

**CONFLICT**-- Conflict is the force that causes the plot to continue from the beginning through to the end.. 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 any form of opposition that the main character must face. 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) **External** - A struggle with a force outside one's self.
- 2) **Internal** - A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an urge, etc.

There are four *kinds* of conflict:

- 1) **Character vs. Character** (physical) - The leading character struggles with his physical strength against other men, forces of nature, or animals.
- 2) **Character vs. Circumstances** (classical) - The leading character struggles against fate, or the circumstances of life facing him/her.
- 3) **Character vs. Society** (social) - The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.
- 4) **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.

In the novel *Lord of the Flies*, for example, Ralph must deal with both internal conflicts, (dealing with survival; questioning his leadership abilities) and external conflicts, (Jack, isolation). The novel includes Character vs. Character and Character vs. Circumstances as two types of conflict.