**CONFLICT IN LITERATURE**

In literature, conflict is the central issue and makes the story move. Short stories have one conflict, while novels have many. Literary conflict includes internal conflict, also called man vs. self, and external conflict, which includes man vs man, man vs nature, and man vs society. The way conflict is used and how the conflicts are resolved are all determined by the type of story being told.

**Internal Conflict**

**Man vs. Self** Internal conflict is that which exists inside the character. Struggles with morality, fate, desire, and belief. This form of conflict is central to the character or characters and must be resolved by the character alone. Every good character suffers from the weight of internal conflict. It lends them an air of complex believability. Internal conflict is necessary for good characters, but it’s the least complicated form of conflict.

**External Conflict**

Unlike internal conflict, external conflict deals with the problems of the world. It happens when characters are involved in the world’s woes, such issues as community, nature, government, and other characters. External conflict manifests itself as man vs man, man vs nature, or man vs society.

**Man vs Man** This is the most fundamental type of external conflict. This form occurs when a character struggles against another character. These struggles may be born from moral, religious or social differences, and may be emotional, verbal, or physical conflicts. Man vs man is almost always the conflict present when a hero fights a villain.

**Man vs Nature** Conflict which occurs when a character or characters find themselves at odds with forces of nature.

**Man vs Society** This external conflict exists when characters struggle against the morals of their culture and government or character’s battle evil, oppressive cultures. An example of man vs society is Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451, which is a novel about a fireman who, though his job is to burn books, secretly collects them.

While conflict in literature can be complex, knowing the basics is key to understanding how to conflict is built and how it affects the story. *These elements of conflict can appear both individually and together with one another, but one of them must exist for the story to exist.*

**PLN Type 3 Short Response – DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 20th**

Based on the four major conflicts above, **what is the #1 driving conflict** that Tom Benecke has to deal with in the short story “Contents of a Dead Man’s Pocket”?

*FCA #1: Three (3) Buzz Words used correctly in-context*

*FCA #2: NO repetition; NO “wasted words”*

*FCA #3: Include TWO (2) quotes from the text to defend your argument.*