

**6****Conflict and Suspense**

**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 mind. **Suspense** is the excitement or unease readers feel as they wait to find out how a conflict is resolved.

**Directions:** First, **read** the following three passages. Then, **complete** the graphic organizer. **Describe** the forces in the conflict in each passage (Example: “against nature”). Then **identify** the conflict as internal or external.

**Passage 1:** The tremor came just as Doug was going to bed. He made it to the door jamb of the bedroom just as the ceiling started to crumble. Tonight was his first night in California, and he didn’t have a clue how he was going to get out of his Grandmother’s old Victorian.

**Passage 2:** Color was important on Lone Pine Island. The zoning code dictated that all homes must be painted white, beige, or pale gray. So when Annie Marcoux decided to paint her house purple, she hired a crew of a dozen men to finish the job in a day. She believed she had a right to choose her own house color. And she was willing to fight the Zoning Board about it. But she didn’t want the fight to begin until the job was done.

**Passage 3:** The man was two steps out of his tent when he saw the bear. They stared at one another for a moment. The bear growled. The man froze. The bear took a step forward. The man took a step back. Then another step. He reached down for a bag of chocolate chip cookies, and tossed it toward the bear. The bear grabbed the bag, and the man said a prayer.

Passage	Conflict	Internal or External
1.		
2.		
3.		

4. In what passage is the suspense *least* intense? Explain your answer.

---



---