

1. character growth

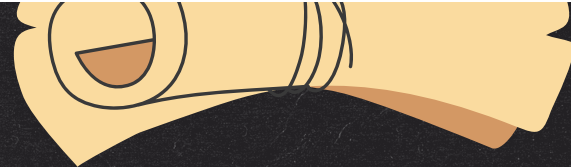
empathise?  
#PUMPED

The Battle Within

EXPLORING INNER  
CONFLICT THROUGH  
CHARACTER  
DESCRIPTIONS

#Agree

more  
relatable



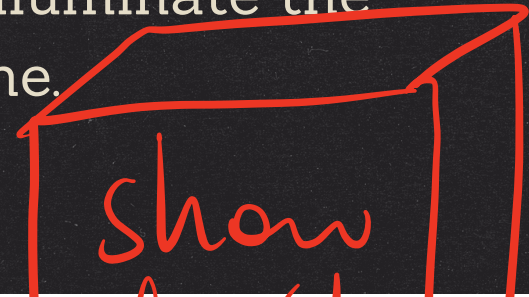
empathy → relate / understand someone else's emotions

# INTRODUCTION

Inner conflict lies at the core of human experience, and it serves as a powerful tool for character development. In this chapter, we will delve into the depths of inner conflict, drawing inspiration from Shakespeare's Hamlet and other literary works. By mastering the art of character descriptions that capture inner turmoil, you will be able to create compelling narratives that resonate with readers and illuminate the complexities of the human psyche.



#diamond  
dear



# CUT

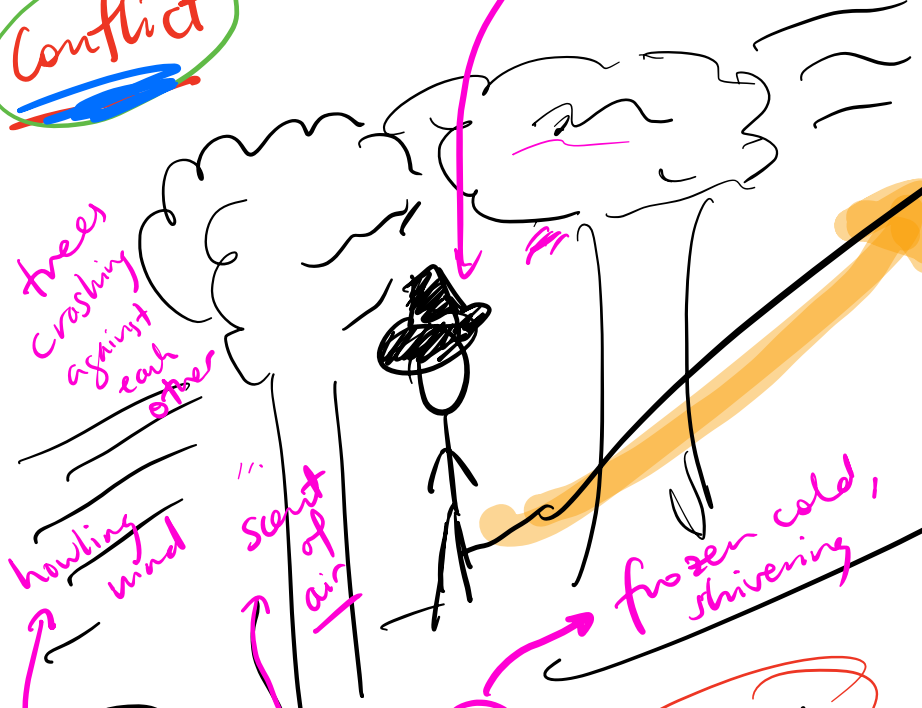
transformation

don't tell

understanding

not relatable  
↳ unfazed, motivated...

Conflict



Mr. Stick's eyes anxiously darted around, cautious for any falling trees. As his knees collapsed like jelly underneath him

Mr. Stick valiantly stared up the mountain without a worry in his mind.

scared  
frightened  
cold  
hungry

anxious

self doubt, conflict.

He realised: how far he had come, and the triumphs he had achieved to get to this point.

With this in mind, Mr Stick confidently progressed.

transformation

Instead of:

Mr Stide was extremely felling anxious and frightened.

Try: → eyes anxiously darted around

→ knees turned to jelly

→ palm filled with sweat

→ his face turned as pale as chalk.

→ trembling...

↓  
simile

#CC

Instead of:

Mr. Stide felt overwhelmingly cold.

felling

→ Chattering teeth → like a  
rattling doorknob

→ Goosebumps → rising like tiny  
nails picking his  
skin

→ Shivering

↳ like an electric  
toothbrush

# INNER CONFLICT: THE CRUCIBLE OF THE SOUL

Inner conflict refers to the emotional and psychological struggle experienced by a character as they grapple with opposing desires, beliefs, or moral dilemmas.

By understanding the crucible of the soul, you can create character descriptions that unveil the complexities and contradictions within a character, providing insight into their motivations, fears, and internal battles.

*do his job, protect studies*      *protect society* ↓



Mrs. Stieck

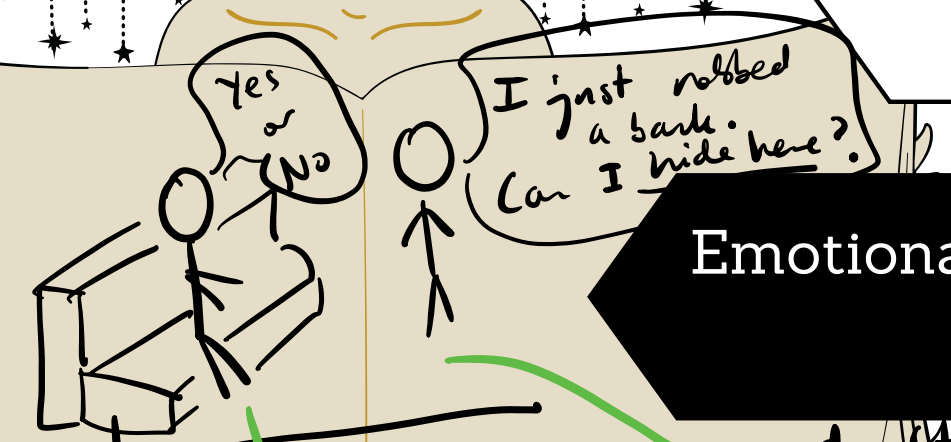
# EXAMPLES



Conflicting **desires** that tug at the character's heart and soul

**Moral dilemmas** that test their values and beliefs

#lagoon clear



Emotional **turmoil** that shapes their decisions and actions

doubt & conflict

Doubt flooded through Mr. Stieck's mind as he recalled all

Mr. Stick undoubtedly knew the right thing to do. He called the police immediately.

# EXEMPLARS

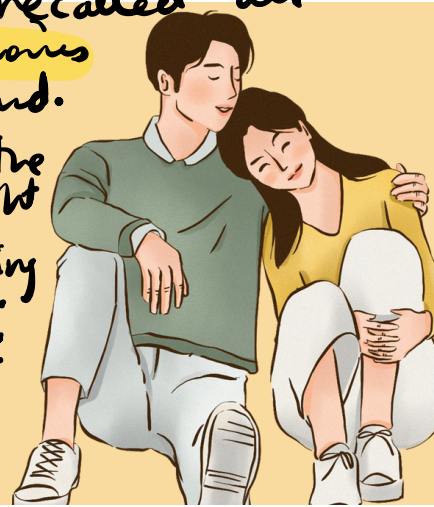
mind as he recalled his fond memories with his friend.

"Within him, a tempest raged, torn between duty and desire. His heart yearned for love and happiness, yet the weight of responsibility pressed upon him like an iron crown, threatening to consume his every thought. His every decision became a battleground, love pitted against honor, and the struggle within him tore at the very fabric of his soul."

simile

metaphor

103



"She stood at the crossroads, her convictions wavering, torn between the path of righteousness and the allure of temptation. The moral compass within her spun in disarray, as the choices before her blurred the line between right and wrong. Each step she took echoed with the weight of consequences, her every decision a reflection of her internal turmoil."

"A maelstrom of emotions churned within, a tempest of anger, grief, and uncertainty. Like a ship caught in a raging storm, his soul was battered by conflicting desires, loyalty clashing with vengeance. The battle raged in his mind, the darkness threatening to consume him, and his every action was a reflection of the chaos within."





# Inner Turmoil

C U T  
— — —  
↓

- a tempest raged
- his every decision became a battleground. → war of emotions
- decisions like piercing arrows
- weight of the world on his shoulders
- his thoughts swirled like a turbulent sea, decisions crashing left and right like ships lost in the turmoil.

# Crystal clear

# HAMLET'S DILEMMA: THE ETERNAL CONFLICT

Hamlet's dilemma in Shakespeare's renowned play serves as an emblematic example of inner conflict, showcasing the timeless struggle faced by a character torn between conflicting thoughts, emotions, and desires.

By examining Hamlet's dilemma, you can gain insights into the complexities of inner conflict and employ descriptive writing techniques to capture the depth and turmoil within your own characters.



#cc

# EXAMPLES



emotions vs reasoning

The existential questions and contemplation of life's purpose

while he lives

far away → →

best friends

The battle between reason and passion

← emotions, desire

logic → reason

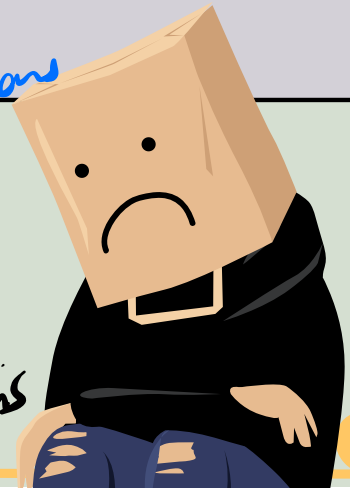
↑ temptation



he couldn't help but feel melancholy, disheartened and indecision → proud.

The paralysis caused by self-doubt

couldn't make up his mind

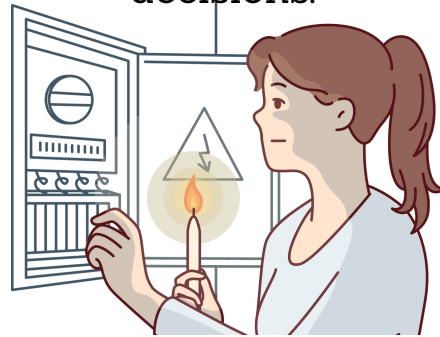


"To be or not to be? The eternal question echoed in his mind, a haunting refrain that probed the depths of his soul. The weight of existence bore down upon him, each breath a reminder of life's fragile and fleeting nature. The contemplation of his purpose became a consuming fire, a relentless inquiry that tore at the very fabric of his being."



# EXEMPLARS

"Reason and passion wrestled within him, their opposing forces clashing like tides in a tumultuous sea. His mind sought logic and clarity, urging him toward measured action and deliberate thought. Yet, the fire of his emotions burned fiercely, threatening to engulf him in a whirlwind of unbridled passions and impulsive decisions."



