

6**Conflict**

Review A **conflict** is a struggle between two opposing forces in the plot of a story or novel. An **external conflict** occurs when a character struggles against an outside force, such as nature, society, or another person. An **internal conflict** takes place within a character's own mind.

Directions: First **read** this story. Then **complete** the graphic organizer. **Look** for one example of each type of conflict in the story.

When our clothes dryer bit the dust, Dad decided not to replace it. "We have other options," he explained, opening a bag from Stevens Hardware, "and they include two pulleys, 500 feet of rope, and clothespins. We'll save money, and help save our poor planet too!"

The next morning, Dad and I lugged a basket of wet laundry out to the new clothesline. There was something pleasant about hanging clothes in the bright sunshine. By lunch, however, bright feelings faded as quickly as the sunshine. "My laundry!" Dad screamed, as the downpour beat on the kitchen window. Grabbing the empty basket, he raced to the yard. Five minutes later he was back, dripping wet.

By two, the rain had stopped, and Dad and I rehung the wet laundry. No sooner had we finished than our neighbor called. "No, Mrs. Nelson, I suppose you don't like staring at laundry. . . . Of course, we want to be good neighbors," Dad added with a pained look. "Well, if you want to complain to the neighborhood association, go ahead!" Dad slammed the phone. Saving the planet wasn't easy.

At the neighborhood association meeting, Dad was in rare form. Listening to him, you would have thought clotheslines would save America. The board members listened politely, then handed down their verdict: Take down the line or build a fence around it.

Now Dad doesn't know what to do—pay \$2000 to build the fence? Or, buy a new dryer and run it just ten years? "It's the principle of the thing!" he explains, whenever I complain about having to hang laundry on racks in the back hall.

RETEACHING WORKSHEET, CONTINUED

1. Force of Nature

2. Other Character

Dad

3. Society

4. Internal Conflict
