

AI Writers Guild Lesson Plan

Module 4: Lesson 3

MODULE 4: Plot and Story Arc

LESSON 3: Using AI for Conflict and Resolution Crafting

In our next **AI Writers Guild** lesson, "*Using AI for Conflict and Resolution Crafting*," we'll focus on one of the most essential parts of storytelling: conflict. Every great story revolves around a problem that needs to be solved. Whether it's a clash between characters (*man vs. man*), an internal struggle (*man vs. self*), or a fight against societal norms (*man vs. society*), conflict drives the plot and makes readers emotionally invested. You'll work with AI tools to define the central conflict in your novel, detailing exactly what's at stake for your protagonist and how that conflict propels the story forward.

But remember, every **conflict** must lead to **resolution**. In the second part of this lesson, you'll use AI to outline a satisfying resolution to the conflict you've crafted. Does your protagonist triumph over their challenge? Or perhaps they fail but learn something valuable? Whatever you choose, we'll explore how to tie up loose ends and give your readers the conclusion they crave. With AI's help, you'll map out how each element of your conflict builds to the resolution, ensuring that your story arc feels complete and meaningful.

Homework:

- Develop your conflict, resolution, and notate them in your OneNote.
- Share lessons learned about conflicts in Engage.

Watch the Weekly Video:

- <https://logcabinschoolhouse.com/course-catalog>

Materials:

- Worksheet: Crack the Conflict, Solve the Story
- OneNote Structure for Authors
- Lesson Plan

Prompts for Exploring Conflict and Resolution

Hey Trailblazers! You've already learned how important conflict and resolution are to storytelling. Now, it's time to dig deeper and have meaningful conversations with ChatGPT about your story. Below, you'll find prompts to help you brainstorm conflicts, escalate tension, and craft satisfying resolutions. Use these to explore your ideas, from beginner-friendly brainstorming to more advanced tweaks for your novel.

You'll find prompts from **both our worksheet and the lesson video** here—use as many as you want to take your story to the next level!

Exploring Conflict: Start with the Basics

1. **What kind of conflict fits your story best?**
 - *"What are the different types of conflict in storytelling? Can you give me examples of how they might appear in my story?"*
 - *"Here's my story idea: [insert your idea]. Can you suggest possible conflicts that would make it more exciting?"*
 2. **Get specific about your story's conflict.**
 - *"Give me some prompt ideas for exploring conflict within my [ARCHIMEDES] story."*
 - *"Give me three examples of each kind of conflict in terms of my [ARCHIMEDES] story: man vs. man, man vs. self, etc."*
 3. **What's at stake?**
 - *"How can I make the stakes in my story feel higher and more urgent for my protagonist?"*
 - *"What does my protagonist stand to lose if they fail? Can you suggest ways to make the consequences even bigger?"*
 4. **Personalize the conflict to your characters.**
 - *"How can I create a situation where my protagonist's internal conflict mirrors or contrasts with an external conflict?"*
 - *"What are some ways to show my character's motivations and flaws through their response to the conflict?"*
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Turn Up the Drama: Escalating Conflict

5. **Make the conflict more intense.**
 - *"Can you generate some ideas for plot points that might increase in conflict intensity?"*
 - *"What unexpected challenges could my protagonist face that would raise the stakes even higher?"*
6. **Bring the setting into the conflict.**

- *"How can my story's setting make the conflict more difficult for my protagonist?"*
 - *"What unique elements of my world or time period could add to the tension?"*
- 7. Add layers to the story.**
- *"How can I combine a personal conflict (like man vs. self) with a larger external conflict (like man vs. society)?"*
 - *"What are some subtle ways to show my antagonist creating conflict without making them feel one-dimensional?"*
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Crafting Resolutions: Wrapping It Up

- 8. Get ideas for resolving the conflict.**
- *"Here's the conflict we are resolving: [insert your conflict]. Please give me multiple dramatic resolution solution options."*
 - *"Can you suggest a resolution where my protagonist grows as a person but also faces a loss?"*
- 9. Focus on tone and themes.**
- *"I want my story to end on a bittersweet note. Can you help me balance the positive and negative outcomes?"*
 - *"What themes or messages should come through in this resolution? Can you suggest ways to emphasize them?"*
- 10. Leave an impact on your readers.**
- *"What are some creative ways to resolve the conflict so readers feel surprised but satisfied?"*
 - *"Can you help me write a resolution that ties up all loose ends while leaving room for a sequel?"*
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Deep Dive: Advanced Conversations with ChatGPT

- 11. Challenge your story.**
- *"What would happen if my protagonist failed to resolve this conflict? How might their failure shape the rest of the story?"*
 - *"I want a twist where resolving one conflict creates a bigger problem. How could that play out in my story?"*
- 12. Test multiple options.**
- *"Can you suggest three different ways to resolve this conflict, each with a different tone (happy, tragic, bittersweet)?"*
 - *"Here's the current resolution. Can you suggest ways to make it more emotionally powerful?"*
- 13. Get feedback from AI.**
- *"Here's my draft resolution: [insert your idea]. Does it feel satisfying? If not, what could I change?"*

- *"What questions might readers have after this resolution? Can you help me tie up any loose ends?"*
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Genre-Specific Prompts

14. Make your story shine in its genre.

- *"In a fantasy story, how can the resolution reflect the magical world I've created?"*
- *"In a thriller, how can I make the resolution feel intense and action-packed?"*
- *"In historical fiction, how can I craft a resolution that feels true to the time period?"*

15. Play with genre expectations.

- *"How can I resolve this romance novel conflict in a way that feels realistic but still swoon-worthy?"*
 - *"In a mystery, what's a clever way to tie up all the clues while surprising the reader?"*
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Your Mission

Use these prompts to guide your conversations with ChatGPT. Don't stop at one answer—ask follow-up questions, try out different ideas, and see where the conversation leads. The more you explore, the stronger your story will be. Let's write something amazing!

