The Butter Battle Book

What is the conflict about? Explain.
(resources, power, emotional needs, values or history)

The conflict is primarily about values because each believes the way they butter bread is best (whether butter side up or down). Yet it includes elements of power in how they fortify one’s position through a wall and weapons. At the heart of it is the emotional need for security. The story also assumes a history of tensions.

Who is involved in the conflict?

The conflict between Yooks and Zooks appears to be an intergroup or international crisis.

What is the relationship between the parties in the conflict?

From the perspective of the Yook soldier, there have been longstanding tensions between Yooks and Zooks because a wall of separation was already present in his youth and it has only grown taller as he speaks to his grandson. The conflict has had constant intense encounters. The encounters have revolved around weapons, which increase the intensity of the conflict and make it more difficult to find a solution.

How do the parties choose to deal with the conflict? Explain
(confrontation, accommodation, compromise, problem-solving, or avoidance)

They deal with the conflict of values initially with avoidance. The wall is a barrier between them and symbolizes a lack of dialogue. When tensions begin to build confrontation grows as they attempt to outdo each other with increasingly stronger weapons. There is no place for accommodation. The problem solving is focused not on building dialogue or resolving their conflict of values, but on defeating each other. Therefore, neither a compromise or problem solving are promoted.

What is the history of efforts to manage the conflict?

At first the wall was low and the enemies could look at each other in the eye. Then the tensions began to increase and the wall grows higher. No attempts to resolve the conflict are made except for violent means. It appears that no attempts are made because their values are different and they fear the threat of their enemy.

Definition of the Cold War

The cold war is a (type of conflict) conflict between the (parties involved) over (issues). They dealt the with the conflict (style of conflict) by (management). Their relationship was marked by … (description of the relationship) as (history of the relationship).

The Cold War was an international conflict between the United States and the United Soviets Socialist Republic (USSR) primarily over different values—liberal democracy and communism. They dealt with their differing values by avoiding dialogue, rather they confronted each other through threats, particularly through increasingly powerful weapons. Their competitive relationship was marked by a need to build security in a world reshaped by World War II as a declining Europe vacuum of power in the world.