Types of Conflict

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3
Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
Types of Conflict Overview

- Person vs. Self (Internal Conflict)

External Conflicts

- Person vs. Person
- Person. vs. Society
- Person vs. Nature
- Person vs. Supernatural
- Person vs. Technology
Person vs. Person

In this type of conflict, the central character clashes with another character. It doesn’t always have to be a person. The characters can be animals for instance.
Person vs. Self

In this type of conflict, the character battles herself or himself. This character may lack confidence or ability or may have a difficult choice to make. The key with this conflict is that this conflict happens within the character, but may affect other characters.
Person vs. Society

With this type of conflict, the main character challenges a law, tradition, or institution. The main character or characters may battle against the forces that represent these institutions.
Person vs. Nature

With this type of conflict, the main character fights to endure or overcome forces of nature. The character may struggle to survive harsh elements, navigate through a disaster, or meet their basic needs. Stories of this type of conflict may occur in the wilderness often, but they can occur in urban settings too.
Person vs. Supernatural

In stories with this type of conflict, the main character resists forces that are not of this world. The character may battle monsters or strange creatures or may challenge beings with magical powers or hostile aliens.
Person vs. Technology

In a story with this type of conflict, the main character resists technological forces. The character may battle rogue robots or hostile computers or struggle to accept or use the technology of a changing world.