The Pelayo Family Plays Roulette: The Prequel

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He was a good guy who was corrupted because of his dream for land.

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The reader is introduced to a boy, who used to be well-organized and thoughtful. "Duddy had been putting money in the bank since he was eleven and in his first month at Rubin's he had earned nearly three hundred dollars in tips." (page 75)

Here, introduced to a young boy, values hard work.
however throughout the novel he has many conflicts that lead to his inner corruption.

Duddy's uncle Ben warns him not to turn into a "scheming little bastard," because he understands the power of money.
This is where a conflict is revealed.

Throughout the whole novel Duddy is trying to achieve his dream. His grandpa, the one member in his family who show real affection, is the one who persuaded him to get land. To do this he needs money to buy it. This one of main conflicts, and this causes many other conflicts to arise.
Duddy's transformation into a bad kid starts in middle school when he steals cards to make money.

This is also a conflict. Duddy vs the store, because it is a problem which could ruin his future if he got caught.
After Duddy graduates highschool he gets a job as a waiter. Here he comes face to face with more conflicts because all the staff and college students either mock him or ignore him. A bigger conflict arises when he meets a character named Irwin Shubert who constantly harasses him. Irwin even goes as far as to set Duddy up in losing all his hard earned money in a rigged roulette game. But one of the only people that ever cared for him, Yvette, helps him get the money back.
One day Yvette takes Duddy to a resort and they make love. Here another conflict arises because he is too distracted from the beauty of the land. He has fallen more in love with the land then the girl that cares for him. Because of this Duddy can easily trample over her to get his dream "land."