# Elements of a Plot "Conflict"

Mrs. Love

Elements of a Novel

6th Grade Reading

# Plot Elements
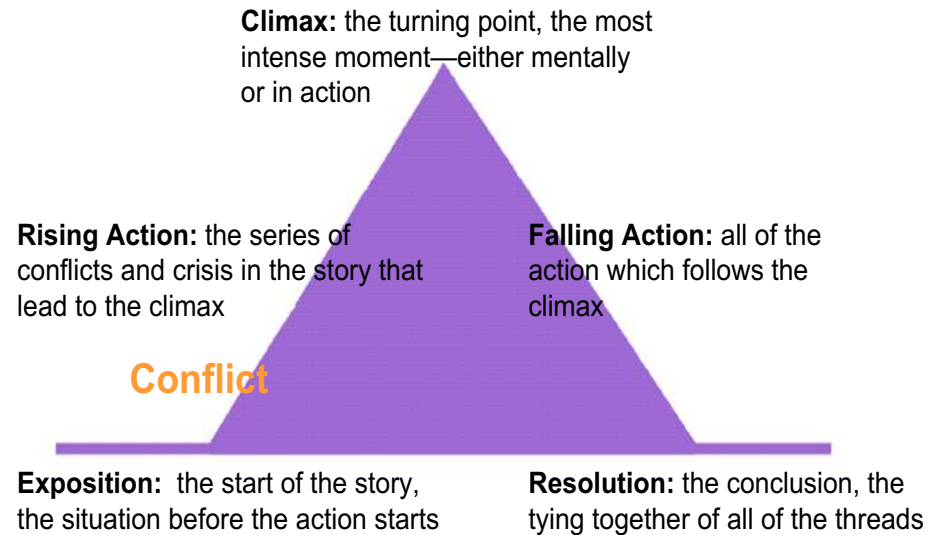
Let's review……..

# Plot Elements



**Climax:** the turning point, the most intense moment—either mentally or in action

**Rising Action:** the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax

**Falling Action:** all of the action which follows the climax

**Conflict**

**Exposition:** the start of the story, the situation before the action starts
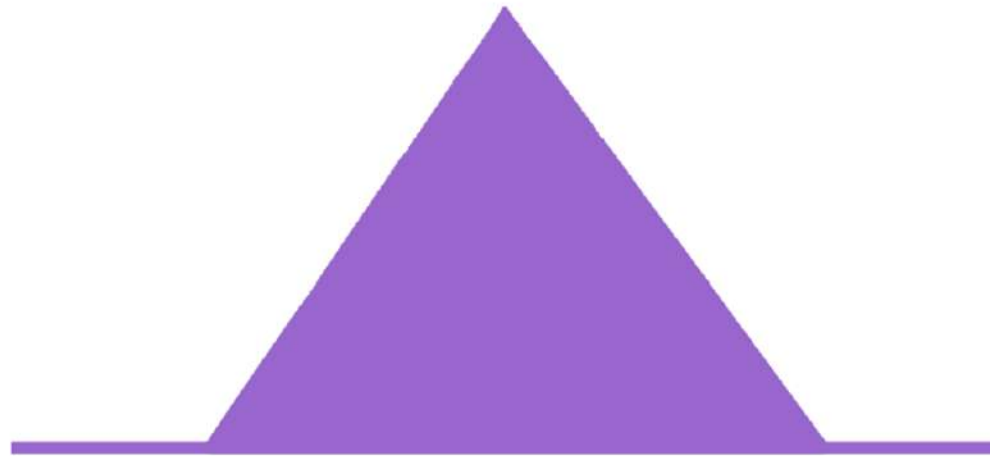
**Resolution:** the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads
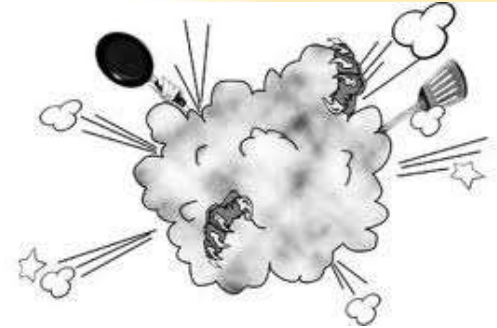
# Plot Element
# Conflict

How many of us have Conflict in our daily lives?