Big Ideas for Conflict and Resolution

- **Understanding Conflict:**
 - Recognize conflict as the heart of storytelling.
 - Identify the five types of conflict (man vs. man, self, society, nature, technology).
 - Tie conflict to the protagonist’s goals, flaws, and growth.
 - Clarify stakes to create tension and urgency.
- **Developing Conflict:**
 - Build escalating challenges to intensify the conflict.
 - Place conflict within the story structure (introduction, rising action, climax).
 - Develop complex antagonists or opposing forces.
 - Use the setting as a source of conflict.
 - Connect conflict to larger themes (e.g., justice, love, loyalty).
- **Crafting Resolutions:**
 - Answer the central conflict and tie up loose ends.
 - Explore resolution styles: happy, tragic, bittersweet, ambiguous, or open-ended.
 - Match the tone of the resolution to the story.
 - Highlight themes or messages through the resolution.
 - Foreshadow the resolution to make it feel earned.
- **Advanced Techniques:**
 - Resolve multiple conflicts in interconnected ways.
 - Incorporate moral complexity where no side “wins” entirely.
 - Reflect character growth in the resolution.
 - Write resolutions that surprise and satisfy readers.
 - Use the resolution to set up sequels or future stories.

CCSS:

Here are the potential standards covered in AI Writers Guild. If you are a teacher who has used these in the past, you could easily review these each week and highlight the ones you are covering. You could also weave in any that you feel AI Writers Guild didn't directly cover but would be easy to touch on alongside this curriculum.

Writing Standards (Grades 6-8)

1. Text Types and Purposes:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3:** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3. A:** Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3. B:** Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

2. Production and Distribution of Writing:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.5:** With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.6:** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently.

3. Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.7:** Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.8:** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Language Standards (Grades 6-8)

4. Conventions of Standard English:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

5. Knowledge of Language:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3:** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

6. Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4:** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5:** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Reading Standards for Literature (Grades 6-8)

7. Key Ideas and Details:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.1:** Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.2:** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot.

8. Craft and Structure:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.

These standards help ensure that students in the AI Writers Guild develop critical writing and analytical skills, understand the narrative structure, and effectively use technology in their writing process.

ISTE Standards for Students

1. Empowered Learner:

- **ISTE 1a:** Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving, and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

- **ISTE 1c:** Students use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.
- 2. **Digital Citizen:**
 - **ISTE 2a:** Students cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.
 - **ISTE 2b:** Students engage in positive, safe, legal, and ethical behavior when using technology, including social interactions online or when using networked devices.
- 3. **Knowledge Constructor:**
 - **ISTE 3a:** Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.
 - **ISTE 3b:** Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility, and relevance of information, media, data, or other resources.
 - **ISTE 3c:** Students curate information from digital resources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions.
- 4. **Innovative Designer:**
 - **ISTE 4a:** Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful, or imaginative solutions.
 - **ISTE 4b:** Students select and use digital tools to plan and manage a design process that considers design constraints and calculated risks.
 - **ISTE 4d:** Students exhibit a tolerance for ambiguity, perseverance, and the capacity to work with open-ended problems.
- 5. **Computational Thinker:**
 - **ISTE 5a:** Students formulate problem definitions suited for technology-assisted methods, such as data analysis, abstract models, and algorithmic thinking in exploring and finding solutions.
 - **ISTE 5b:** Students collect data or identify relevant data sets, use digital tools to analyze them, and represent data in various ways to facilitate problem-solving and decision-making.
 - **ISTE 5c:** Students break problems into component parts, extract key information, and develop descriptive models to understand complex systems or facilitate problem-solving.
- 6. **Creative Communicator:**
 - **ISTE 6a:** Students choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.
 - **ISTE 6b:** Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.
 - **ISTE 6d:** Students publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for their intended audiences.
- 7. **Global Collaborator:**
 - **ISTE 7a:** Students use digital tools to connect with learners from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning.

- **ISTE 7b:** Students use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts, or community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.

Technology Skills Covered:

- **Word Processing and Document Design (Microsoft Word):**
 - Students learn how to structure, format, and present written content effectively, aligning with ISTE standards on creating original works and customizing messages for audiences.
- **Digital Notetaking and Organization (OneNote):**
 - Students develop skills in organizing their research, ideas, and drafts, fostering effective digital organization and planning.
- **Creative Writing and Story Planning (ChatGPT, AI):**
 - Students utilize AI tools to generate ideas, refine prompts, and experiment with storytelling, encouraging innovative design and computational thinking.
- **Research and Information Management (Web Searches, AI Tools):**
 - Students practice gathering, evaluating, and organizing information digitally, reinforcing their ability to construct knowledge and act as informed digital citizens.

By integrating these technology tools into your course, you're helping students not only become better writers but also equipping them with essential digital literacy skills that align with modern educational standards.