

Understanding Conflict

Conflict plays the central role in the development of the plot, characters, and theme of a short story. Types of conflict that exist in literature include *person vs person*, *person vs nature*, *person vs supernatural (or technology)*, *individual vs society*, and *individual vs. self*.

Directions: Fill in the chart below with specific examples of conflict from the short story, what type of conflict is typified by the example, and an explanation of why the example is significant to the story.

Specific Example	Type of Conflict	Explanation
George and Lydia find something not quite right in the nursery.	Person vs Person	On the surface, this appears to be a classic person vs. technology conflict, but its not the technology that’s opposing George and Lydia. It’s Peter and Wendy. The nursery is simply a manifestation of their displeasure with their parents.