

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

CHARACTERS: *The Cricket in Times Square*

Answer the following question orally, referring to the words and actions of the characters in the story to support your answer:

Why does the antagonist of this story oppose the protagonist?

You can take notes to prepare your answer on the lines below.

Student answers may contain the following ideas:

There is no particular character who opposes Chester consistently throughout the story. Mama Bellini doesn't like him at first because he's a dirty bug that has supposedly jinxed the family, but her antagonism is mild, and she eventually comes to love Chester. Most of the other characters are Chester's friends.

Mario acts against Chester's long-term interests unwittingly by caging him during his musical career, but Mario has no evil intent.

The real problem in the story initially is that Chester is far from home – a “Man v. Nature” or “Man v. Fate” struggle. Later on, Chester's desire for freedom presents a further problem, but you might say it is a conflict without a human antagonist. The forces arrayed against Chester Cricket are the forces of chance and nature.