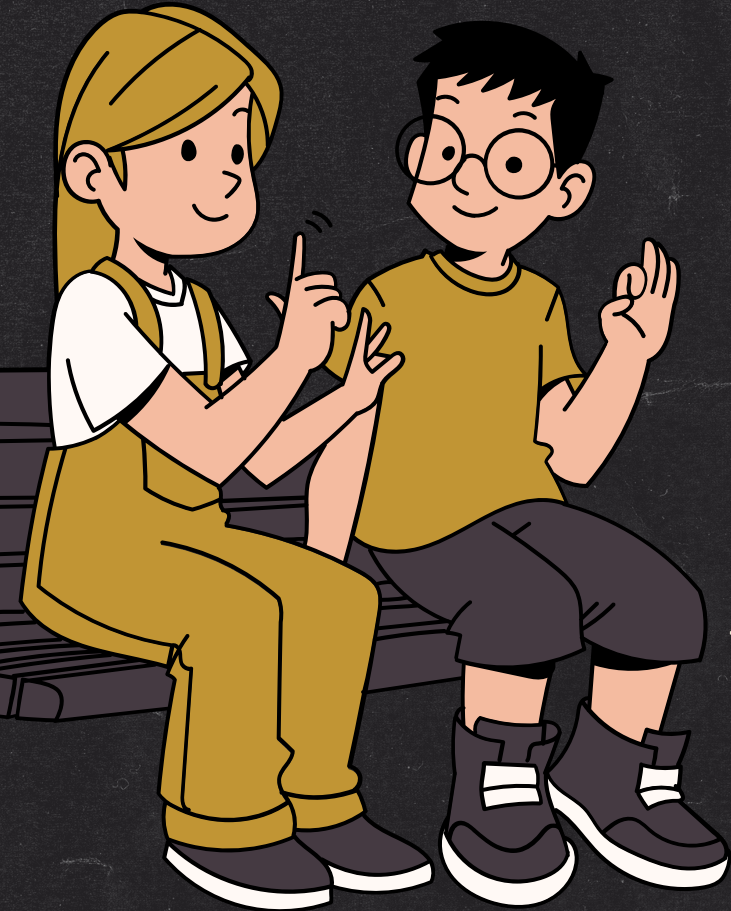
"Indecision gripped him like a vice, paralysing his every step. Self-doubt whispered in his ear, sowing seeds of uncertainty that sprouted into a dense thicket of hesitation. The weight of consequence bore down upon him, as every choice seemed laced with the potential for tragedy. Each moment became a battle, torn between action and inaction, each path fraught with its own perilous consequences."



# DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE: THE INNER LANDSCAPE

Descriptive language allows us to paint a vivid picture of a character's inner landscape, capturing the complexity and depth of their inner conflict.

By employing descriptive language, you can bring the character's internal struggles to life, immersing readers in the turbulent depths of their minds and emotions.





#emerald  
clear

# EXAMPLES

Metaphors and similes that evoke the character's internal turmoil

Vivid sensory details that convey the intensity of their emotions

*more than just usual*

Symbolic imagery that reflects their inner conflict and desires

# EXEMPLARS

"His thoughts were a battlefield, the clash of swords echoing through the chambers of his mind. Doubt and conviction collided like armies in fierce combat, their clashes reverberating like thunderclaps. Each decision was a strategic maneuver, the stakes higher than life itself, as he fought against the forces that threatened to consume him."



"The tempest of emotions churned within him, a seething cauldron of anger, fear, and sorrow. It was as if a hurricane roared in his chest, the winds of passion and despair tearing at his soul. His heart thundered like the crashing waves against the cliffs of his sanity."



"Within his mind's eye, a tapestry of conflicting desires and dreams unfolded. The bright hues of hope clashed with the shadows of doubt, their dance an intricate ballet of light and darkness. His thoughts were a maze, twisting and turning, each path leading deeper into the labyrinth of his inner conflict."



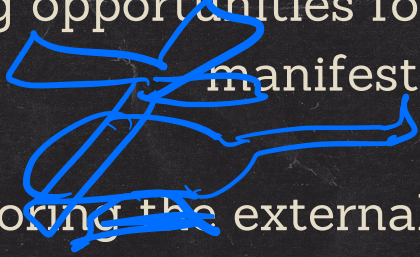
*internal conflict*

# EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS:

## THE VISIBLE SIGNS



Inner conflict often manifests itself through visible signs and behaviors, offering opportunities for character descriptions that reveal the external manifestations of the character's turmoil.



