



Conflicts Faced By *The Losers Club* In "It" And "It: Chapter Two" Movies

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Abstract

This research examined conflict as the main force driving character and narrative development in 2017s and 2019s two-part horror films "IT". This research focused on The Losers Club as they faced various conflicts, with the objectives to find out what types of conflicts The Losers Club characters face in the horror movies "IT" and how they resolve them. Using descriptive qualitative methods, data was collected through documentation and note-taking techniques. Kenney's theory was applied to classify the types of conflict, while Thomas and Kilmann's analyzed conflict management modes. Textual explanations will also be used in presenting the data. The findings showed that all types of conflict, including internal and external (man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature) were found. Meanwhile, almost all modes of conflict management, including competing, compromising, accommodating, and avoiding were found, except collaborating. The results also described how The Losers Club adjusted their strategies to survive each challenge, while also showing the development of their conflict characters as the story reached its climax.

Keywords: Character, Conflict, Film.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature has evolved alongside human society for centuries, giving rise to various forms and adaptations. Among the most common is the adaptation of novels into films. Film or movie, defined by Andrew et al. (2025) as a series of images that create the illusion of motion, is a powerful mass medium for evoking emotion and drama. The core element of both literature and film is conflict, which is essential for driving the plot and engaging the audience by forcing characters to act.

This research is important because it examines conflict as the main driver of character and narrative development. Analyzing how characters face and manage conflict provides deep insight into their personalities and decision-making processes. Furthermore, because films often reflect real-life situations, this research applies theoretical frameworks, such as from Thomas and Kilmann (2008) on their Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Management Model. The theory is used to demonstrate the practical relevance of fictional conflict strategies in everyday life. This multidisciplinary approach enriches both academic discourse and our practical understanding of conflict dynamics.

A few researchers focused only on the types of conflicts experienced by characters, but did not explore their conflict management responses, such as from Prabowo (2020) when analyzing the internal and external conflicts of characters in the movie *Avatar*. In addition, Remdani (2023) and Swijana (2024) examined both types of conflict and their resolution strategies. However, their research was limited to a single film and often focused on only one character, resulting in a narrower perspective due to the limited narrative scope. Therefore, this research intends to analyze *IT* (2017) and *IT: Chapter Two* (2019) films as a continuous narrative, focusing on the members of The Losers Club as the main protagonists. Through this approach, this research offers a deeper understanding of how conflict develops, persists, and shapes the story's progression and character growth, by analyzing various types of conflict and resolution strategies in two interconnected films involving multiple characters.

This research uses the two-part horror film “IT” directed by Andy Muschietti in 2017 & 2019 as its data source. The films are based on Stephen King's horror novel “IT.” The novel tells the story of The Losers Club, a group consisting of seven kids who face the terror of an evil entity in the form of a clown named Pennywise that kidnaps children in their town, Derry. The story takes place over more than 20 years, from their childhood to adulthood. Accordingly, the problem in this research is formulated as follows: What types of conflicts do The Losers Club characters face in the horror movies “IT” and how do they resolve them? In line with the problem, the objective of this research is to find out what types of conflicts The Losers Club characters face in the horror movies “IT” and how they resolve them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The two-part horror film “IT” was selected as the data source because its storyline is highly relevant to this study's focus on conflict, as seen through The Losers Club's struggle against Pennywise the main antagonist, among themselves, and other factors. Conflict plays a central role in driving the plot and shaping character development. Data was collected using documentation and note-taking techniques, which involved repeated viewings of the films, identifying key scenes and dialogues related to conflict, and categorizing them accordingly. A descriptive qualitative approach was used, with Kenney's (1966) theory to classify conflicts and Thomas and Kilmann's (2008) model to analyze how characters manage these conflicts. The findings are presented through textual explanations supported by visual evidence, such as screenshots of important scenes and character expressions. In line with Ownby's (2017) view that images reveal deeper meanings and

ideologies, these visuals complement the dialogue to strengthen the analysis of conflict and provide a richer interpretation of the films.

