

Sevensteps



Step 1: Plan for Success

Books about Natural Disasters on the Story Graph

One of the best ways to learn is to see examples, like these story graphs.

How to use them:

- Explore favourite stories and how they work
- Look for moments of tension (the pebble, rock and boulder)
- Compare the many ways stories start and end
- Inspire students to create their own story graphs!

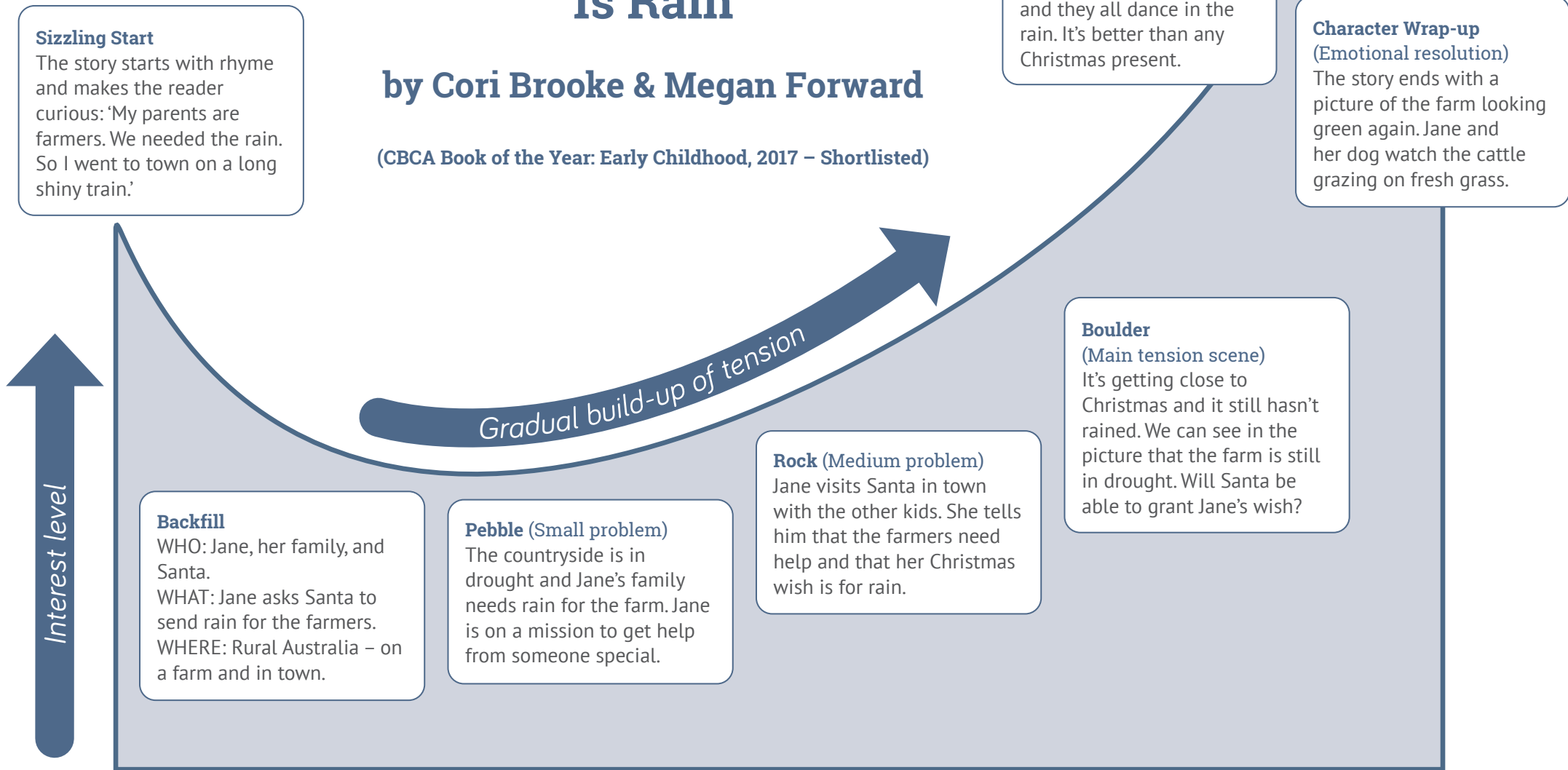


There are many more sets of story graphs available, covering books with themes from friendship and belonging to sustainability and First Nations histories and cultures, as well as secondary texts. Members can find them on *Teacher Hub*.

