

3 Conflict, plot, and significant events – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Conflict

Recall

- You know a story needs something to go wrong.
- You have read a quiet scene that mattered more than a loud one.
- You know a character can be their own obstacle.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Conflict is about values

Conflict is tension between competing values, either within a character or with outside forces. An obstacle alone is not a conflict; the tension must be between things the character values.

Worked example. Choosing between loyalty and honesty is a conflict because both are held.

■ 2 Intersecting conflicts

A text may hold several conflicts, and a primary conflict is **heightened** when another intersects it. A second conflict raises the cost of resolving the first.

Worked example. A character who must betray a friend to tell the truth now pays twice for the same decision.

■ 3 Significance

An event's significance depends on its relationship to the narrative, to the conflict, and to the development of characters. A quiet conversation may be the most significant scene in a novel.

Worked example. The loudest scene changes nothing; the significant one changes what a character will do.

Watch out: Significance is relational, not intrinsic. Ask what the event changes, not how dramatic it looks.

Practice

2.1 Define conflict. [2]

2.2 Name the two kinds of conflict. [2]

2.3 Explain why an obstacle alone is not a conflict. [2]

2.4 State what a primary conflict gains from an intersecting one. [2]

2.5 Name the three relationships an event's significance depends on. [3]
