Conflict
Conflict is the dramatic struggle between opposing forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.
Protagonist vs. Antagonist

- The *protagonist* (main character) struggles against the antagonist in the story’s main conflict.
- The *antagonist* can be a person, idea, emotion, decision, nature, rules and laws.
Protagonist vs. Antagonist

- It is easiest to think of the protagonist and antagonist characters as the "good guy" (hero) and the "bad guy" (villain) respectively.
- To remember which is which, remember that the prefix pro- means good, or positive, and the prefix ant- means bad, or negative.
**Protagonist**

- The **protagonist** is the central character of a story. The protagonist can be male or female, and is written as being “good” most of the time, but in some instances can be “bad.”

- The plot of a story is often written from the protagonist's **point of view**. Consider the story “The Three Little Pigs.” In the original story, the three pigs are the protagonists and the wolf is the antagonist.

  - *The Real Story of The Three Little Pigs* is written from the wolf's point of view. In it, the wolf becomes the protagonist and the pigs are the antagonists.
Antagonist

- The character that causes or leads the conflict against the protagonist is called the **antagonist**.
  - The antagonist is not always human, but can be a group or force as well.
  - The antagonist is the mirror of the protagonist. Whatever the protagonist does that is good, the antagonist will work to counteract.
  - Usually the antagonist attempts to disguise him/her/itself. This usually creates the suspense in a story.
Six Types of Conflict

- Character vs. Self
- Character vs. Character
- Character vs. Society (this includes Character vs. Technology / Machine)
- Character vs. Nature
- Character vs. Supernatural
- Character vs. Destiny
Internal and External Conflicts

**Internal**

*Internal Conflict takes place inside of the mind*

**External**

*External Conflict takes place outside of the mind*
Character vs. Self (Internal)

within the character--making a tough decision or overcoming guilt, fear, sadness or a personal issue.
Character vs. Character

The struggle is *between* two or more characters in the story.
Character vs. Society

In many stories, the protagonist battles against an element of government or culture.
Character vs. Nature

This type of conflict pits a story's main character or characters against a natural force such as a flood, fire, blizzard, or disease epidemic.
Character vs. Supernatural

Refers to a conflict between a character and typically unbelievable or supernatural phenomena, such as vampires, aliens, ghosts, etc.
Character vs. Destiny

A character struggles between his or her own destiny or predetermined fate.
Practice

Decide what type of conflict is being illustrated in the following pictures
1. Character vs.

?
2. Character vs. ?
3. Character vs. ?
4. Character vs.
5. Character vs. ?

Good Choice
Bad Choice
6. Character vs. ?
7. Character vs. ?
Practice

Now that you have mastered pictures, let’s try some text!
“If she had only proceeded more slowly. If she had only taken the Southerly route, avoiding the icebergs. If only the watch had had a pair of binoculars.”

(news story about the Titanic)
Charles decided to break all the rules the day he decided to steal that car. He was immediately arrested and sent to jail to await his trial. He should have known better than to mess with the “rules.”
“I don’t care who you talk to!” screamed Sarah to West. “I just wish I had never met you!”
11. Character vs. ?

After the light in the cave was completely gone Tom began to stumble through the cave blindly cutting his hands on what appeared to be sharp rocks.
12. Character vs. ?

Tom found a dry spot to sit down in the dark and began to feel guilty over an argument he had had earlier in the day with his mother in which he had said, “I hope I never see you again!”
CONFLICT
AS SEEN IN LITERATURE
MAN VS. SELF

INTERNAL STRUGGLE WITH ONESELF
MAN VS. MAN

CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PEOPLE
MAN VS. SOCIETY

CONFLICT BETWEEN ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS AND A CONSTRUCT OF SOCIETY
MAN VS. TECHNOLOGY

CONFLICT BETWEEN ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS AND ANY TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY
MAN VS. NATURE

CONFLICT BETWEEN ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS AND A NATURAL OCCURRENCE
MAN VS. SUPERNATURAL

CONFLICT BETWEEN ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS AND ANY "OTHER WORLDLY FORCE"
MAN VS. DESTINY

CONFLICT BETWEEN A CHARACTER AND HIS OR HER OWN DESTINY OR PREDETERMINED FATE.