All I Want for Christmas Is Rain

by Cori Brooke & Megan Forward

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2017 – Shortlisted)



Sizzling Start

The story starts with rhyme and makes the reader curious: 'My parents are farmers. We needed the rain. So I went to town on a long shiny train.'

Backfill

WHO: Jane, her family, and Santa.
WHAT: Jane asks Santa to send rain for the farmers.
WHERE: Rural Australia – on a farm and in town.

Pebble (Small problem)

The countryside is in drought and Jane's family needs rain for the farm. Jane is on a mission to get help from someone special.

Rock (Medium problem)

Jane visits Santa in town with the other kids. She tells him that the farmers need help and that her Christmas wish is for rain.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
It's getting close to Christmas and it still hasn't rained. We can see in the picture that the farm is still in drought. Will Santa be able to grant Jane's wish?

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
On Christmas morning Jane wakes up to hear it raining! The family celebrates and they all dance in the rain. It's better than any Christmas present.

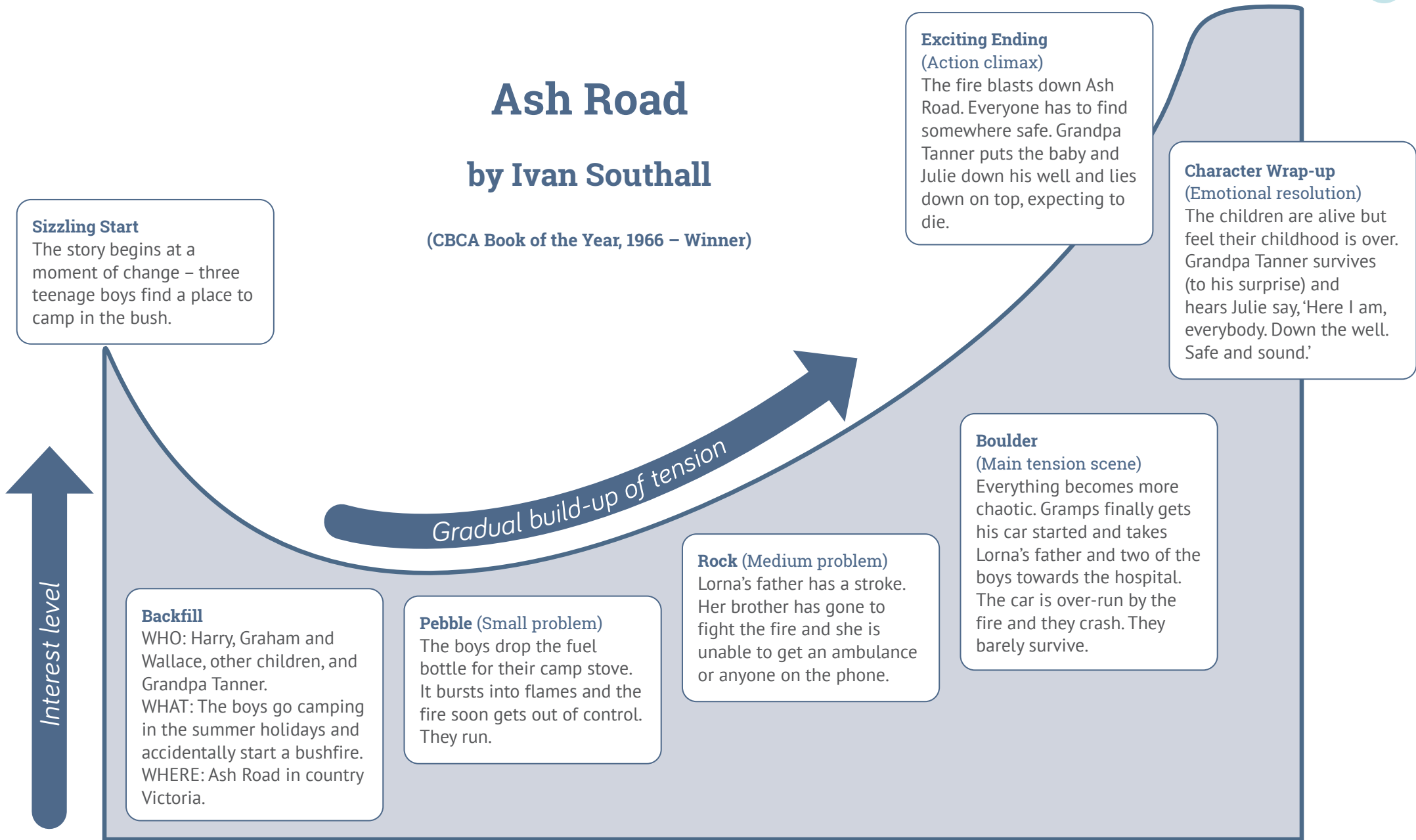
Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
The story ends with a picture of the farm looking green again. Jane and her dog watch the cattle grazing on fresh grass.

