

“Gentleman of Río en Medio” by Juan A. A. Sedillo

## Literary Analysis: Conflict

**Conflict** is the struggle between two opposing forces.

- In **external conflict**, a character struggles against another character, natural forces, or some aspect of society. In “Gentleman of Río en Medio,” the unidentified Americans are in conflict with Don Anselmo as they try to negotiate the purchase of his property.
- **Internal conflict** is a struggle between competing feelings, beliefs, needs, or desires within a single character. For example, if a character faces a loss of some kind, he or she might struggle to maintain a sense of pride or dignity.
- In the **resolution**, problems are worked out to eliminate the conflict.

The following passages from “Gentleman of Río en Medio” tell something about the characters on each side of the story’s external conflict. As you reread these passages, think about the internal conflicts with which the characters might be struggling.

It took months of negotiation to come to an understanding with the old man. He was in no hurry. What he had the most of was time. He lived up in Río en Medio, where his people had been for hundreds of years. He tilled the same land they had tilled.

“Don Anselmo, about the ranch you sold to these people. They are good people and want to be your friends and neighbors always. When you sold to them you signed a document, a deed, and in that deed you agreed to several things. One thing was that they were to have complete possession of the property. Now, Don Anselmo, it seems that every day the children of the village overrun the orchard and spend most of their time there.”

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the information in the preceding passages, along with your knowledge of the rest of the story, to answer these questions.

1. What is the external conflict in “Gentleman of Río en Medio”?

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2. With what internal conflict might Don Anselmo be struggling?

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3. With what internal conflict might the Americans be struggling?

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4. How are the conflicts resolved?

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