

Lesson 7: Conflict

Getting Started

? Questions to Explore

- How does the weather affect people, plants, and animals?



Facts and Definitions

- **Conflict** refers to the main problem that the characters face in the story. Conflict can be between a character and another character, between the character and the environment, or between the character and himself or herself.

⦿ Skills

- Connect and compare information within and across selections (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama) to personal experience and knowledge. (LA)
- Explain and describe new concepts and information in own words (e.g., plot, setting, major events, characters, author's message, connections, topic, key vocabulary, key concepts, text features). (LA)
- Draw and discuss visual images based on text description. (LA)
- Produce a summary of a text. (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Tornado* by Betsy Byars, Doron Ben-Ami
- journal
- crayons or colored pencils

Introduction

Tell your child that something happens in this chapter that makes Pete very upset. Let him guess what might happen that would make Pete upset.

Reading and Questions

Ask your child to read Chapter 6 and then ask him the following questions.

1. Describe the saddest day of Pete's life.

After going to town, Pete finds out who Tornado actually belongs to and has to give him back. Pete is carrying a bag of nails and drops them. He feels like they were nailing him into place.

2. Have you ever had a sad day? What happened?

Answers will vary.

3. Do you think Pete's father should have told the man it was Pete's dog? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

4. Was it right for Pete's father to give the dog to the girl?

Answers will vary.

5. How do you think the girl feels after she thinks the tornado took her dog?

Answers will vary but might include sad, awful, worried, or anxious.

6. What would you have done if you were Pete in this situation?

Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Journal Entry

Your child can record his chapter summary and draw his event illustration in his journal.

Activity 2: Story Conflict

Explain to your child that most books have what is called conflict. **Conflict** refers to the main problem that the characters face in the story. Conflict can be between a character and another character, between the character and the environment, or between the character and himself or herself. There are two different stories within this book, so there are two conflicts. Ask your child if he can describe the two different stories (the tornado on the farm and the story of Pete and his dog, Tornado).

Give your child the page called "Story Conflict." Review the different kinds of conflict that can occur in a story. (They are written at the top of the page.) Ask your child to name the different types of conflict. Provide examples of conflicts in other stories he has read.

Ask your child to explain the conflict or problem of the boy on the farm who is listening to Pete's story. (There is a tornado on the farm and the boy's dad is stuck outside). On the page, ask your child to dictate a sentence that describes the boy's conflict (Conflict #1) and record it on the line. Next, ask him to label the type of conflict (character vs. nature). Then he can illustrate the conflict in the box.

Optional

If time permits complete the last half of the page.

On the bottom half of the page, ask your child to explain the main conflict in Pete's stories about Tornado. (Pete loses Tornado to the dog's original owner). Then he can describe the type of conflict (character vs. character). Ask him to illustrate the conflict in the box.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to describe the different types of conflict. Review the idea that characters can have conflict with the environment, and often this conflict involves weather, such as blizzards, tornadoes, or hurricanes.

Life Application

Read different storybooks with your child over the next few days and ask him to identify the types of conflict in each story.

Story Conflict

Directions: Write a sentence to describe the conflict the boy at the beginning of the story is involved in. Illustrate the conflict and label the type.

Story Conflict Types:

- character vs. character
- character vs. self
- character vs. nature

Conflict #1:	Illustration:
Type:	

Directions: Describe the main conflict that occurs in Pete's stories about Tornado. Label the type of conflict and then illustrate it.

Conflict #2:	Illustration:
Type:	