Ash Road

by Ivan Southall

(CBCA Book of the Year, 1966 – Winner)



Sizzling Start

The story begins at a moment of change – three teenage boys find a place to camp in the bush.

Backfill

WHO: Harry, Graham and Wallace, other children, and Grandpa Tanner.
WHAT: The boys go camping in the summer holidays and accidentally start a bushfire.
WHERE: Ash Road in country Victoria.

Pebble (Small problem)

The boys drop the fuel bottle for their camp stove. It bursts into flames and the fire soon gets out of control. They run.

Rock (Medium problem)

Lorna's father has a stroke. Her brother has gone to fight the fire and she is unable to get an ambulance or anyone on the phone.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
Everything becomes more chaotic. Gramps finally gets his car started and takes Lorna's father and two of the boys towards the hospital. The car is over-run by the fire and they crash. They barely survive.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
The fire blasts down Ash Road. Everyone has to find somewhere safe. Grandpa Tanner puts the baby and Julie down his well and lies down on top, expecting to die.

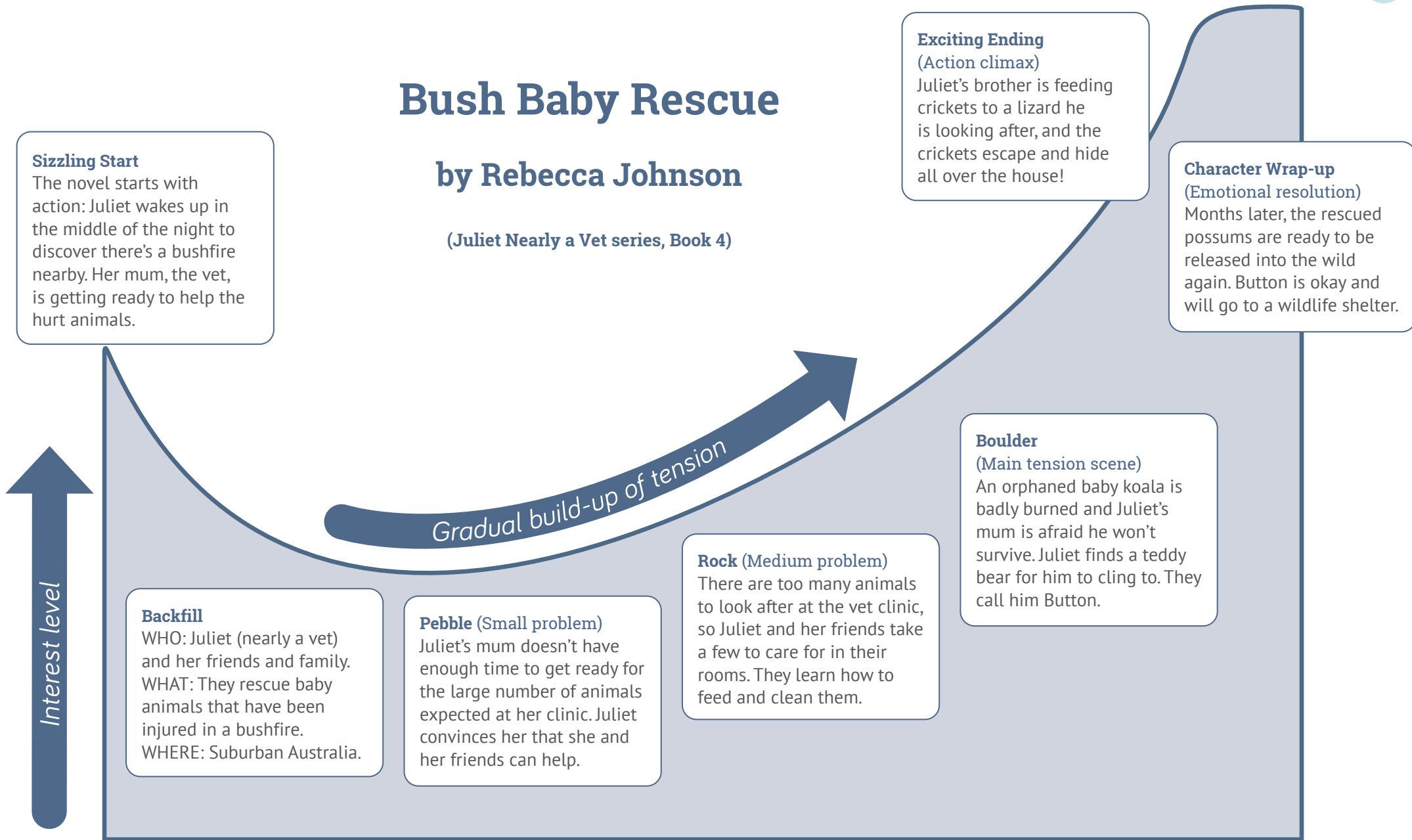
Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
The children are alive but feel their childhood is over. Grandpa Tanner survives (to his surprise) and hears Julie say, 'Here I am, everybody. Down the well. Safe and sound.'

