

## Literary Conflict

### SOL 7.5a

	<p>Conflict is essential to plot. Without conflict there is no plot. It is the opposition of forces which ties one incident to another and makes the plot move. Conflict is not merely limited to open arguments; rather it is any form of opposition that faces the main character. Within a short story there may be only one central struggle, or there may be one dominant struggle with many minor ones.</p> <p>There are two <i>types</i> of conflict: External - A struggle with a force outside one's self. Internal - A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an urge, etc.</p>
	<p><b>Internal conflict</b> is the dilemma facing the character inside and its impact on that character.</p> <p>The Internal Conflict in a story can capture a universal emotion in people, whether it's inner need, desire, belief, or turmoil.</p> <p>Internal conflict shows the character's vulnerability, and what they must confront as a direct result of what happens to them in the story. The resolution of this confrontation, whether it's constructive, destructive, successful or not, allows us to see how a character has grown.</p> <p>A strong internal conflict can make a good story great.</p>

	<p>There are five kinds of <b>External Conflict</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual vs. Individual</li> <li>2. Individual vs. Society</li> <li>3. Individual vs. Nature</li> <li>4. Individual vs. Supernatural</li> <li>5. Individual vs. Technology</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Individual vs. Individual</b>  The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.</p> <p>Example: The master tennis players battle for the championship title.</p>
	<p><b>Individual vs. Society</b>  The leading character struggles with himself/herself; with his/her own soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations, choices, etc.</p> <p>Example: A thief vs. the legal system that is trying to catch. him</p>
	<p><b>Individual vs. Nature</b>  The leading character struggles against fate, or the circumstances of life facing him/her.</p> <p>Example: A mountain climber is trying to conquer a treacherous peak</p>
	<p><b>Individual vs. Supernatural</b>  The leading character struggles with himself/herself; with his/her own soul, ideas of right or wrong, evil and good.</p> <p>Example: A homeowner whose house is haunted by the previous owner.</p>
	<p><b>Individual vs. Technology</b>  The leading character measures or compares his strength or abilities against a mechanized/electronic object.</p> <p>Example: A student compares his ability to multiply against the answers that a calculator may give.</p>

