

Types of Conflict in Fiction

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Man vs. Man



Characters are pitted against one another.



The antagonist tries to keep the protagonist from reaching his goal.



The protagonist must overcome the efforts of the antagonist to reach his goal.

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Man vs. Society



Characters are pitted against one another.



The antagonist tries to keep the protagonist from reaching his goal.



The protagonist must overcome the efforts of the antagonist to reach his goal.

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Man vs. Self



The protagonist must overcome her own nature to reach her goal.



The protagonist struggles within her own mind.



The protagonist needs to overcome her struggle to reach the goal. She may, or may not, succeed.

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Man vs. Nature



The hero must overcome a force of nature to meet his goal.



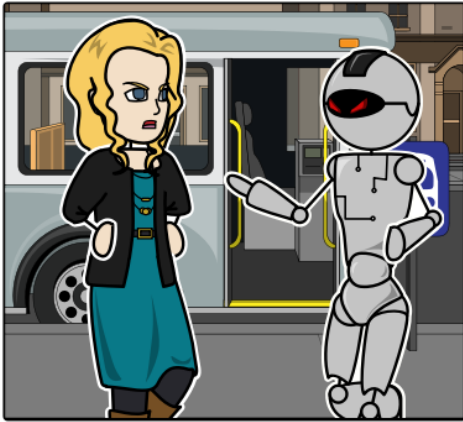
Nature can be a force of nature (like a storm, earthquake, or difficult climate), OR an animal or mythical creature.



In literature, the hero sometimes meets his goal, but sometimes is defeated.

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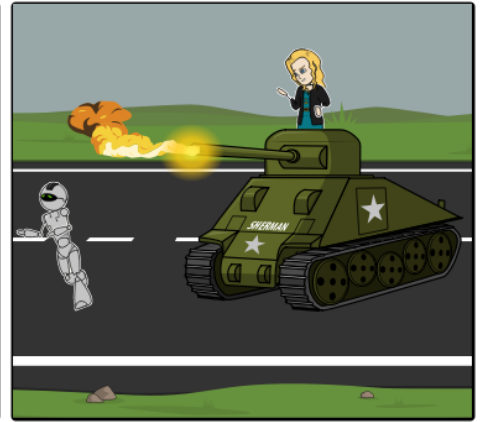
Man vs. Technology



The protagonist must overcome a machine or technology.



Most often, the encounter with the machine or technology is through the character's own doing. For example, it may be technology or a machine that they created, purchased, or owned with the assumption that it would make their life easier.



Over time the protagonist must overcome the technology - in some instances, even destroying it before it destroys them.

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