Conflict is the ground upon which a plot is built. The conflict between opposing forces determines which actions the characters will take and the sequence in which those actions will occur. Stories rarely involved a single conflict. More often, several conflicts of different types are intermingled, challenging the characters in a variety of ways. An internal conflict occurs within a character’s mind. An external conflict takes place between the characters or between characters and the forces of nature. A fight-to-the-end contest between two enemies in an adventure story is an example of a physical external conflict; however, external conflicts need not be physical or violent. A quiet disagreement between two friends is also an external conflict.

Directions: “The Interlopers” is a brief story, but it involves more than one type of conflict. On the lines below, briefly describe the story situations that illustrate the type of conflict named.

1. external conflict/person against nature

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. external conflict/person against person

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

3. internal conflict/person against self

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Directions: Although the ending of the story is resolved based on the external conflict of man against nature, the author clearly focused on another type of conflict throughout the story. Identify the type of conflict you consider most central to the story and explain why you think it is the most important in the story.

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_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
Stories are usually built around **conflict**, or a struggle between opposing forces. A conflict may be **internal**, or inside the mind of a character. An **external** conflict is between a character and an outside force. That outside forced may be another character or an aspect of society or nature. The **resolution** is the part of the plot in which the conflict is finally resolved. However, not all storied offer resolution to their conflicts, or a writer may only imply the resolution to a conflict without stating it directly.

Directions: Identify the conflict in each passage listed in the following chart. Tell whether it is internal or external and name the two opposing sides in the conflict. Then tell how each conflict is resolved. When you are done, answer the question that follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Opposing Forces</th>
<th>Type of Conflict</th>
<th>Is Conflict Resolved?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ulrich von Gradwitz patrolled the dark forest in quest of a human enemy.</td>
<td>Ulrich von Gradwitz and George Znaeym</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A fierce shriek of the storm had been answered by a splitting crash over their heads, and ere they could leap aside a mass of falling beech tree had thundered down on them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. In the pain and languor that Ulrich himself was feeling the old fierce hatred seeming to be dying down.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. “I can see figures coming through the wood. They are following the way I came down the hillside.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. How do you think the final external conflict between the two men and the wolves will be resolved? Why do you think Saki chose not to resolve this conflict in the story?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________