

Exercise walk-through

The function of conflict in a text ■ 3.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- define conflict and name its two kinds
- state what happens when conflicts intersect
- explain what a primary conflict gains from additional ones
- state what inconsistencies may create

Method — Definition

Conflict is tension between competing values either **within a character** — internal or psychological conflict — or **with outside forces that obstruct a character in some way** — external conflict. The definition is about *values*, not merely obstacles.

Method — Intersection

A text may contain multiple conflicts. Often two or more conflicts in a text intersect.

Method — Heightening

A primary conflict can be heightened by the presence of additional conflicts that intersect with it. A second conflict raises the cost of resolving the first.

Method — Inconsistencies

Inconsistencies in a text may create contrasts that represent conflicts of values or perspectives. An inconsistency is a clue, not necessarily an error.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Define conflict and name its two kinds.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

tension between competing values **B1**; internal or psychological within a character **B1**; external, with outside forces that obstruct a character **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what a primary conflict gains from an intersecting one.

Solution 2.2

Method: Heightening

Worked steps

the additional conflict heightens it **B1** by raising the cost of resolving the first **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The definition is about values.

- (a) State why this matters.
- (b) State what inconsistencies may create.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) an obstacle alone is not a conflict **B1**; the tension must be between things the character values **B1**. (b) contrasts that represent conflicts of values or perspectives **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Conflict is tension between competing

- A** values
- B** page lengths
- C** genres
- D** publishers

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A values



B page lengths

C genres

D publishers

Worked steps

A. values.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

An inconsistency in a text may be

- A** always an error
- B** a clue to a conflict of values
- C** irrelevant
- D** a printing fault only

Solution 3.2

Method: Inconsistencies

- A always an error
- B a clue to a conflict of values**
- C irrelevant
- D a printing fault only



Worked steps

- B. a clue.**

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A character must choose between loyalty and honesty.

(a) State the kind of conflict.

(b) Explain what makes it a conflict rather than a difficulty.

Solution 3.3

Method: Definition

Worked steps

(a) internal or psychological **B1**. (b) both loyalty and honesty are values the character holds **B1**, so choosing either costs something the character wants to keep **B1**.