

### Low Achieved Narrative Convention: External conflict

External conflict is the struggle against an external force like a person or an element. In Mean Creek, the character Marty faces a lot of external conflict especially with his brother Kile [1]. They have an unhealthy relationship as brothers and you can see the conflict between them in the scene where Marty borrows Kile's gun for 'target practice' because Kile grabs Marty's ear painfully and threatens him [2]. You can feel the tension between them [1]. Their relationship changes once Marty tells Kile that he and his friends killed George [3] and there isn't much conflict at all apart from the internal conflict within Marty.

Another example of external conflict shown in the film, is the one between George and Marty. Marty doesn't like George because of what he did to Sam but George likes Marty and wants to impress him [1] [2]. Conflict is shown when George talks about Marty's father and Marty goes all quiet and angry about it. George didn't mean to make Marty angry but he did and you can feel the tension between the two. The director used the external conflict to show that even though Marty is a bully and George is also a bully, that they don't necessarily have to get along just because they are both bullies and that Marty really doesn't like George [4].

Another example of when external conflict is shown between George and Marty is when George insults Marty's dad and says "his daddy splattered his brains all over the wall" and a fight breaks out between the two. George is repeating the phrase over and over which is provoking Marty. Marty then leaps up and tries pushing George and trying to punch him which results in real external conflict: fighting. Earlier on, Marty threatens to George that he will kill him when George first brings up his dad and that suggests that Marty does really hate George and doesn't have any problem showing it. In the end, it was kind of Marty's fault that George drowns but he refuses to admit it and is spooked by the fact that George enough to physically kill him but that's what ended up happening [3].