- In Movies and Books, authors use Conflict to tell us their story.

Simply, conflict is the struggle between the opposing forces.

Without Conflict – there is no story to tell!!!

# Internal vs. External Conflict

- **Internal Conflict**: Conflict that is <u>internalized</u> – the type of conflict that occurs *inside* someone's head.)

- **External Conflict:** Conflict that occurs between a person and anyone or anything. (external conflict does not always have to occur between two people. It could be Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Technology, etc.)

Examples……………………..

**External or Internal Conflict ?**

• Your mother has forbidden you from going to a party Friday night. However, you have figured out a way to go without her knowing. You feel guilty and a little scared you might get caught, so you argue with yourself and worry over whether or not to go.

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•You and your best friend get into an argument over a comment she left on Facebook that you thought was very rude.

Examples from real life.
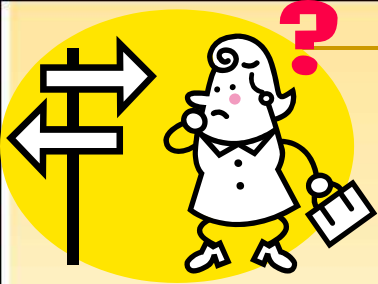
# Conflict

Some forms of conflict include the following:

**Internal Conflict**

- Person vs. Self

**External Conflict**

- Person vs. Person

- Person vs. the Environment/Nature

- Person vs. Technology

# Person vs. Self

In a **person vs. self** conflict, the main character has a problem within him/herself.

Example:

**From Hatchet**
Should Brian discuss the "secret"? This situation is constantly on his mind – does he tell his father or not?

# Person vs. Person

A **person vs. person** conflict is between two forms of like beings.

Example

**From Hatchet**

Brian and his mother have an uncomfortable relationship because of the divorce.

# Person vs. the Environment

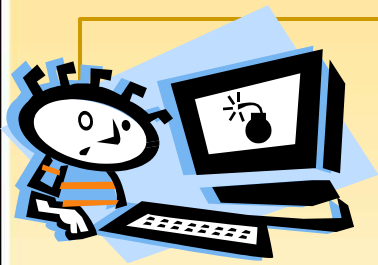In a **person vs. the environment** conflict, a character is struggling against the forces of nature.

Example:

**From Hatchet**
The weather, the mosquitoes, wild animals, have a negative impact on Brian.

# Person vs. Technology

In a **person vs. technology** conflict, a character has a problem with machines or new technology.

Example:

**From Hatchet**

Brian flying the airplane after the pilot dies.

# Practice
# Let's get into your Project Groups

| Person vs. Person | Person vs. Self | Person. vs Nature | Person vs. Technology |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1 | | #19 | |
| #4 | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

# Share one of your examples…..

Make these examples personal to you!!!!

(Conflict types)

- Person vs. Person _____
- Person vs. Self _____
- Person vs. Nature _____
- Person vs. Technology _____

# Plot:   Character vs. Character Conflict
## (**Person vs. Person)**

**(*This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with another character, human or not human.*)**

*"The new one is the most beautiful of all; he is so young and pretty." And the old swans bowed their heads before him.*
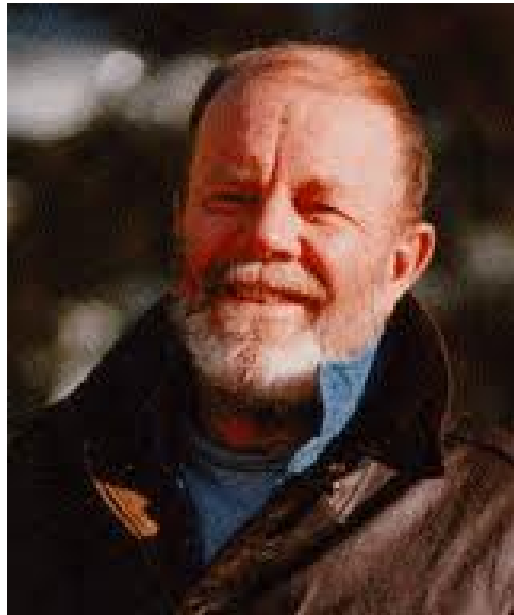
*Then he felt quite ashamed, and hid his head under his wing; for he did not know what to do, he was so happy, and yet not at all proud. He had been persecuted and despised for his ugliness, and now he heard them say he was the most beautiful of all the birds.*

