

Conflict Practice

name: _____

Person vs... self, nature, society, person

Internal/external

1. John's hands trembled in the cold as he fished through his coat pockets for a match. He had already gathered scraps of wood and piled them up to make a fire. Now, he had to figure out how to kindle it. The sun had already set and all light was quickly fading from the sky; John could feel the temperature dropping just as rapidly. Without a match, there was no way to get this fire going, and without a fire, he wasn't sure how he would survive the night. Nobody knew he was stuck out there, alone, without food or shelter. His best hope was to try to avoid freezing, then head out at dawn to find help.

Type of conflict: _____

2. As the bus pulled up to the stop, Renee steadied herself and slowly walked toward the edge of the sidewalk. Ever since the fire, her life has taken an unexpected path. She was once beautiful, with bright blue eyes, rosy lips, and a head of dark, curly hair. Now, she shuffled slowly and had to be careful to not bump her delicate, scarred skin. The fire that burned down her home also attacked her. Instead of a light, vivacious 25-year-old, Renee resembled a 90 year old woman -- bald, twisted, and hunched over. Inside, she felt normal and glad to be alive. Outside, she was unrecognizable and frightening. She sensed the other passengers shifting impatiently as the lift slowly lowered in order for her to step onto the bus. Impatience grew as she slowly fumbled for her bus card. That impatience turned into horror as she turned to find a seat. Nobody wanted to look at the disfigured and scarred face, let alone sit next to it. Renee wanted to scream, "I'm just a person! I'm just like you!" but she had learned to suppress that urge and accept the fact that she was forever an outsider. A freak.

Type of conflict: _____

3. Mike hit the snooze button for the fifth time. He had to get up now, or else he'd be late again. After the usual cereal and coffee, stepped into the bathroom to shave and brush his teeth. Every morning, he had the same conversation with his reflection in the mirror. "Today's the day," he thought, "Today I am going to quit. I'm going to walk right into Mr. Maloney's office and tell him what I think about this stupid job, and then I'll quit. I'll leave today." Even as he rehearsed his final speech, he knew that it would never happen. The thought of being unemployed terrified him, and he was too much of a coward to speak his mind to his boss. Instead, he would work another day at a job he hated. The next morning, he began again. "Today's the day. Today I am going to quit."

Type of conflict: _____

4. I was just about to beat my high score in Call of Duty when my mom walked into the room and stood directly in front of the TV screen. "Mom! What are you doing?!" In her hand was a folded piece of paper. My report card must have arrived. This was about to get ugly. "Exactly *when* were you going to tell me that you are failing three classes?! You're failing gym! How do you fail gym??" I rolled my eyes and sighed, and that just made things worse. I could tell that she was waiting for me to respond, so I said, "God, Mom. It's not a big deal. I'll bring my grades up." This was probably the dumbest thing I could have said, because her face turned a deep scarlet. "Your father and I have sacrificed way too much to send you to the best school in the city. It is VERY MUCH a big deal that you are nearly failing out," she said, her voice about twice the normal volume. I responded, "Yeah, well, I didn't ask for you to make any sacrifices for me, so sorry if I don't care about that stupid school as much as you do."

Type of conflict: _____

5. The story of Rosa Parks is a well-known one, but few people are familiar with Ms. Parks's full history. She was not a woman who simply "didn't want to move" as we were often told in elementary school. In fact, she had a long history of activism with the NAACP and the Voters' League in the long fight for civil rights. Parks spent many years working with a network of African Americans, staging peaceful protests around Birmingham, Alabama. Regardless, her act of refusing to give up her seat on the bus on December 1, 1955 marked a powerful moment when a single woman refused to bow to the racism that surrounded her.

Type of conflict: _____

6. Janet stared the horse Rowan in the eye. Rowan was an impatient and testy young horse, and it was Janet's job to break him in. Every day after school, she would ride her bike 5 miles out to the stables to groom, walk, and, hopefully, ride Rowan. He usually tried to run away from her or bucked around until she fell off, but it was only a matter of time before he became accustomed to her presence. Janet checked the tightness of the saddle straps, stuck her foot into the stirrup, and flung her other leg over the horse. The moment her weight landed on Rowan's back, he took off at a full gallop across the field. Janet clenched the reins, bouncing in the saddle. Just when she thought she was steady, Rowan reared back. She lost her grip and fell flat onto her back on the muddy ground. "Oh well," she thought as she picked herself up, "Try, try again."

Type of conflict: _____

7. Hector and his father had a very contentious relationship. Whenever his father would come home late, Hector yelled at him for not being there to take care of the family. Hector hated how his father would rather be out partying with his friends, rather than eating dinner with his mom and little sister. When his dad was home, he treated the whole family like dirt. He ordered Hector's mom around like a servant and told her to shut up whenever she complained. Even worse, Hector feared that he would become like his father himself one day. He noticed that he sometimes used his dad's phrases when his little sister was bugging him, and sometimes he told his mom to bring him some food, without asking or saying thank you. The feeling of acting like his dad was frightening, and it pushed him to work hard in school. If he could go to a good college and provide for his family, he thought, then he would become the man that his father never was.

Type of conflict: _____

Raymond's Run:

The Necklace:

Antaeus: