

Book Club Meeting #3: Conflict

Quickly review the kinds of conflict that appear in literature:

- **Individual versus Individual:** A protagonist and an antagonist find themselves at odds with each other. Usually, one has a great deal more power than the other, and they both struggle to control a situation, to keep safe, or to win in some manner.
- **Individual versus Society:** A protagonist finds her/himself at odds with the values of a society. These values could be connected to a school, a neighbourhood, a culture, a church, a social group, or any other group where “normal” behaviour is defined.
- **Individual versus Self:** A protagonist is at odds with her/himself. This can occur when an individual’s head says one thing and heart says another, or when an individual is suffering from mental stress or illness.
- **Individual versus Nature or the Supernatural:** These two kinds of conflict are not part of our study in these novels. The first involves a protagonist struggling physically against the forces of nature, like a storm or extreme cold. The second involves a protagonist trying to come to terms with forces beyond human comprehension, like ghosts, vampires, or wizards.

Tell students that their task today is to examine the kinds of conflict that have appeared so far in the novel, and to think about where these might lead. This would be a good point at which to remind students who have read ahead of section three of the novel not to spoil the story for those who aren’t as far along in the reading. Predictions should be predictions, not known details. If everyone has read ahead, ask them to suggest what else could have happened, rather than what did happen.

Distribute **Concept Map: Conflict (3.0H)** to be used in the Book Club meeting. This map is adapted from *Think Literacy: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7 – 12, 2003*, p54. Students will discuss answers together, but each will complete a copy of the map.

Instruct students to move into the Book Club meeting. The first topic of each meeting should be what has happened so far in the novel. Any questions or confusions should be dealt with, and surprises discussed. The bookmark questions can serve as a starting place for this discussion.

Instruct students to complete the **Concept Map: Conflict (3.0H)**.

Add any new details found to the **Issues Web (1.0H)** started at the first Book Club meeting.

If the teacher wishes, in the last ten minutes of class, distribute the **Small-group Discussion Reflection Sheet (1.1H)**, and tell students to reflect on their participation in the small-group discussions that have taken place. This sheet is

adapted from *Think Literacy: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7 – 12, 2003*,
p161.

3.0H

Concept Map: Conflict

