

Name _____

Conflict

Conflict – the problem the characters must resolve

- Conflict is what makes the story tick. Without conflict, the story would be hopelessly boring.
- There are many different ways to look at conflict. These ways do not always match up neatly, but they do work together.

External Conflict

- a character struggles with something outside him- or herself
- a character struggles against another person, a group of people, or a force of nature (tornado, bear, icy mountain path)

Person vs. Person

- A character struggles with another character, human or nonhuman.

Person vs. Nature

- A character struggles with a force of nature, which serve as the antagonist.

Person vs. Society

- A character struggles with a larger group: a community, society, culture, etc. (often the traditions and ideas in the society)

Person vs. Fate

A character struggles with their fate (what is destined to happen).

Internal Conflict

- takes place in the character's mind

Person vs. Self

- A character struggles with something within him- or herself
- takes place in the character's mind (he struggles with shyness; she struggles to accept death)

Many stories have both internal and external conflict. In the best stories, any external conflict provokes an internal conflict and vice-versa.