

# Conflict

Every story contains conflict. At a minimum, your protagonist must have a conflict with someone (or something) else. The character must want something, and someone or something is keeping them from getting it.



This worksheet focuses on external conflict. That means conflict the main character has with someone or something outside of themselves. There are three types of external conflict:

- Character vs. character
- Character vs. nature
- Character vs. society

If Edgar wants to go to the store, but he knows the bully who lives next to the store will beat him up, that is character vs. character. If he has to struggle through a hail storm to get there, that is character vs. nature. If he belongs to one race and all the people around him belong to another, and he knows he'll be harassed because of that when he steps out of his house, that is character vs. society.

Your turn! Think of at least three possible conflicts for your story, one of each type. You can think of even more if you want. Most stories contain more than one conflict (though one may be central). You may have planned on just one conflict, but you may find you can put more than one in your story to make it even more exciting.

Character vs. character

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Character vs. nature

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Character vs. society

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