Kenney (1966) stated that Internal and External Conflicts are the two main types of conflict, with External Conflicts taking other forms, such as Man vs. Man, Man vs. Society, and Man vs. Nature. **Internal Conflict** refers to the struggle that occurs within a character's mind or emotions, often involving moral dilemmas, personal fears, or emotional turmoil. According to Hardy (2017), this type of conflict arises when characters are torn between their desires and their sense of right and wrong, with feelings such as fear or guilt intensifying their struggle. Internal conflict often reveals a character's true nature and motivations. **External Conflict**, on the other hand, occurs between a character and an external force. Three other forms of external conflict, as identified by Kenney (1966), are: *Man vs. Man*, which involves conflict between characters; *Man vs. Society*, which relates to rejection of social norms or societal pressures; and *Man vs. Nature*, which involves a struggle against natural elements such as disasters or the environment.

According to Thomas and Kilmann (2008), there are five modes of conflict management in their Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument: collaborating, competing, accommodating, avoiding, and compromising. **Collaborating** is a cooperative and assertive approach that aims to achieve a win-win outcome that meets the needs of all parties through open communication, creative solutions, and mutual understanding. **Competing** is assertive but not cooperative, focusing on achieving one's own goals or asserting dominance, often at the expense of others, such as defending one's own beliefs or trying to win an argument. On the other hand, **Accommodating** is highly cooperative but not assertive, emphasizing self-sacrifice or compromise to meet the needs of others and maintain harmony. **Avoiding** is neither assertive nor cooperative, involving withdrawal from or postponement of conflict, which may prevent direct confrontation but can leave problems unresolved. Finally, **Compromising** lies between cooperation and assertiveness, aiming to find a middle ground that partially satisfies both parties through negotiation and mutual sacrifice, offering a balanced but less comprehensive solution than collaborating.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research implemented Kenney's (1966) theory on conflict types and Thomas and Kilmann's (2008) on Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Management Model. In terms of conflict types, all types of conflict were found, including Internal Conflict and External Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Nature). Meanwhile, in terms of conflict management, almost all five modes were found; these included Competing, Compromising, Accommodating, and Avoiding, without Collaborating.

3.1 Internal Conflict

Data [3-1] (02:36:17 - 02:37:28) - *IT: Chapter Two, 2019*

Ben : "You know what? Eddie would have hated this, guys."
Bill : "What? Cleaning ourselves in dirty water?"
Ben : "Yeah."
Beverly : "He'd be telling us we'd get streptococcal something."
Mike : "Yeah. But he would have made us laugh, though."
Beverly : "Oh, yeah. "

Bill : “He'd be looking out for us. The way he always was. Ain't that right, Richie?”
Beverly : “Hey.”
Richie : “Thank you. I don't have my glasses on... so I don't know who you people are, but thank you.”



Picture 3.1 The Losers Club mourned Eddie's death.

The conflict occurred between The Losers Club and the grief within them. The conflict began shortly before this. The Losers Club finally managed to defeat Pennywise for good after a life-and-death battle in Pennywise's lair beneath the Well house. Unfortunately, Eddie died in the fight and could not be saved. Afterward, the remaining members of the Losers Club went to the quarry to clean themselves up. They cleaned themselves while also trying to calm down after what had just happened. The Losers Club felt a deep sense of loss over the death of their friend.

