

Conflict

There are two types of conflicts – Internal and External.

Internal – conflicts that deal with the personalities of your protagonists; how they think; how they react; how they confront different things. Do they see the glass as half empty or half full? Check back with your characterisation exercise and see if you can't figure out how they might react in different scenarios.

External – conflicts that come from outside factors. Do your protagonists live on opposite sides of the country? Do they have met online? Is there danger around? Have they changed jobs? Have they been diagnosed with cancer.

The *external* conflict should bring a out a multitude of *internal* conflicts. &ll looks' mo"ies' T (shoes ha"e oth external and internal conflicts. \$a"e a look at your fa"ourite shows)mo"ies) ooks and write down what these might e. The more you can re"erse#engineer conflicts like this' the more the concepts of internal and external conflicts will solidify in your mind and will naturally come out when you're doing your characterisation' world uilding and story structure.

*emem er to gi"e your characters + likes and + dislikes – and during your story' make them do all + of things on the !dislike! list. ,ut your characters in a hole and throw stones at them. - hat are their *goals*? - hat do they want to achie"e? - hat are their *motivations* for achie"ing these things? . oth the *goals* and *motivations* will help strength your conflicts.

Eg/

Goal Our character wants to tra"el.

Motivation - hy do they want to tra"el? To see the world? To explore new places? To meet new people? To get away from a ad situation? To start again?

Conflict - hat will happen with they arri"e? - ill they find somewhere to li"e)o ? - ill their passport get stolen along the way? - ill they run out of money? - hat if they ha"e an accident' do they end up in hospital? - hat a out the language arrier? Can they accept different cultures? - hat ad things might happen? - hat good things might happen? - ill their past catch up with them?

The 3uestions keep on coming and in honing in on *why* your character wants to tra"el 4moti"ation5' you can direct oth the external and internal conflicts in order to wring out of them e"ery drop of emotion.

Check the genre you're writing for. - hat sort of external and internal conflicts come ust from genre? &d"enture? *omance? - estern? \$istorical? \$orror? 6ci#7i?

*emem er to look at your structure – &ristotle's Incline – to ensure that your conflicts keep raising the tension etween your protagonists. 6it down and do more plotting if you need to in order to a"oid ha"ing a sagging middle. Conflicts are there to keep the tension tight' to keep the story mo"ing and to help your characters to disco"er the *real* person inside.