*The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson

# More of Gary Paulsen……..

1. Read this excerpt from Gary Paulsen's book *Brian's Hunt*.

He dreamt of it often and at first his dreams sometimes had the qualities of nightmares. He dreamt he was sitting there in the small plane, the only passenger, with the pilot dying and the plane crashing into the lake below. He awakened sometimes with sudden fear, his breath coming fast. The crash itself had been so wild and he had been so out of control that the more he had grown in the years since, the more he had learned and handled difficult situations, the more insane the crash seemed; a wild, careening, ripping ride down through trees to end not in peace but in the water, nearly drowning--in the nightmares it was like dying and then not dying to die again.

Which type of conflict is present in this reading?

A.   Person vs. Person
B.   Person vs. Self
C.   Person vs. the Environment /Nature
D.   Person vs. Technology

2. Read this excerpt from Gary Paulsen's book *My Life in Dog Years*

And so Caesar entered my life. He became many things to us – friend, entertainer, horror show – but he was never, never boring and his life comes back now in a montage of memories. There was the Halloween when he greeted a little boy who came to the door in a werewolf costume. There was one moment, priceless, when the two eyed each other, hairy monster-mask to the Great Dane muzzle, at exactly the same height. He made a sound like a train in a tunnel and disappeared into a dark corner of the bedroom closet and would not come out until all the little people stopped coming. Every one of the seven years that he was with us, when the first trick-or-treater came to the door on Halloween, no matter the costume, Caesar went into the bedroom closet, pulled a housecoat over his eyes, and would not come out until it was over. He had great heart, but courage against monsters wasn't in him.

Which type of conflict is present in this reading?

A. Person vs. Person
B. Person vs. Self
C. Person vs. the Environment /Nature
D. Person vs. Technology

3.  Read this excerpt from Gary Paulsen's book *Guts*.

There was a kind of bleeeeekkkk, hoarse and very loud, coming from directly behind me and accompanied by a crashing in the brush, and I turned, raising my rifle (about as useful as a BB gun in these circumstances but we use what we have), to see two glaring red eyes coming at me at what seemed like sixty or seventy miles an hour. . . . .At the first instant I didn't realize that it was a large bull moose. He's lost the previous year's antlers and hadn't grown new ones yet. I just saw brown. I saw big. I saw death coming at me, snorting and thundering. I think I may have thought of phantoms, wood spirits, wild monsters-I most certainly did not think of moose.

Which type of conflict is present in this reading?

A.    Person vs. Person
B.    Person vs. Self
C.    Person vs. the Environment /Nature
D.    Person vs. Technology

4. Read this excerpt from Gary Paulsen's book *The Beet Fields*.

The sun was hot when it came up late. There was no early-morning coolness, no relief. An early heat came with the first edge of the sun and by the time the sun was full up, he was cooking and looking for some relief. He tried hoeing with his left hand low, then his right hand, then leaning forward more, then less, but nothing helped. It was hot, getting hotter, and he straightened and spit and resettled the straw hat he had bought in Grafton. It had a piece of green plastic in the brim that looked cool but wasn't.

Which type of conflict is present in this reading?

A.   Person vs. Person
B.   Person vs. Self
C.   Person vs. the Environment /Nature
D.   Person vs. Technology

# Homework Assignement

On your story map, fill in the conflict boxes for *Hatchet.*