In 5-7 sentences, explain the conflict present in your story.

In *The Grouchy Lady Bug*, the grouchy ladybug sees aphides on a leaf on which another friendly ladybug has already landed. He goes to the leaf and wants to eat all of the aphides. The friendly ladybug suggests that they share the aphides, but the grouchy ladybug refuses and challenges him to a fight. When the other ladybug doesn’t back down the grouchy ladybug says that he isn’t big enough for him to fight and flies away to find somebody bigger. He keeps going to bigger and bigger animals challenging them to fight and then running away to find a bigger opponent.

Who is involved? What is their conflict resolution style? (avoidance, competition, problem solving) What are the consequences of handling it that way?

The character involved in the conflict the entire time is the grouchy ladybug. His conflict resolution style is avoidance. He gets in a conflict and then finds an excuse to back out of it (Your not big enough for me to fight).

The other characters that are involved in the conflict are:

All of the animals except the whale: Their conflict resolution style is kind of cooperation. The other ladybug suggests a fight so they say, “If you insist.”

The Whale: His conflict resolution style is to just ignore it. He doesn’t acknowledge or even comment on the ladybugs challenge. The only response would be the fin slap that may or may not have been on purpose. If it had it could be called a competition conflict resolution style because he was hitting him.

The consequence of handling the conflict like the grouchy ladybug would be that he is going to spend his time running and never solve the problem.
The consequence of the cooperation that the other animals displayed would be that if the opponent did not back down, they would be in a full out fight and that usually does not solve problems very easily.

The whale’s ignoring conflict resolution style is one that could be good or bad. The protagonist could consider it a challenge and get worse or they could just give up.

By taking on a competition conflict resolution style the whale caused damage to the other opponent. Competition could be a dangerous route to take since it could lead to a fight.

3. How did the conflict start?

The grouchy lady bug refused to share and challenge the ladybug and other animals to a fight.

4. What does each character want? Need?

The ladybugs need food

The other characters don’t seem to have any needs or wants present other than maybe wanting to be left alone and not challenged to a fight.

5. How would you help the characters solve this conflict? Name specific strategies that we have discussed that might assist with solving this conflict?

I would encourage the two ladybugs to talk. They are the ones that actually have the conflict over sharing and the other animals were just brought in as a bigger opponent. I would suggest that the ladybugs take turns telling and listening to each other story and suggestions for solving the problem. Then I would have they work together to come up with a plan that would solve the problem. After they have together decided on a plan that would work I would have them implement the plan. Then as a teacher I would observe to see how their plan worked and if the problem was solved.

6. If you were in a similar situation, would you handle it the same way? Why or why not?

I think that I would have handled it a little differently because I know that my conflict resolution style is to avoid conflict. That could be bad, but it can also be good. I think that I would have suggested that we share the aphids, but I don’t see myself having the courage to stand up to the grouchy ladybug and say, “If you insist.” to a fight challenge. I think I would have tried to talk it out more to see if we could come up with a better solution.