

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Main Types of Conflict

There are two main types of conflict, Internal Conflict and External Conflict

Internal Conflict is within the character. What they feel and believe. It may be morals and values or the emotions they feel about something being right or wrong. Emotional conflict is key, so the writer must spend time describing emotions, thoughts and personal moments.

External Conflict involves other characters, opposing opinions, bad weather, a car shutting down, another character behaving in a bad manner. Such conflict is usually what is present in stories.

1. Character vs. Self



In this conflict, the character faces a struggle about what is the “right” choice. This story must describe the emotions of the character and how they overcome their own self.

2. Character vs. Character



In this conflict characters oppose each other. So your main area of conflict is a bully, a rival, or a nemesis. The person is as human as you are.

3. Character vs. Nature



In this conflict, the character is set in opposition to nature, like a volcano or flood, or hurricane and the obstacles are created by nature.

4. Character vs. Supernatural



This conflict is written for fantasy fiction where the secondary character has super-human abilities or is not human. Eg A mermaid, ghost, alien, superman or a lava monster.

5. Character vs. Technology



This conflict is due to technology e.g. a car crash, the tour bus has broken down, your computer crashes in the middle of online classes, there is no electricity to print a project.

6. Character vs. Society



This conflict describes opposition to a government policy, cultural tradition or societal injustice. E.g Lobbying for no more trees to be cut down in a protected forest.