

Conflict

Two main types of conflict: _____ & _____

- **Internal Conflict** – an argument or decision making process within one character's mind
 - Individual vs. Self
 - You see the character make a difficult choice and either flourish or suffer because of their decision.



- The conflict is resolved when the character makes the decision and follows through with action.

- Examples:

- A girl finds out her best friend has cheated to pass an exam.

She must decide whether to be loyal to her friend or tell

the truth.

- A boy has dreams of going to college, but his family needs him to quit school so he can help them make money.

- Novels/Stories:

- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- *Anything but Typical*

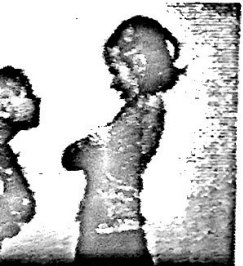


- **External Conflict** – a struggle between a character and an outside force

- **Five Types of External Conflict**

- Individual vs. Individual
- Individual vs. Nature
- Individual vs. Society
- Individual vs. Supernatural
- Individual vs. Technology

- Individual vs. Individual - Involves a mental or physical struggle between two characters in the story



- Examples:

- A husband and wife get into an argument about how they should spend their money
- Two young boys get into a fist fight
- A boss fires an employee

- Novels/Stories:

- *The Three Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*
- *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*
- *Mysterious Benedict Society*
- *Harry Potter*

- **Individual vs. Nature** - External conflict that involves a struggle between the characters and the elements of nature that are beyond his or her control

- **Examples:**

- A family gets stranded in a snowstorm
- A man is stalked by a wild animal in a forest
- A woman is unable to function because of illness or condition.



- **Novels/Stories:**

- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Abel's Island*
- *Jaws*

- **Individual vs. Society** - an external conflict that involves the struggle between a character and the rules or laws that govern the society in which he or she lives

- **Examples:**

- A man stands up for what he believes is right, even though almost everyone else disagrees with him.
- A woman stands up for her African American friend during the Civil Rights movement when racism is still prevalent.



- **Novels/Stories:**

- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli

- **Individual vs. Supernatural** - an external conflict in which the characters are at odds with elements outside the natural realm, such as ghosts, extraterrestrials, and other supernatural beings

- **Examples:**

- A family moves into a house, only to learn it is haunted.
- Aliens attack!
- A human being with no powers must go against a superhero, vampire, werewolf, fairy... you get the picture.



- **Novels/Stories:**

- *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer
- *Wait Til Helen Comes* by Mary Downing Hahn
- *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

- **Individual vs. Technology** - an external conflict in which the characters struggle against a machine, such as a computer, android, or robot. It typically contrasts the character as a natural organism with a synthetic creature

- **Examples:**

- A science fiction novel in which the robot becomes more intelligent than humans, and we must find a way to take control.
- The world loses control of its own inventions, which then take over!!

