

## Internal and external conflicts

**External conflict:** When a character has problems with someone OUTSIDE OF HIM/HERSELF. For example, a boy has problems with another student, with his mother, with the government, with a gang.

**Internal conflict:** When a character has problems with something INSIDE HIM/HERSELF. For example, a girl has problems with self esteem, controlling her anger, stopping herself from doing bad things, with sadness or loneliness or other strong negative emotions.

**Directions:** Read each conflict. If it is an external conflict, write "E" on the line. If it is an internal conflict, write "I" on the line.

\_\_\_\_1. Ramona gets in a lot of fights. Most of the time she starts them and she knows its her fault, but she cannot control herself when she gets angry.

\_\_\_\_2. John gets in a lot of fights with his brother. His brother is older and he is a bully. He is not respectful to John.

\_\_\_\_3. Amy is walking to the bathroom in the middle of the night. All of the lights are off and it is completely dark. She is almost too afraid to continue walking.

\_\_\_\_4. Amy is walking to the bathroom in the middle of the night. All of the lights are off but she knows the way. Suddenly lightning strikes her house and she smells fire.

\_\_\_\_5. Aliens come to Earth and try to take over everything.

\_\_\_\_6. Aliens come to Earth and try to be friends with humans. Anna doesn't care if they're friendly. She's terrified.

Now, write TWO (2) examples of your own of external conflicts. Then, write TWO (2) examples of internal conflicts. Use your imagination.

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