*original life*

*changed character*

By exploring the external manifestations of inner conflict, you can create descriptions that showcase the character's struggle, allowing readers to witness the effects of their internal battles.



*C O U T*

*transformation*

*↳ appreciative,*





*Understanding*  
**EXAMPLES**

Physical gestures and body language that reflect the character's emotional state



*stuttering*  
Changes in speech patterns or tone that betray their inner turmoil

*# ON FIRE*  
Actions and decisions that stem from their conflicting desires and thoughts



*out of 100*

"His hands clenched and unclenched, fingers trembling with the weight of his internal struggle. Each movement spoke volumes, revealing the tension within, the battle raging beneath the surface. His gaze darted, seeking solace and answers, as his body involuntarily responded to the turmoil within."

*restless leg movements*

# EXEMPLARS

"His voice wavered, its timbre betraying the inner tremors that threatened to consume him. The cadence of his speech stuttered, as if each word fought against the invisible shackles of doubt. His tone oscillated between defiance and vulnerability, a reflection of the war waged within his mind."

"In the face of his internal conflict, he was caught in a constant dance of action and hesitation. His steps were hesitant as if walking on shifting sands, each decision made and unmade in a heartbeat. His choices, at once bold and cautious, bore the weight of his fractured desires."



*fingers trembling*

*hands clenched  
fiddling thumbs*



*biting fingernails  
tense shoulders*



# GROWTH AND RESOLUTION: THE JOURNEY TO SELF-UNDERSTANDING

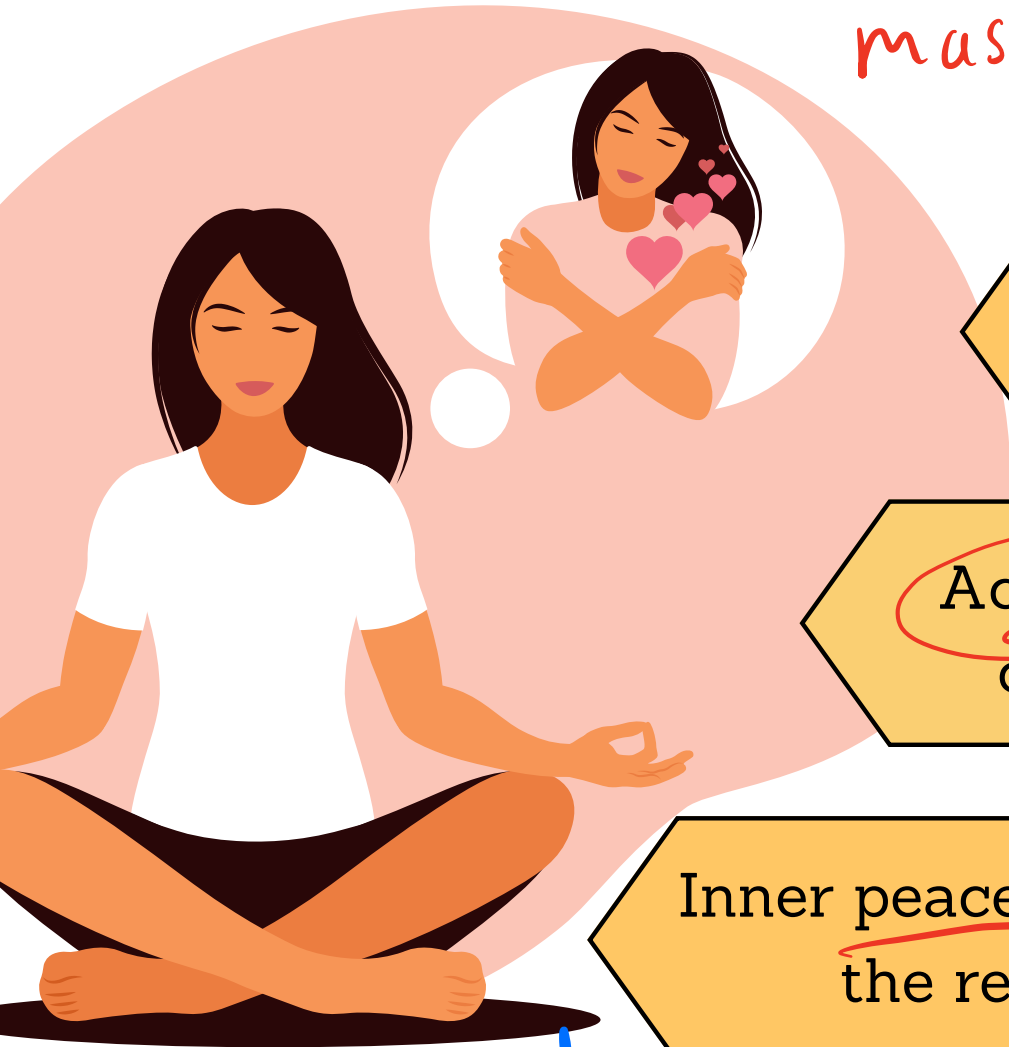


The journey of inner conflict often leads to growth and resolution, as characters navigate the tumultuous terrain of their inner worlds and emerge transformed.

By exploring the character's journey to self-understanding, you can create descriptions that depict their evolution and the resolution of their inner conflict, providing a satisfying arc for readers.

massive realisation

# EXAMPLES



Moments of self-reflection and introspection that lead to epiphanies

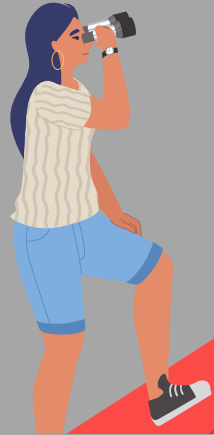
Actions and decisions that reflect the character's growth and resolution

Inner peace and acceptance that emerge from the resolution of conflicting desires