Bush Baby Rescue

by Rebecca Johnson

(Juliet Nearly a Vet series, Book 4)



Sizzling Start
The novel starts with action: Juliet wakes up in the middle of the night to discover there's a bushfire nearby. Her mum, the vet, is getting ready to help the hurt animals.

Backfill
WHO: Juliet (nearly a vet) and her friends and family.
WHAT: They rescue baby animals that have been injured in a bushfire.
WHERE: Suburban Australia.

Pebble (Small problem)
Juliet's mum doesn't have enough time to get ready for the large number of animals expected at her clinic. Juliet convinces her that she and her friends can help.

Rock (Medium problem)
There are too many animals to look after at the vet clinic, so Juliet and her friends take a few to care for in their rooms. They learn how to feed and clean them.

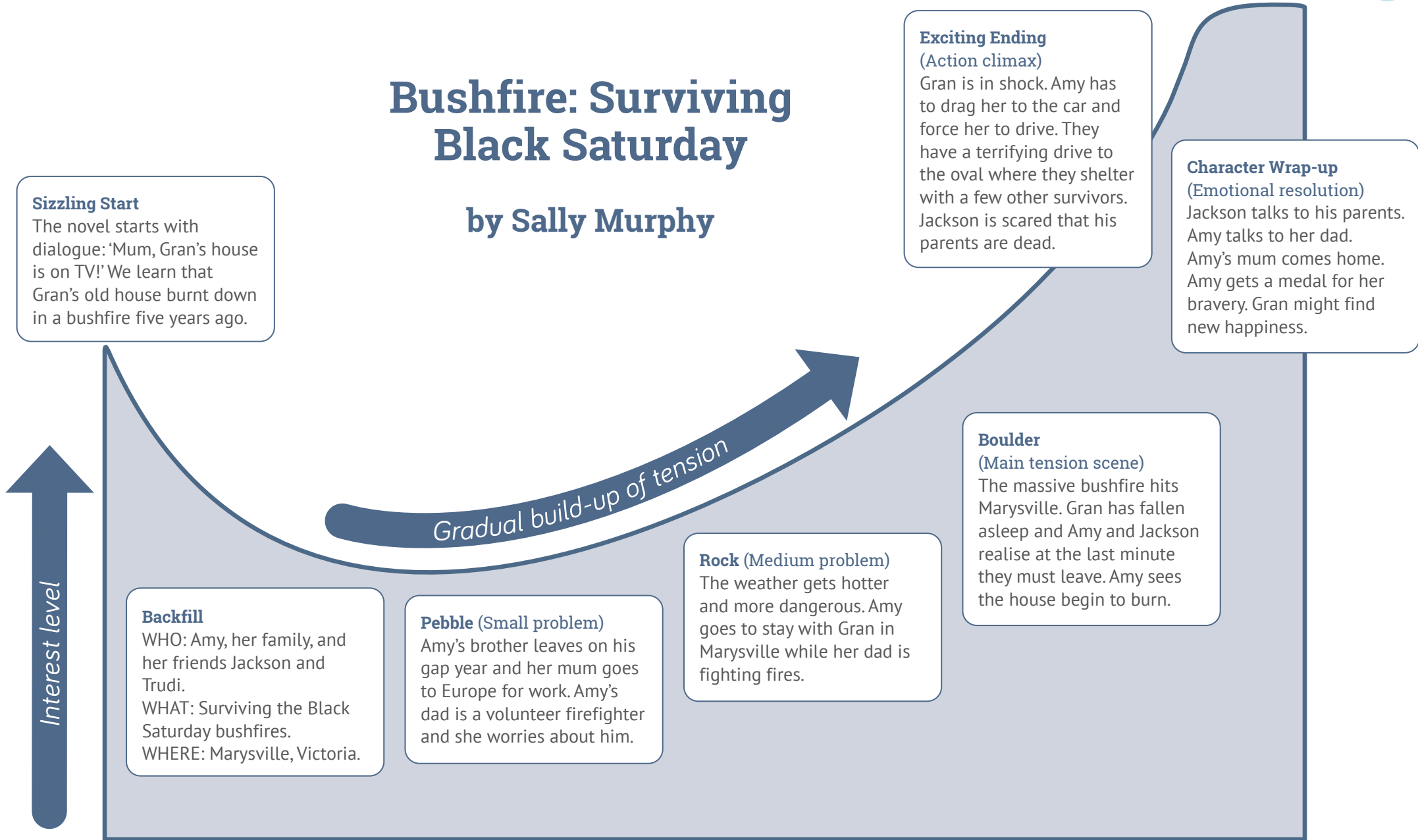
Boulder
(Main tension scene)
An orphaned baby koala is badly burned and Juliet's mum is afraid he won't survive. Juliet finds a teddy bear for him to cling to. They call him Button.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Juliet's brother is feeding crickets to a lizard he is looking after, and the crickets escape and hide all over the house!

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Months later, the rescued possums are ready to be released into the wild again. Button is okay and will go to a wildlife shelter.

Bushfire: Surviving Black Saturday

by Sally Murphy



Sizzling Start

The novel starts with dialogue: 'Mum, Gran's house is on TV!' We learn that Gran's old house burnt down in a bushfire five years ago.

Backfill

WHO: Amy, her family, and her friends Jackson and Trudi.
WHAT: Surviving the Black Saturday bushfires.
WHERE: Marysville, Victoria.

Pebble (Small problem)

Amy's brother leaves on his gap year and her mum goes to Europe for work. Amy's dad is a volunteer firefighter and she worries about him.

Rock (Medium problem)

The weather gets hotter and more dangerous. Amy goes to stay with Gran in Marysville while her dad is fighting fires.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
The massive bushfire hits Marysville. Gran has fallen asleep and Amy and Jackson realise at the last minute they must leave. Amy sees the house begin to burn.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
Gran is in shock. Amy has to drag her to the car and force her to drive. They have a terrifying drive to the oval where they shelter with a few other survivors. Jackson is scared that his parents are dead.

