

## “Conflict” Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Mr. Stark’s Class  
General Smallwood Middle School Charles County, Maryland

1	What did you say, man?	12	Or like in <u>The Outsiders</u> —Ponyboy is a smart kid and a good student, but the Greasers he hangs out with are delinquents.
2	I said I don’t like the way you’re looking at me.	13	So he can’t break away from them because they are like family to him.
1	Oh yeah?	1	I get it.
2	Yeah!	2	What about when a character has a problem with something bigger—like school, the law, or traditions?
1	Well, what are you going to do about it?	1	Yeah—isn’t that a kind of conflict?
2	I’m going to....	All	Yes—it’s Character vs. Society.
3	[interrupting] Oh! I believe you two are having a conflict!	14	Remember John and Lorraine in <u>The Pigman</u> ? They can’t follow school rules and they both skip school and lie about it.
1,2	A what?	1	Hey! You had a conflict with society that time you....
4	A conflict—it’s a problem...	2	Shhhh! [clears throat] Next kind of conflict, please.
5	or disagreement or fighting.	All	Character vs. Nature! [sound effect][gesture]
6	We learned all about it in English class, right everyone?	15	That’s when a character has a problem caused by some force of nature.
All	Right! In literature, conflict is the struggle between two opposing forces.	2	Like when a tornado comes and blows down your house.
7	There are five types of conflict.	3	Good example. And remember when Ponyboy’s older brother smacks him and he tries to run away, but it’s too cold outside [sound effect]
1	What type is ours?	All	so eventually he goes back home.
8	I would say Character vs. Character, wouldn’t you?	4	Okay, so now we got four types of conflict. What’s the last one?
All	Ummmm hmmmm.	1	Character vs. Fate. [sound effect][gesture]
9	Like in <u>The Pigman</u> —Norton didn’t like it when John kept secrets from him.	5	That’s when a character has a problem with a greater force... ...such as Fate, Luck, or God.
10	Or in <u>The Outsiders</u> when	6	
Left	The Greasers [gesture]		
Rght	rumble with the Socs. [gesture]		
	[sound effect]		
2	Okay, okay. That’s one. What’s another type of conflict?		
All	Character vs. Self. [gesture][sound effect]		
11	It’s when a character struggles with a physical problem or an inner emotional problem.		
1	Like when a kid does something she knows she shouldn’t do, but just does it to be like her friends?		
All	Right!		

7	Sometimes it's like when someone is in	All	That's Character vs. Character. [sound effect] [gesture]
All	"the wrong place at the wrong time!" [sound effect][gesture]	1	Whatever.
2	Right, like remember the time you were at the mall and .....	2	Thanks for the conflict information. Maybe I'll use it if I decide to study for the English test.
1	[interrupting] Yeah, I remember. But let's talk about literary characters.	All	That's Character vs. Self. [sound effect] [gesture]
8	Ponyboy, Darry, and SodaPop's parents are killed in a car wreck.	2	Whatever.
9	This causes great difficulty for them as they grow up.	1	[To #2] Hey, they know a lot about this stuff. Think they could help us with Math?
10	In <u>The Pigman</u> , poor Mr. Pignati keeps having bad things happen to him.	2	Maybe. Ask them tomorrow.
All	Dude!	1	You ask them. Why should I have to ask?
1	[looks at watch] Hey, I'd better get going or I'll be in a big conflict with my mother.	2	Because I'm always the one who has to do the asking.
		1	Are not.
		2	Am too.
		All	Conflict: It's a big problem!