

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS: HIGH SCHOOL

Conflict #1: The Book Battle

Background: William and Sarah are two of the best art students in school. They both want to study art in college and both are trying to qualify for a special scholarship. They are in the same advanced-placement art class and have the same end-of-the-term project, due a week from the day the conflict occurs.

Specific situation: William and Sarah see each other in the school library, say hello, and go their separate ways. They end up at the same place at the same time, the reference desk, asking for the same book. The reference librarian says she has the book and asks who to check it out to. They both say “me,” and an argument starts. Sarah says she *needs* the book to complete her project, and William says the same thing. The librarian says that if they don’t quiet down, they will have to leave and neither of them will get the book. The librarian then agrees to hold the book for 30 minutes while Sarah and William figure things out.

Conflict #2: He’s My Man—Or Is He?

Background: Mary and Tara have been good friends for six years. They are both good students, interested in getting good grades.

Specific situation: Mary has been going out with Joe for 4 months. She really likes Joe and thinks he likes her just as much. The Spring Dance is coming up, and Mary assumes she is going with Joe. In fact, they have already talked about the dance and about where they would go afterward. Out of nowhere, Joe calls Tara up and asks her to the dance. Tara accepts, assuming that Mary has broken up with Joe. At school the next day, Mary hears some people talking about the dance. She can’t believe it when they say that her Joe is going with her friend Tara. Mary is furious. She waits for Tara at lunch and accuses her of stealing her boyfriend. The girls start yelling and end up in the dean’s office.



Conflict #3: Social Studies Stuff

Background: Mr. Sarantennello is the best social studies teacher in school. He really makes things interesting. One of his best assignments is a research project that students do in teams of two. On this project, Rafael and Dawn are working as a team. Every time they go to the library, Dawn spends all of her time going through books looking for new ideas and additional material. Rafael has been working on the actual writing, and he wants to finish the outline. He is concerned that they will not finish on time and he also feels that he is doing all the work. Dawn thinks that she has been finding good information and that the project will be really good because of the research she is doing. She has no doubt they will finish on time—maybe *just* on time, but still on time. Rafael always has his work in early.

Specific situation: Rafael takes a book out of Dawn's hands, closes it, and says, "You are going to help me finish this outline." Dawn picks the book back up, opens it, and says, "Sure, just as soon as I'm through checking this book out. It could really help our project." Rafael replies, "How can you say *our* project when you haven't picked up a pencil?" Dawn gets upset and explains, "I'm creative: I don't work like you do."

