

Tight

Written by Torrey Maldonado

Puffin Books

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192 pages

Lexile: 600L



LESSON FOCUS

Internal and external character conflict analysis

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Authors create and introduce characters to readers in a variety of ways. Torrey Maldonado introduces Bryan to the readers immediately showing his internal and external conflicts. Students will be doing a close read to examine how the author reveals Bryan's conflicts.

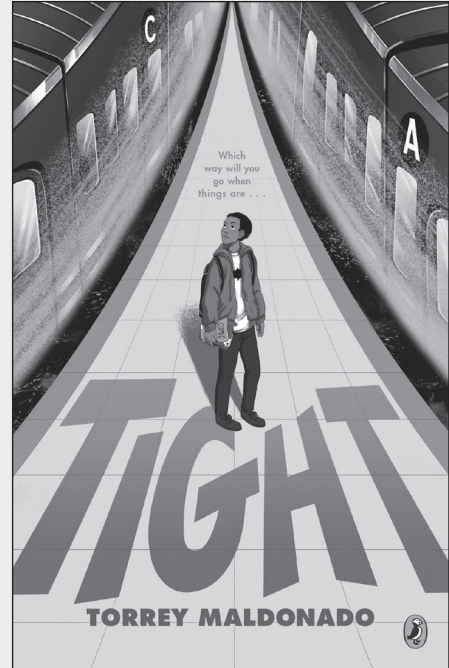
LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will identify a character's conflict.
2. Students will determine if the conflict is an example of internal or external conflict.
3. Students will cite evidence to support thoughts on internal and external conflict.
4. Students will connect conflicts to future character decisions.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *Tight* by Torrey Maldonado.
2. Character Conflict: Internal and External Analysis diagram

Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



SUMMARY

Lately Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way – reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama's hard to escape where he's from, and that gets him wound up tight.

Torrey Maldonado delivers a fast-paced, insightful, dynamic story. Readers will connect with Bryan's journey as he navigates a tough world with a heartfelt desire for a different life.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce students to *Tight* by Torrey Maldonado. Read chapter one together aloud.
- Step 2:** Introduce Character Conflict: Internal and External Analysis sheet
- Step 3:** Return to chapter one. Help students through a close read and begin identifying examples of conflict.
- Step 4:** Read chapters two and three aloud or have students read independently.
- Step 5:** Have students continue to close read and determine the type of conflict and find evidence for quotes you provide.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Internal Conflict

Any struggles a character is experiencing from within: the thoughts, feelings, and flaws a character has driving their decisions

External Conflict

Struggles the character has no control over: pressure, circumstances, and issues impacting decisions the character makes

Quote	Conflict Type	Evidence	My Thoughts
<p>“My whole head burns like I have a fever. I want to cut on her so hard. But only weak disses come to mind. I finally growl, ‘Big Head.’” (pg 3)</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>“I like reading, being quiet, and chilling for forever.” pg 1 “...I’m distracted spying on him.” pg 1 “Why’s he playing her so close?” pg 2 “He just called her Ma again!” pg 3 “I wish Mike was my real brother... He’s no mama’s boy like you.” pg 3</p>	<p>Bryan knows others view him as a mama’s boy and he likes it. He feels threatened by Mike, and his connection with his mother. His sister’s comment puts him over the edge.</p>