Grief is a form of **internal conflict** experienced by The Losers Club, with the struggle occurring within the characters, like in their mind or emotions. This is not the first time they have lost a friend. Earlier in the film, they also received news that Stanley had died by suicide, which was just as sad as losing Eddie. Ben joked while reminiscing about Eddie's cleanliness, saying, “*You know what? Eddie would have hated this, guys.*” They knew Eddie would not have liked cleaning himself in dirty water like at the quarry, but they also knew that Eddie just wanted to look out for them. Even though he was a little overreacted, they missed that side of Eddie. Of all of them, Richie was the most devastated by Eddie's death. Seeing this, the others hugged Richie to calm and comfort him, helping him through his inner conflict. As usual, Richie responded with a joke, saying, “*Thank you. I don't have my glasses on... so I don't know who you people are, but thank you.*” Perhaps it was just his way of coping with grief, and in the end, they all laughed together.

3.2 External Conflict (Man vs. Man)

Data [3-2] (00:13:45 – 00:14:35) - *IT*, 2017

Patrick : Nice Frisbee, flamer.
Stanley : Give it back!
Patrick : Fucking losers!
Henry : Loser.
Bill : You suck, Bowers.
Eddie : Shut up, Bill.
Henry : You say something, Billy? You got a free ride this year 'cause of your little brother. Ride's over, Denbrough. This summer's gonna be a hurt train for you and your faggot friends.



Picture 3.2 Bill bullied by Henry and his gang

The conflict occurred between The Losers Club against Henry and his gang. The conflict erupted when Henry Bowers and his gang intimidated The Losers Club during a casual conversation about their summer vacation plans. Henry's gang physically and verbally harassed them, pushing Richie and Stanley, stealing and throwing Stanley's stuff, and taunting Eddie. The situation escalated when Bill retaliated verbally by saying "You suck, Bowers.", prompting Henry to mock his stutter and make cruel comments about his brother's death. However, after seeing his father, a police officer, watching from a distance, Henry decided to back down, threatening the boys before leaving.

These bully's typical threats were a fitting portrayal of the **Man vs Man** form, which occurred when the conflict was between characters. Young Bill, Eddie, Richie, and Stanley as innocent students faced conflicts from Henry and his gang, the other characters and also the bullies. The Losers Club was attacked by Henry physically and verbally. Fortunately, it was stopped after Henry's father, who was a police officer, intervened. In the end, the threat "This summer's gonna be a hurt train for you and your faggot friends" by Henry for The Losers Club showed that the trouble caused by Henry and his gang of bullies does not really stop here and will continue during this whole summer.

3.3 External Conflict (Man vs. Society)

Data [3-3] (01:47:36 - 01:47:41) - *IT: Chapter Two, 2019*

Worker : "His pa is the one. The one that set that fire."



Picture 3.3 Mike got gossiped about by a Derry worker

The conflict occurred between Mike from The Losers Club and the people of Derry. The conflict began in a flashback, when young Mike delivered meat from his slaughterhouse to a store. When he arrived, the store owner greeted Mike warmly. However, two workers were seen gossiping about Mike in the distance. They were talking about Mike's father, who was suspected of causing a house fire

in Derry. Mike could only remain silent after accidentally overhearing the false news.

The gossip experienced by Mike is a form of **Man vs. Society**, which is related to rejection of social norms or societal pressures. Several years earlier, Mike had survived a house fire that killed his parents. Mike did not know where the rumors about his father came from. Based on his experiences of being bullied by Henry and his gang, it was most likely racially motivated. In the novel, it is also mentioned that Henry is a racist and that he inherited this trait from his father. It turns out that it is not just Henry and his father; the rest of Derry society also discriminates against Mike as a black person, like the two workers did earlier. This was not easy for Mike because he had to deal with all of that, but as his granddad told him in the first chapter of the film, Mike is just an outsider and should not get too involved in Derry society's affairs.

3.4 External Conflict (Man vs. Nature)

Data [3-4] (02:33:43 - 02:34:17) - *IT: Chapter Two*, 2019

Bill : "We gotta go."

Ben : "Come on, buddy. Come on. Let him go, man. Let him go."

Bill : "Got it."

Richie : "We can still help him, guys! We can still help him!"

Bill : "Go! Go! Get up!"

Richie : "Guys, we can still help him! No! Eddie!"



