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Date _____

Conflict and Resolution

Conflict is the struggle or problem that drives a story's plot and creates tension. Main types include character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, character vs. society, and character vs. technology. **Resolution** is how the conflict is settled by the story's end. The conflict-resolution pattern reveals themes, develops characters, and provides satisfaction to readers as they see how characters overcome obstacles.

Read the following story excerpt and answer the questions.

The Science Project Partners

Zoe groaned when her science teacher announced that she would be working with Tyler on their ecosystem project.

Tyler was always late with assignments and seemed more interested in basketball than schoolwork. Zoe, on the other hand, had maintained straight A's since fifth grade and had already decided she would become a marine biologist.

"We need to create a schedule," Zoe told Tyler firmly after class. "The project is due in two weeks."

Tyler rolled his eyes. "Relax. We have plenty of time."

Three days later, Zoe had already completed her research on ocean acidification and its effects on coral reefs. Tyler hadn't responded to any of her text messages about meeting up to work on their presentation.

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When Tyler finally showed up to their scheduled library meeting, he was forty minutes late. "Sorry," he mumbled. "Basketball practice went long."

"This isn't going to work," Zoe snapped. "I'm not getting a bad grade because you don't care!"

Tyler looked surprised. "I do care. I just... science is hard for me. My dad says I should focus on sports because that's all I'm good at."

Zoe's anger softened. "That's not true. Everyone can be good at science with practice."

They agreed to a new plan. Zoe would help Tyler understand the research, and he would use his artistic skills to create a model of their reef ecosystem. They met every day after school, and Zoe discovered that Tyler asked thoughtful questions once he understood the basics.

On presentation day, their coral reef model impressed everyone, and Tyler confidently explained how pollution affects marine life. They received an A, and more importantly, they had found a way to work together despite their differences.

1. What is the main conflict in this story?

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2. How does Zoe's understanding of Tyler change during the story?

3. How is the conflict between Zoe and Tyler resolved?

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Conflict and Resolution-**Answer Key**

1. What is the main conflict in this story?

The main conflict is between Zoe and Tyler's different approaches to schoolwork. Zoe is organized and academically focused while Tyler appears irresponsible and prioritizes basketball over academics.

2. How does Zoe's understanding of Tyler change during the story?

Zoe initially sees Tyler as lazy and uncaring about grades. Later she realizes he struggles with science and lacks confidence because of his father's message that he's only good at sports.

3. How is the conflict between Zoe and Tyler resolved?

They create a compromise where each contributes their strengths—Zoe helps Tyler understand the science concepts while Tyler uses his artistic skills for the model. They learn to work together despite differences.