



Conflict in Literature

Why is CONFLICT important?

- Without **conflict** there is no plot!
- The plot is created around the central **conflict**
- The central conflict is introduced with the **inciting incident** (also known as **the crisis point**)
- The central conflict is resolved at the end of the story
- In addition to the central conflict, longer works (plays, novels) have multiple secondary conflicts (conflicts within each chapter or act)

EXTERNAL CONFLICT

- An external conflict is a confrontation between a character and an outside force.

- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Nature
- Man vs. Society



MAN vs. MAN

- A character struggles with another character.
- Protagonist vs. Antagonist



MAN vs. NATURE

- A character struggles with a force of nature (natural disaster, desolation, animal, etc.)
- Usually, the character is struggling to survive.



MAN vs. SOCIETY

- In this conflict, a character or a group of characters fight against the society in which they live.
- The character fights against social traditions or rules (fight for freedom, rights, for a cause etc.)
- Usually used to comment on positive or negative aspects of real society



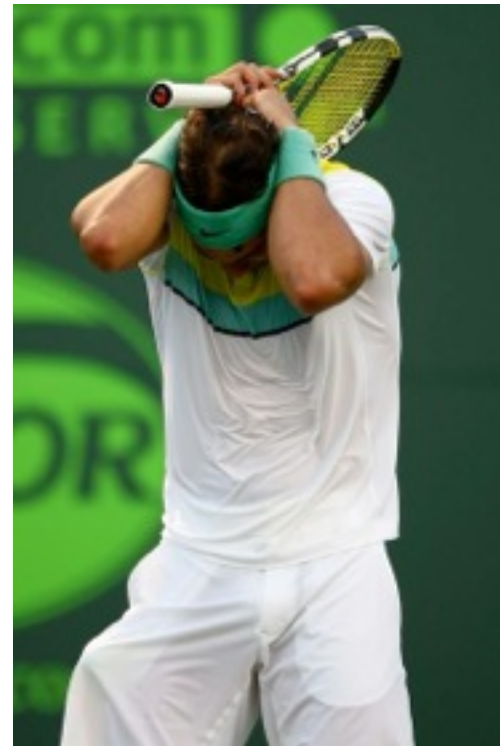
OTHER TYPES OF EXTERNAL CONFLICT

- Man vs. Supernatural
 - Gods, ghosts, monsters, spirits, aliens, etc.
 - Man vs. Fate
 - Fight for choice; fight against destiny
- Man vs. Technology
 - Computers, machines, etc.



INTERNAL CONFLICT

- An internal conflict is between a character and his or her own self.
- Man vs. Self



MAN vs. SELF

- The character's struggle takes place in his/her own mind.
- Usually has something to do with a choice (choosing between right and wrong)
- May have to do with overcoming emotions or mixed feelings.