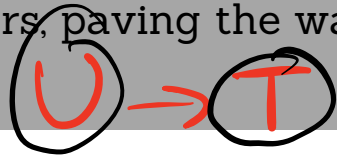
mind

#diary  
clear

# EXEMPLARS



"In the crucible of self-reflection, he found clarity amidst the chaos. His mind cleared like a stormy sky parting to reveal a radiant sun, illuminating the path ahead. With each revelation, the weight of his inner conflict lifted like burdens shed from weary shoulders, paving the way for growth and transformation."



"His actions became resolute, driven by a newfound understanding and purpose. No longer swayed by the tempest within, he forged ahead, propelled by the strength that arose from confronting his inner demons. Each decision was grounded in a deeper knowledge of self, a testament to the growth and resolve that came from navigating the treacherous waters of his soul."

"As the storm of inner conflict subsided, he found solace in the tranquility of self-acceptance. The opposing desires that once waged war within him melded into harmonious coexistence, each strand weaving a tapestry of wholeness. In the quietude of resolution, he discovered a profound inner peace, a beacon that illuminated the path to self-understanding."



# CRAFTING CHARACTERS OF INNER CONFLICT: WEAVING COMPLEXITY

Crafting characters of inner conflict involves developing individuals with depth, contradictions, and transformative journeys that resonate with readers.

By employing the techniques discussed throughout this chapter, you can create descriptions that unveil the complexities of your characters' inner worlds, fostering empathy, and provoking introspection in readers.



*Character must be consistent*  
*interesting*  
*#crystal clear*

*#LIT*

*conflict*



## FORMULA FOR CRAFTING CHARACTERS OF INNER CONFLICT


Inner Conflict: Explore the character's emotional and psychological struggles.

Hamlet's Dilemma: Draw inspiration from the timeless conflicts depicted in literature.

Descriptive Language: Utilise vivid and evocative language to capture the character's inner landscape.

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Growth and Resolution: Craft a journey of self-understanding and transformation.



“

By embracing the intricacies of inner conflict and employing these techniques, you can breathe life into your characters, creating narratives that resonate with readers and illuminate the profound struggles of the human condition.







THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING!

