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In fiction, as in real life, the world cannot exist without conflict. We see an excellent example of how a writer can develop conflict in the excerpt from "The book of Negroes" by Lawrence Hill. In the novel, Meena has just lost her child May to the Witherspoons, and tries to deal with the internal conflict of living with this fact. This conflict is developed by Hill through literary elements like imagery, dialouge and setting. In the following paragraphs I will talk about Meena's conflict, how she dealt with it, and how Meena internally solved her struggle to keep living.

Meena's conflict began when the Witherspoons took her daughter to America. This caused Meena to be devistated, which started her internal struggle, as well as her external struggle. The setting plays a key role in her conflict, due to the time period. If this happened now, it would be a criminal offense and the police would be involved, but since this is 1787, slavery was legal in America, and Meena was at a loss to get help. When Meena asked Mr. McArdle if it was a good idea to retrive her herself from America, she was shot down. "They insisted that I could be arrested – and possibly enslaved..." Reading this you can clearly see that Meena's conflict was largely developed due to setting. These circumstances play a major role in how her conflict started.

After Meena's conflict started, the next thing for her was to learn how to deal with it. It was very hard for her, and she even said at one point that she wanted to die. It is through dialouge with others that we see Meena's efforts to cope with her situation. It is difficult for her, as seen in her only being able to whisper to Jason, "I have lost my daughter." This illustrates the deep impact the event has had on her. Jason immediately tries to cheer her up, as did most of the characters surrounding her during the following months. They continuously push her until she is able to stand on her own two feet. Daddy Moses says, "But you are good Meena. So many people love you." Although Meena seemingly denies this, I think it is a turning point for her in facing her struggle and eventually learning to live with it. She eventually starts going to church from here, and starts her life again. The development of her conflict and the beginnings of the resolution of it would be non-existent if there were no dialouge or other people to support her, showing how important the dialouge is in the novel.

Finally, near the end of the excerpt, Meena learns to live with the painful fact of losing May. Even though she says the pain will never leave, she still has to keep going. The last part of the excerpt shows a good example of visual imagery, illustrating what it is like to lose your child. "The limbs had been severed and they would forever be missing." This makes us relate to how it would feel and

look to live without limbs and how it compares to living without a loved one. Even if we have never lived without limbs, we can't imagine daily life without them. Meena creates a great metaphorical image comparing this feeling to her struggle of living without her daughter. The novel uses a great amount of effective imagery, relating to a clearer and more effective development of conflict.

The novel "The book of Negroes" by Lawrence Hill contains a very hard conflict, which is clearly developed by the use of literary elements like imagery, dialouge and setting. Even though when Meena lost her daughter she didn't think she could survive, at the end of the excerpt, she resolves to never forget her pain and to go forward even though she thinks she cannot. This excerpt shows that even in the worst times, if you have people helping you, you can live and stand on your own feet by yourself.