

Types of Conflict

Person (or animal, if a character) vs. person (or animal)

One character struggles against another character.

Example: In *Charlotte's Web*, Charlotte struggles against the farmer, who intends to butcher Wilbur, the pig.

Person vs. himself (internal conflict)

The main character struggles with his conscience or is torn between two choices.

Example: In the myth, *King Midas*, the king struggles with his "gift," which is the ability, and the curse to turn to gold everything he touches.

Person (or animal) vs. society

A character struggles against his village or some established type of prejudice, or unfair rules or laws.

Example: In the movie *Shrek*, Shrek struggles against all human beings, who consider him a horrid and mean outcast.

Person vs. nature or technology

A character struggles against a natural occurrence (earthquake, flood, etc.) or against robots or computers

Example: In the movie *The Perfect Storm*, the crew struggles against the ocean.

Example: In the movie *The Matrix*, Neo, Trinity, and Morpheus struggle to free their society from "the matrix."

Person vs. fate

A character struggles with his destiny or fate.

Example: In the movie *Lord of The Rings*, Frodo struggles to fulfill his destiny to destroy the ring in the fires of Moredor.

Example: In the short story *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, Sylvester is granted his wish, which brings him an undesired fate.