



Identifying Internal and External Conflict

Using the definitions of internal and external conflict we discussed in class, read each of the following passages and identify whether the conflict is internal or external. Then, explain how you know, using specific details from the passage. Study the example before beginning; your answers should have the same level of detail and should be written with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. “My mind still swirled dizzily, full of images I couldn’t understand, and some I fought to repress. Nothing seemed clear at first, but as I fell gradually closer to unconsciousness, a few certainties became evident.

“About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was part of him - and I didn’t know how potent that part might be - that thirsted for my blood. And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him.” From *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer

This conflict is: *Internal*

I know this because: *In the passage, Bella says that her mind “swirled dizzily.” This indicates that she’s confused or trying to sort something out in her mind that may be troubling. She also points out the conflicting emotions she is having. She is “unconditionally and irrevocably” in love with someone who could potentially kill her. These conflicts are internal because they are occurring within Bella as she comes to terms with her feelings for Edward.*

2. Me: “I refuse to attend support group.”

Mom: “One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities.”

Me: “Please just let me watch America’s Next Top Model. It’s an activity.”

Mom: “Television is a passivity.”

Me: “Ugh, Mom, please.”

Mom: “Hazel, you’re a teenager. You’re not a little kid anymore. You need to make friends, get out of the house and live your life.”

Me: “If you want me to be a teenager, don’t send me to support group... Buy me a fake ID.”

Mom: “You’re going to support group.”

Me: “UGGGGGGGGGGGGGG.” From *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green

This conflict is:

I know this because:

3. "It's all right with for you two, isn't it, with your parents safely out of the way-"

"My parents are *dead!*" Harry bellowed.

"And mine could be going in the same way!" yelled Ron.

"Then GO!" Roared Harry. "Go back to them, pretend you've got over your spattergroit and Mummy'll be able to feed you up and-"

Ron made a sudden movement: Harry reacted, but before either wand was clear of its owner's pocket, Hermione had raised her own.

"*Pretego!*" she cried, and an invisible shield had expanded between her and Harry on the one side and Ron on the other; all of them were forced backward a few steps by the strength of the spell, and Harry and Ron glared from either side of the transparent barrier as though they were seeing each other clearly for the first time. Harry felt corrosive hatred toward Ron: something had broken between them." From *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling

This conflict is:

I know this because:

4. Katniss Everdeen: "To this day, I can never shake the connection between this boy, Peeta Mellark, and the bread that gave me hope, and the dandelion that reminded me that I was not doomed. And more than once, I have turned in the school hallway and caught his eyes trained on me, only to quickly flit away. I feel like I owe him something, and I hate owing people. Maybe if I had thanked him at some point, I'd be feeling less conflicted now. I thought about it a couple of times, but the opportunity never seemed to present itself. And now it never will. Because we're going to be thrown into an arena to fight to the death. Exactly how am I supposed to work in a thank-you in there? Somehow it just won't seem sincere if I'm trying to slit his throat." From *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

This conflict is:

I know this because:

5. Zits: "Yes, I am Irish and Indian, which would be the coolest blend in the world if my parents were around to teach me how to be Irish and Indian. But they're not here and haven't been for years, so I'm not really Irish or Indian. I'm a blank sky, a human solar eclipse." From *Flight* by Sherman Alexie

This conflict is:

I know this because:

6. "It's Not Easy Being Green"

It's not that easy being green;
Having to spend each day the color of the leaves.
When I think it could be nicer being red, or yellow or gold-
or something much more colorful like that.

It's not easy being green.
It seems you blend in with so many other ordinary things.
And people tend to pass you over 'cause you're not standing out like flashy sparkles in
the water-
or stars in the sky.

But green's the color of Spring.
And green can be cool and friendly-like.
And green can be big like an ocean, or important like a mountain, or tall like a tree.

When green is all there is to be
It could make you wonder why, but why wonder? Why Wonder, I am green and
it'll do fine, it's beautiful!
And I think it's what I want to be. From *The Muppets*

This conflict is:

I know this because: