

Conflict

Conflict is the essential problem or challenge in a story. It is not merely limited to open arguments or fights with monsters. It is any form challenge or struggle that the main character faces. Within a short story, there may be only one central problem, or there may be one dominant problem with many minor ones. In a novel, there will almost certainly be multiple conflicts.

Conflict is essential to plot. Without conflict there is no plot. If everything just moved along smoothly and there were no problems or challenges stories would be pretty boring!

There are two main *types* of conflict:

- 1) **External** - A struggle with a force outside one's self.
- 2) **Internal** - A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an urge, etc.

Within those two big groups are four smaller kinds of conflict.

- 1) **Character vs. Man**- The leading character struggles with his physical strength against other men, forces of nature, or animals.
- 2) **Character vs. Nature**- The leading character struggles against fate, or the circumstances of life facing him/her.
- 3) **Character vs. Society**- The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.
- 4) **Character vs. Self**- The leading character struggles with himself/herself; with his/her own soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations, choices, etc.

Please Highlight the Internal Conflicts in Yellow and the External in Pink!