Internal and External Conflict
What is Conflict?

- A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces.
- There are two main kinds of conflict in stories: *internal* and *external*. 
Internal Conflict

- A struggle that takes place in a character's mind is called internal conflict. For example, a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two solutions to a problem. Sometimes, a character must deal with his or her own mixed feelings or emotions.

- Character vs. Self
External Conflict

A struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. Characters may face several types of outside forces. The outside force may be another character. It may be the community. The outside force may also be forces of nature. For example, a story might be the main character struggling against the arctic cold.
External Conflict

- Character vs. Character (Harry Potter vs. Voldemort)
- Character vs. Nature (Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz”)
- Character vs. Society (Shrek from “Shrek”)
So, what’s the difference?

- An **internal conflict** is just that– a conflict that takes place internally. This is better known as character vs. self.

- An **external conflict** is a conflict that can be seen physically. We know external conflicts as character vs. character, character vs. nature, and character vs. society.
Is it internal or external?

- The Wizard of Oz
- The Day After Tomorrow
- Alice in Wonderland (1:36)
- A League of Their Own