

CONFLICT-- 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.

There are two types of conflict:

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

Man vs. Himself/Herself (psychological) - The leading character struggles with himself/herself; with his/her own soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations, choices, etc.

2) **External** - A struggle with a force outside one's self.

There are different categories of external conflict:

1) **Man vs. Machine** (physical) - The leading character struggles with technology, machines, gadgets, etc.

1) **Man vs. Man** (physical) - The leading character struggles with his physical strength against other men, forces of nature, or animals.

3) **Man vs. Society** (social) - The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.

4) **Man vs. nature** (psychological) - The leading character struggles against forces of nature, animals, weather, etc.