

Types of Character Conflict

Read each story summary. Identify the type of conflict that is present in the scenario.

Person vs. Person
Person vs. Nature

Person vs. Self
Person vs. Society

1. The year is 1970, and Alma is about to start a new school year. Last year, she attended five schools in one year. Her parents are migrant farm workers, and they must pack up and move to wherever work is available. She hates seeing them work so hard for such little pay. When she hears about the Salad Bowl strike led by Cesar Chavez, she begs her parents to let her join the cause.
2. Amy has never been particularly nice to Nicole, but this year, she has been teasing Nicole every single day. Amy makes sarcastic comments about Nicole's complexion and clothes. Nicole's mom tells her to just ignore Amy, but she is finding it impossible to follow her mom's advice.
3. Several weeks ago, Jude thought it would be fun to participate in the school play. He wasn't expecting to be given one of the leads! Opening night is tomorrow, and now Jude is regretting his decision. He feels sick to his stomach whenever he thinks about the spotlights shining down on him. He wants to quit, but he knows he'll be letting everybody down if he does.
4. Joni thinks her school's dress code is unfair. There is a long list of clothes that girls are not allowed to wear (no leggings unless a skirt is worn over them, no spaghetti straps), while the boys have barely any restrictions. She creates a meme and posts it on Facebook. She is shocked when the meme goes viral!
5. Brecken is vacationing with his family in Thailand. They are relaxing on the beach, when suddenly, the water recedes rapidly and much farther than usual. Brecken knows that this is a tsunami warning signal, so he quickly leads his family and the other people on the beach to higher ground.
6. When Seth's dad gets remarried, Seth gains a stepbrother who is the same age as he is. His stepbrother, Tony, lives with Seth's dad and stepmom full-time, while Seth only stays overnight once a week and every other weekend. When he visits, Seth sleeps on the top bunk in Tony's room. Tony resents having to share his room with Seth, and he makes sure Seth knows it. Tony makes Seth so miserable that he doesn't even enjoy spending time with his dad anymore.

7. Whitney and her brother are spending two fun weeks in Australia with their favorite uncle. Tragedy strikes when they are hiking in the Outback, however. Their uncle has a sudden and deadly heart attack. Now, they are left alone in the Outback with no idea of what to do or where to go.
8. Patrick notices that one of his friends is writing some rude and hurtful things on a social media platform about one of their classmates. He knows he should tell his friend to delete the comment and leave the other kid alone, but he doesn't want to offend his friend or make him mad. He wants to stay out of it, but he feels guilty doing so.
9. Think of a book you have read recently. Name a conflict that occurs in the book, and then justify why it serves as an example of that type of conflict. (Include enough detail so that a person who has never read the book will understand the conflict.)
10. Choose a different type of conflict than the one you used in #9. Think of a book you have read recently with that type of conflict. Again, justify why it serves as an example of that type of conflict. (Include enough detail so that a person who has never read the book will understand the conflict.)