Picture 3.4 Pennywise's lair collapsed

The conflict occurred between The Losers Club and the underground cave. The conflict took place in an underground cave that was Pennywise's lair. After defeating him there, the remaining members of The Losers Club rushed to the surface. Not only was his body destroyed, but Pennywise's lair also collapsed after he was defeated. This caused the walls and ceiling of the surrounding cave to shake like an earthquake. The Losers Club tried their best not to be buried alive.

The collapsing cave was a form of **Man vs. Nature**, which involved a struggle against natural elements such as disasters or the environment. After defeating Pennywise, The Losers Club thought the problem was over. They panicked when they saw Pennywise's lair begin to collapse and fly around the cave like a storm. The debris then spun around, hitting the walls and ceiling of the cave, causing it to shake violently. However, The Losers Club still faced another issue there. Richie didn't want to leave Eddie's body behind; as he refused to believe Eddie was dead, even though that was the reality. The others said, "*Let him go, man. Let him go,*" and "*Go! Go! Get up!*" to Richie, showing that they were racing against time and telling Richie to let Eddie go. Moreover, the exit from the cave

was quite small and narrow, making it impossible to carry Eddie's body out in a hurry. In the end, Richie and the others managed to get to the surface safely, even though he had previously said that Eddie could still be saved and refused to leave him behind.

3.5 Competing

Data [3-5] (01:59:46 - 02:01:29) - *IT*, 2017

Richie : "I'm gonna have to Kill this fucking clown. Welcome to the Losers' Club, asshole!"
Beverly : "Mike! Mike!"
Bill : "Stan, watch out!"
Eddie : "Mike! Kill him! I'm gonna kill you!"
Pennywise : "Hey, Bevvie. Are you still my little—"
Eddie : "Oh, shit!"



Picture 3.5 Beverly stabbed Pennywise's mouth.

The conflict occurred between The Losers Club and Pennywise. The conflict began underground, specifically beneath the Well House on Neibolt Street. When The Losers Club learned that Beverly had been kidnapped by Pennywise, they rushed there to rescue her. Later, they managed to rescue Beverly but still had to face Pennywise. The Losers Club initially struggled against him. However, they tried to keep fighting and united to beat Pennywise into a corner, forcing him to retreat back to his lair.

The Losers Club's resistance portrayed the **Competing** mode, which occurred when characters focused on achieving one's own goals or asserting dominance. The underground passage where they fought was Pennywise's entrance and exit from his lair, as well as the connection to Derry's sewer system, which he used to carry out his evil deeds. After successfully rescuing Beverly, The Losers Club still has to fight Pennywise. At first, Pennywise almost won when he took Bill hostage and told the others to leave, as he wanted to take Bill alone. The others did not know what to do until Richie shouted, "*I'm gonna have to kill this fucking clown. Welcome to the Losers' Club, asshole!*" This showed they would not stand idly by and let Pennywise know what it felt like to be beaten by their group. They attacked in turns, some punching and kicking. When attacked, Pennywise also transformed himself according to the fears of The Losers Club, such as burnt hands for Mike, a creepy woman from a painting for Stanley, a mummy for Ben, and an infected leper for Eddie. None of this affected them as they continued to attack Pennywise. The climax came when Pennywise transformed into Beverly's abusive father, causing her to stab him in the mouth with a long iron rod. The tables have now turned, as The Losers Club has united and is no longer afraid of Pennywise as before. They managed to defeat him, forcing him to retreat back to his lair.

3.6 Compromising

Data [3-6] (01:45:12 - 01:46:33) - *IT: Chapter Two*, 2019

Bill : "Hey."
Dean : "What are you doing here?"
Bill : "Hey. No, I'm here to help."
Dean : "Stop following me!"
Bill : "I'm gonna get you out of here. No. Please."
Pennywise : "Ah."
Bill : "I'm here this time. Just take me."
Pennywise : "Ah."
Bill : "Son of a bitch!"
Dean : "Help! Help! Help!"



