

Dear Reader,

The conflicts in the novel are both internal and external. The main plot driving conflict comes from the reader themselves and the people who have met the main character trying to understand who he is and why he did the things he did. Also, Alex is a conflict in himself because he is confusing and goes against what society wants to make of him. If he were a hero, the villain would be money, materialism, and ignorance. He hates society, but tries really hard to make sense of it. Why do people starve? Why is there oppression? Why have we strayed from nature? Why are people dishonest and arrogant and controlling and so stuck in their ways? These are all central to the book because as the reader, well... reads, these things are slowly pieced together. We are given a messy story, just like Alex was, and told to try to figure it out.

This conflict is interesting because it's unconventional. Most stories more or less follow the hero's narrative, introducing a very basic conflict and then unfolding it throughout the book the same way over and over again. This one just lets you see bits and pieces of what is happening and asks a lot of questions to keep the mystery going. My artifact is the conflict drawing. In it, I chose to show the straightforward "Man vs Wild" theme, but also have the deeper conflicts in the back (like the ones I have mentioned here). This shows how in order to understand this book fully, you have to dig a little deeper and think a little harder.

I think that the book will continue the way it has been going. The story will unravel slowly and I will be able to understand more about the complex psyche of Alexander Supertramp. I think Alex could have made a difference if he actually tried to, if he went to South Africa like he said or if he joined the movements to get rid of the cruelty in our society, but he got so caught up in his head and self and decided instead to just close his eyes and pretend that that stuff didn't exist. He ran away. I think that Alex's inner struggle with the modern world will be solved sadly but poetically in his death. He wants more from the world than he can change or create on his own, so maybe his death released him from this truth. He abandoned the world and so the world will abandon him.

Sincerely,
Izadora