type of conflict you just learned about.
4. As you watch the film, record the examples of conflict you find on your page.

Assignment: Part 2

Choose one specific conflict from the story and write a response (on loose leaf) that answers the following questions.

- Description of conflict:
- What kind of conflict is this example?
- How does this conflict affect the story and characters?
- Was this conflict resolved? If so, how? Were you happy with the way it was resolved? Why or why not?
- If this conflict was unresolved, why do you think that is? Do you agree with the writers' decision to leave it unresolved? Why or why not?

Geris's Game

Geris's game

