Literary Analysis: Conflict

Conflict is a struggle between opposing forces.

- In an external conflict, a character clashes with an outside force—for example, another character, society, or nature.

- In an internal conflict, a character grapples with his or her own opposing feelings, beliefs, needs, or desires.
Conflict drives the plot of most stories. Its solution usually occurs near the end of the story, in the \textit{resolution}.

When a story’s conflict is left unresolved, the character may have an \textit{epiphany}, or sudden flash of insight that changes his or her feelings about the conflict.

Some epiphanies can also lead to a plot’s resolution, or result from one.

As you read, notice the conflicts that characters face and decide which ones truly are resolved.