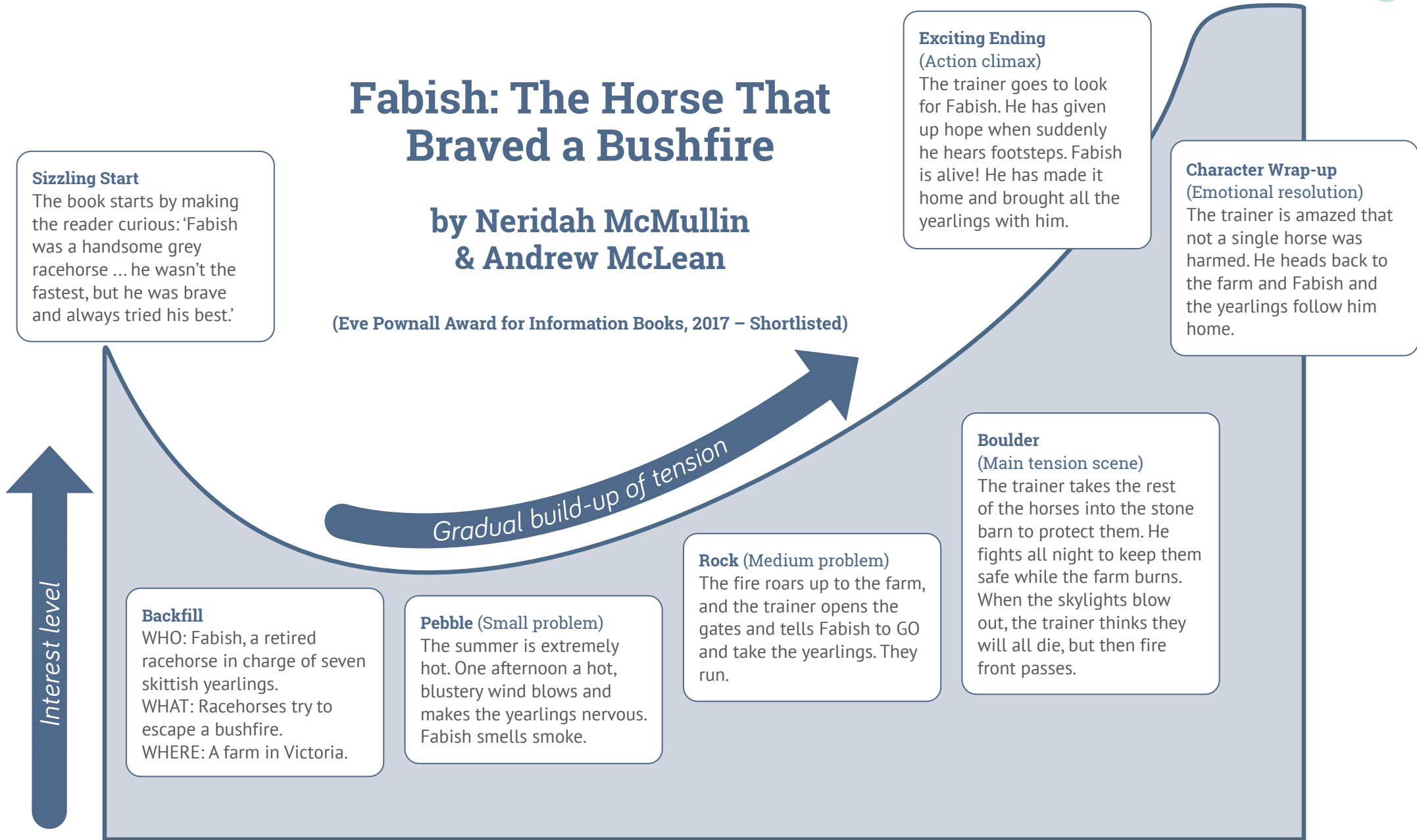
Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
Jackson talks to his parents. Amy talks to her dad. Amy's mum comes home. Amy gets a medal for her bravery. Gran might find new happiness.

Fabish: The Horse That Braved a Bushfire

by Neridah McMullin & Andrew McLean

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2017 – Shortlisted)



Sizzling Start

The book starts by making the reader curious: 'Fabish was a handsome grey racehorse ... he wasn't the fastest, but he was brave and always tried his best.'

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
The trainer goes to look for Fabish. He has given up hope when suddenly he hears footsteps. Fabish is alive! He has made it home and brought all the yearlings with him.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
The trainer is amazed that not a single horse was harmed. He heads back to the farm and Fabish and the yearlings follow him home.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
The trainer takes the rest of the horses into the stone barn to protect them. He fights all night to keep them safe while the farm burns. When the skylights blow out, the trainer thinks they will all die, but then fire front passes.

Rock (Medium problem)

The fire roars up to the farm, and the trainer opens the gates and tells Fabish to GO and take the yearlings. They run.

Pebble (Small problem)

The summer is extremely hot. One afternoon a hot, blustery wind blows and makes the yearlings nervous. Fabish smells smoke.

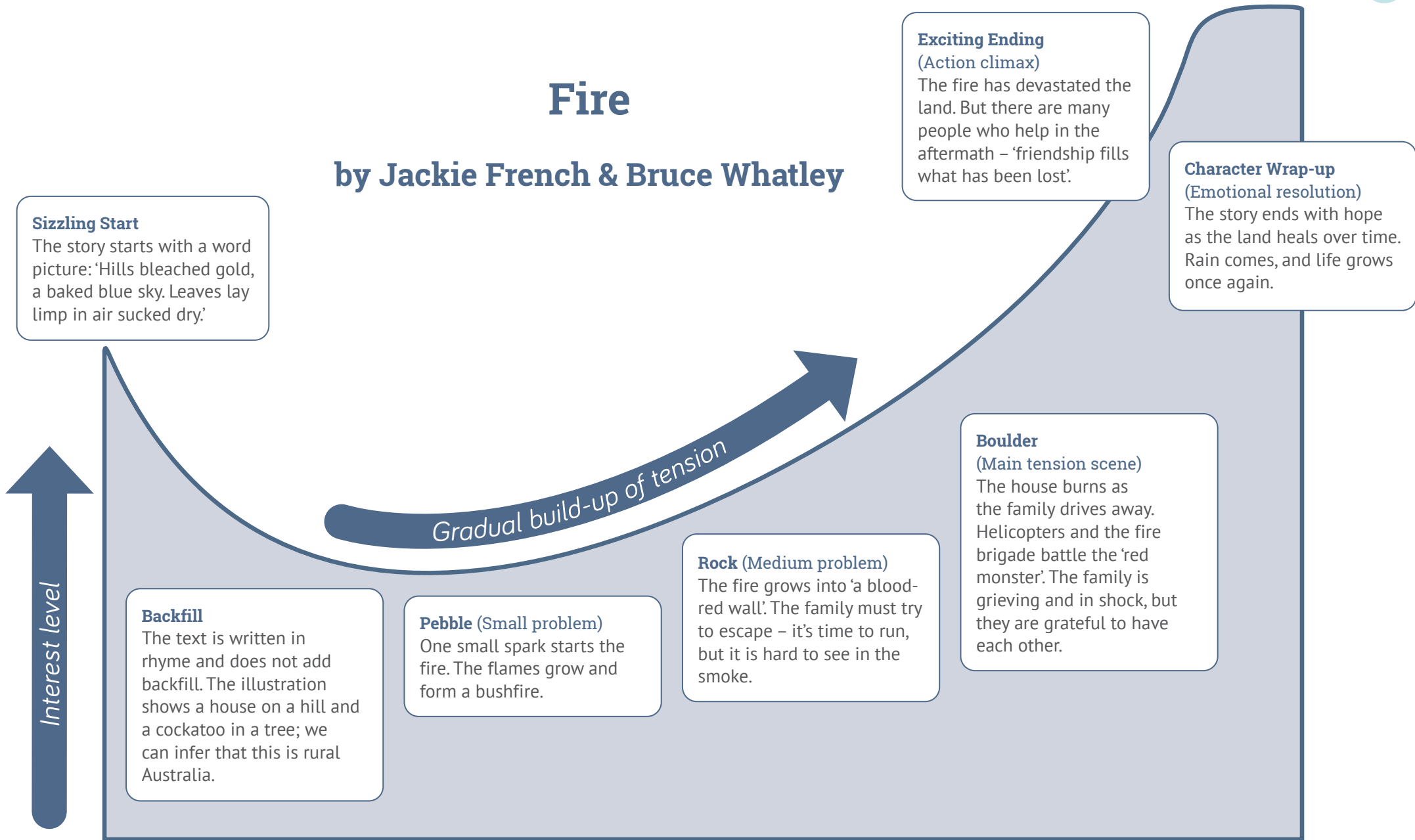
Backfill

WHO: Fabish, a retired racehorse in charge of seven skittish yearlings.
WHAT: Racehorses try to escape a bushfire.
WHERE: A farm in Victoria.

Interest level

Fire

by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley



Flood

by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley

