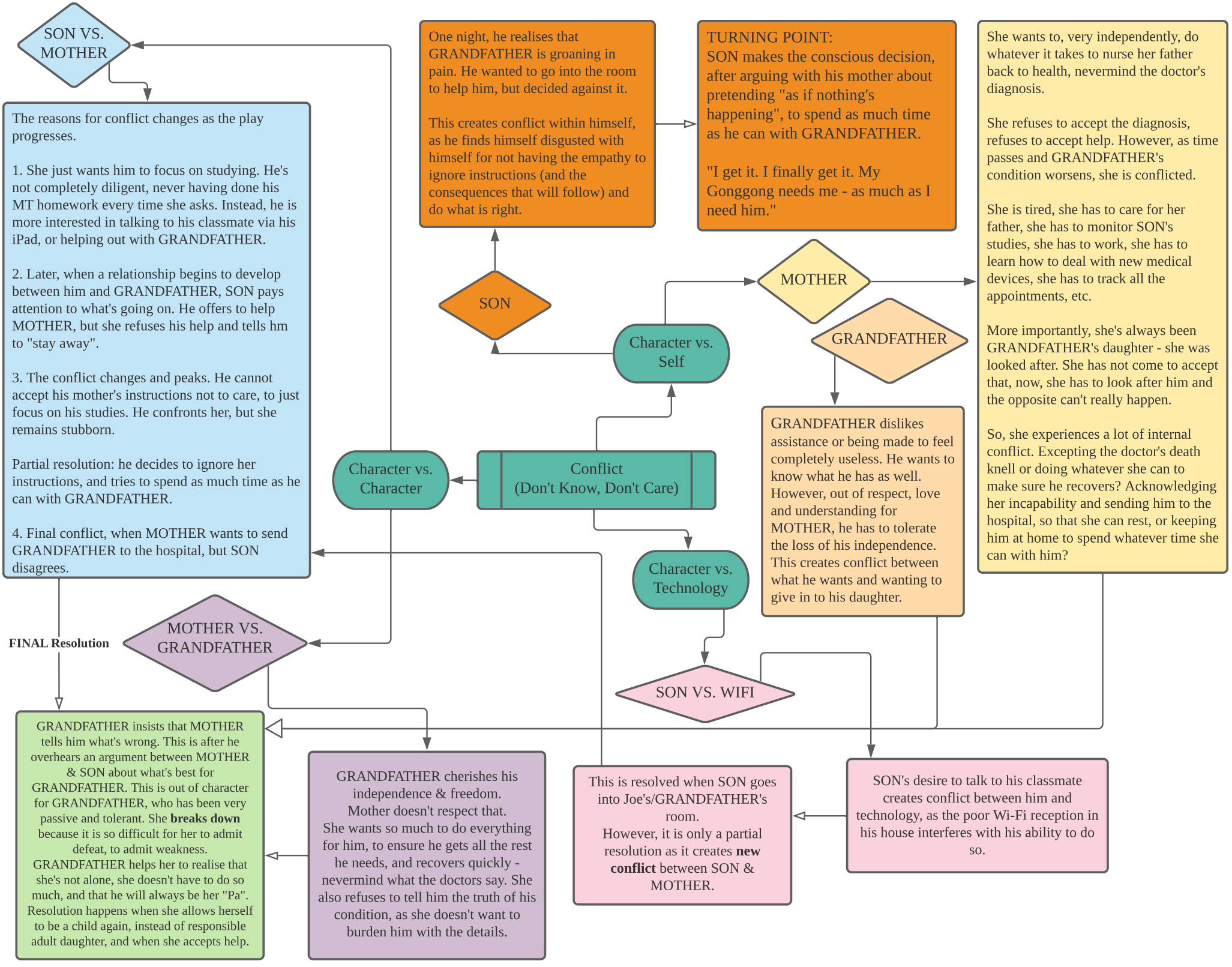
SON VS. MOTHER
The reasons for conflict changes as the play progresses.
1. She just wants him to focus on studying. He's not completely diligent, never having done his MT homework every time she asks. Instead, he is more interested in talking to his classmate via his iPad, or helping out with GRANDFATHER.
2. Later, when a relationship begins to develop between him and GRANDFATHER, SON pays attention to what's going on. He offers to help MOTHER, but she refuses his help and tells hm to "stay away".
3. The conflict changes and peaks. He cannot accept his mother's instructions not to care, to just focus on his studies. He confronts her, but she remains stubborn.
Partial resolution: he decides to ignore her instructions, and tries to spend as much time as he can with GRANDFATHER.
4. Final conflict, when MOTHER wants to send GRANDFATHER to the hospital, but SON disagrees.
FINAL Resolution
MOTHER VS. GRANDFATHER
GRANDFATHER insists that MOTHER tells him what's wrong. This is after he overhears an argument between MOTHER & SON about what's best for GRANDFATHER. This is out of character for GRANDFATHER, who has been very passive and tolerant. She **breaks down** because it is so difficult for her to admit defeat, to admit weakness. GRANDFATHER helps her to realise that she's not alone, she doesn't have to do so much, and that he will always be her "Pa". Resolution happens when she allows herself to be a child again, instead of responsible adult daughter, and when she accepts help.
GRANDFATHER cherishes his independence & freedom. Mother doesn't respect that. She wants so much to do everything for him, to ensure he gets all the rest he needs, and recovers quickly - nevermind what the doctors say. She also refuses to tell him the truth of his condition, as she doesn't want to burden him with the details.
Character vs. Character
Conflict (Don't Know, Don't Care)
Character vs. Technology
SON VS. WIFI
This is resolved when SON goes into Joe's/GRANDFATHER's room. However, it is only a partial resolution as it creates **new conflict** between SON & MOTHER.
SON's desire to talk to his classmate creates conflict between him and technology, as the poor Wi-Fi reception in his house interferes with his ability to do so.
Character vs. Self
SON
One night, he realises that GRANDFATHER is groaning in pain. He wanted to go into the room to help him, but decided against it.
This creates conflict within himself, as he finds himself disgusted with himself for not having the empathy to ignore instructions (and the consequences that will follow) and do what is right.
TURNING POINT:
SON makes the conscious decision, after arguing with his mother about pretending "as if nothing's happening", to spend as much time as he can with GRANDFATHER.
"I get it. I finally get it. My Gonggong needs me - as much as I need him."
MOTHER
She wants to, very independently, do whatever it takes to nurse her father back to health, nevermind the doctor's diagnosis.
She refuses to accept the diagnosis, refuses to accept help. However, as time passes and GRANDFATHER's condition worsens, she is conflicted.
She is tired, she has to care for her father, she has to monitor SON's studies, she has to work, she has to learn how to deal with new medical devices, she has to track all the appointments, etc.
More importantly, she's always been GRANDFATHER's daughter - she was looked after. She has not come to accept that, now, she has to look after him and the opposite can't really happen.
So, she experiences a lot of internal conflict. Excepting the doctor's death knell or doing whatever she can to make sure he recovers? Acknowledging her incapability and sending him to the hospital, so that she can rest, or keeping him at home to spend whatever time she can with him?
GRANDFATHER
GRANDFATHER dislikes assistance or being made to feel completely useless. He wants to know what he has as well. However, out of respect, love and understanding for MOTHER, he has to tolerate the loss of his independence. This creates conflict between what he wants and wanting to give in to his daughter.