

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Conflict

In literature, conflict is a struggle between opposing forces that drives the action of the plot forward.  
A conflict may be external or internal.

An **EXTERNAL CONFLICT** is a struggle that takes place between a character and someone or something else. Types of external conflict include character vs. character, character vs. society, character vs. nature, and character vs. technology.

### Examples:

A ship captain struggles to survive on a desert island after a hurricane sinks his ship.

Dr. Strange invents a robot so intelligent it has a mind of its own—a mind for destroying the town.

An eighth grader named Dave bullies Tim on the school bus every afternoon.

An **INTERNAL CONFLICT** is a struggle that occurs within a character's mind; it's what's bothering a character on the inside. Internal conflicts are always character vs. self.

### Examples:

The ship captain fights to stay positive and hold on to hope of ever being rescued.

Dr. Strange struggles with the decision of whether or not he should destroy his masterpiece in order to save the town.

Tim feels nervous about telling his teacher about the bully and doesn't know if he should.

**Directions:** Read "If I Were a Superhero." Then fill in the chart below.

The Narrator's <u>External</u> Conflict
1. What is the narrator's external conflict? Who or what is she struggling against?
2. Give two lines or groups of lines from the story that help reveal the narrator's external conflict.  Line(s) 1:          Line(s) 2:

**The Narrator's Internal Conflict**

**3.** What is the narrator's internal conflict? Who or what is she struggling with on the inside?

**4.** Give two lines or groups of lines from the story that help reveal the narrator's internal conflict.

Line(s) 1:

Line(s) 2: