

Conflict in *The Chrysalids*

What is Conflict?

Conflict is the clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills within a story. There are 3 types of conflict, but importantly a story may feature one, two, or even all three at one time. Ask yourself, “what is the problem in the story?” “What does the protagonist want but can’t have?” It is critical to be aware of conflict in a story as it is transcending and is the element that drives the plot in both escapist and interpretive fiction.

While conflict can be considered as a negative, it also can be thought of as a positive. Think of what these philosophers have said.

Seneca (classical Roman theorist) said, “Fire is the test of gold; adversity is the test of strong men.”

Nietzsche (modern nihilistic philosopher) wrote less metaphorically, “That which does not kill you only makes you stronger.”

Assignment Description:

For this assignment, students will be required to write a well developed literary composition (of 5 paragraphs) on the topic of conflict in the novel *The Chrysalids* of about 350 words. Given the time pressure of this assignment, planning is of the essence. Students should approach the topic in this way.

- First, identify the forms of conflict that are present in the novel and list the examples demonstrating this.
- Second, consider how David is restricted by the conflict. What does he want? What can’t he have? Brainstorm and list your proof
- Third, think how he emerges for the better by triumphing over his conflict.
- Fourth and last, plan how you will arrange your information into 5 paragraphs.

Criteria:

- Narrow the topic
- Plan essays by using the outline
- thesis statement
- development of ideas
- spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- clear concluding paragraph
- unity and coherence
- originality of ideas

This assignment is worth 24 marks and will be graded using the holistic six scale

Literary Essay Outline

Introduction:

Paragraph One

i. Opening Sentence

ii. Identify three main ideas

iii. Topic sentence

Body:

Paragraph Two: First Point

i. Introductory sentence for first point supporting the thesis

ii. Evidence to support point

iii. Evidence and transition sentence to the next paragraph

Paragraph Three: Second Point

i. Introductory sentence for second point supporting the thesis

ii. Evidence to support point

iii. Evidence and transition sentence to the next paragraph

Paragraph Four: Third Point (Usually Your Strongest Point)

i. introductory sentence for third point

ii. evidence

iii. evidence and closing comment/observation

Conclusion:

Paragraph Five

i. Re-stated thesis statement

ii. Review of main points

iii. General statements (last chance to persuade or other final observations)