Picture 3.6 Bill begged Pennywise to take him instead

The conflict occurred between Bill from The Losers Club and Pennywise. Conflict erupted at the Derry festival when Bill met a boy named Dean. This wasn't their first meeting; they had previously met at a Chinese restaurant where The Losers Club had reunited and on the street in front of Bill's old house in Derry. Earlier, Bill had received a sign that this boy was in danger, so he rushed to the festival to look for him. By the time they met, it was too late; Pennywise was there and ready to attack Dean. Bill begged him to let the boy go and take him instead. Unfortunately, Pennywise was too evil to listen to Bill.

Bill's actions represented the **Compromising** mode, which aimed to find a middle ground that partially satisfies both parties through negotiation and mutual sacrifice. Before going to the festival, Dean met Bill on the street in front of Bill's old house. Dean saw Bill talking to the sewer, and it was Pennywise he was talking to. Bill then told Dean to stay away from the sewer, as he knew what Pennywise had done to everyone, including his younger brother, Georgie. In a flashback, young Bill was shown crying and questioning why Pennywise had to take his younger brother. Cunningly, Pennywise said that it was Bill's fault that Georgie died because he wasn't there at the time. Pennywise affected Bill by exploiting his guilt over a mistake he didn't even make. Dean looked at Bill weirdly and told him he had to go to the festival. Bill lets him go and tells him to be careful. Later at Derry Town House, a skateboard like Dean's with the words "*Won't be there for him either?*" suddenly appears. Bill knew it was a sign about Dean and it was Pennywise's doing.

In summary, Bill managed to meet Dean at the festival, specifically at the house of mirrors. Dean said, "*Stop following me!*" because he felt uncomfortable with Bill stalking him. He replied, "*I'm gonna get you out of here,*" because he knew what awaited the boy. Bill was right, Pennywise was already there targeting Dean. Bill then begged Pennywise to take him instead, saying, "*No. Please. I'm*

here this time. Just take me.” He remembered what Pennywise had said to him decades ago, and he didn't want to make the same mistake again. Dean might remind him of the late Georgie, which was why Bill was willing to sacrifice himself. Bill compromised that Pennywise could still take someone, but it would be him, not Dean. From Bill's point of view, he and Dean couldn't get out of the festival together, but at least Dean could still be saved if he sacrificed himself. From both sides, their desires were only partially fulfilled. Not caring, Pennywise still targeted Dean by smashing his head against the glass to break it and grab him. “*Son of a bitch!*” was Bill's reaction when he realized Pennywise was too cunning and couldn't be compromised with. He then joined in, punching and kicking the glass to break it and grab Dean. It was a race to see whose glass would break first. Unfortunately, Pennywise was too strong and managed to eat Dean. Bill could do nothing but watch in shock as Dean's blood spattered, even though it mysteriously disappeared afterward.

3.7 Accommodating

Data [3-7] (01:06:30 - 01:07:28) - *IT: Chapter Two*, 2019

Mr. Marsh : “You look like her. But you are nothing like her. Come here. I said, come here! Close your eyes. You know that I would never hurt you. You know that, don't you?”

Beverly : “I'm sorry. I'm sorry.”

Mr. Marsh : “You'll always be my little girl, won't you?”

Beverly : “Always.”



Picture 3.7 Mr. Marsh hugged Beverly forcibly

The conflict occurred between Beverly from The Losers Club and her father, Mr. Marsh. The conflict occurred when Beverly returned to her old home as an adult and had flashbacks about decades ago. It was about her father, Mr. Marsh. He was shown to be an abusive father to Beverly, yelling at her and manipulating her. Beverly was in shock over what happened. She was terrified at the time, unable to do anything but obey her father's every word.

Beverly's actions illustrated the Accommodating mode, which emphasized self-sacrifice or compromise to meet the needs of others. In a flashback, it was revealed that Beverly's mother had died and she now lived alone with her father. Her father, Mr. Marsh, blamed Beverly for his wife's death. He missed her, and he tried to find his wife's figure in Beverly, who resembled her. Beverly was scared as her father was acting rude and weird. He yelled at Beverly to come closer and sprayed his wife's perfume on her. Mr. Marsh then manipulated Beverly into hugging him, pretending she was his wife from the scent of the perfume while saying, “*You know that I would never hurt you. You know that, don't you?*”, when he clearly yelled at Beverly earlier. Besides being abusive, Mr. Marsh's feelings for

Beverly also became an obsession when he said, “*You'll always be my little girl, won't you?*”, as if Beverly had to accompany him all the time. The yelling, manipulation, and obsession all led to the physical and sexual abuse that Beverly had to endure. She was simply too afraid and didn't dare to fight back except to obey her father. Beverly accepted everything her father did to her. At least until the previous film, which showed that Beverly had the courage to rebel and fight back against her father. The current scene was from the second film and was a flashback of Beverly as an adult, free from her father.

3.8 Avoiding

Data [3-8] (00:48:25 – 00:50:50) - *IT*, 2017

Pennywise : “Eddie... What are you looking for?”

Eddie : “Oh! Fuck. My mom's gonna fucking flip.”

Pennywise : “Do you think this will help me, Eddie?”

Eddie : “Help! Help!”

Pennywise : “Where you going, Eds? If you lived here, you'd be home by now. Come join the clown, Eds. You'll float down here. We all float down here. Yes, we do.”



Picture 3.8 Eddie ran away from the infected leper

The conflict occurred between Eddie from The Losers Club and Pennywise. The conflict occurred when Eddie passed the Well house on Neibolt Street on his way home. Eddie accidentally dropped his medicine and intended to retrieve it. While doing so, an infected leper suddenly appeared and tried to attack Eddie. Frightened, Eddie ran as fast as he could to avoid being caught as he was terrified of such things.

Eddie's actions portrayed the **Avoiding** mode, which involved withdrawal from or postponement of conflict. The Well House was a creepy old house on Neibolt Street. The Well House was known to be home to many addicts and homeless people, which was later discovered to be Pennywise's hideout as well. When passing by the house, Eddie's medication reminder suddenly went off, so he immediately took his pills. As he was about to take it, he suddenly heard a strange voice from inside the house saying, “*Eddie... What are you looking for?*” Eddie panicked and accidentally dropped his pills. As he tried to pick them up and rush away, a hand suddenly reached out towards him, belonging to a homeless addict who looked very messed up and seemed to be infected. Eddie was terrified and immediately ran away screaming, “*Help! Help!*” as he was being chased. He had no intention of fighting the infected leper, he just wanted to run away so he would not get caught. When he was about to escape through the bushes, the infected leper disappeared and many red balloons appeared in the distance. It was Pennywise all along; he revealed his scary clown form to Eddie, trying to tempt him to come with

him while saying “Come join the clown, Eds. You'll float down here. We all float down here. Yes, we do.” Not caring, Eddie kept going and managed to save himself.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all types of conflict and almost all modes of conflict management were found in the two-part horror film “IT.” As Kenney (1966) stated regarding types of conflict, Internal and External Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Nature) were all identified, with one type found in 2017’s *IT* and three types in 2019’s *IT: Chapter Two*. Meanwhile, conflict management modes as stated by Thomas and Kilmann (2008), Competing, Compromising, Accommodating, and Avoiding, were all identified, except for Collaborating. Two modes were found in 2017’s *IT*, with two modes also found in the second film, 2019’s *IT: Chapter Two*. Overall, The Losers Club encountered various conflicts and implemented various strategies to overcome them, demonstrating their ability to adapt to each challenge. This research also illustrated how the conflict characters developed and changed as the story progressed toward its climax.

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