Say Yes: A Story of Friendship, Fairness and a Vote for Hope

by Jennifer Castles & Paul Seden
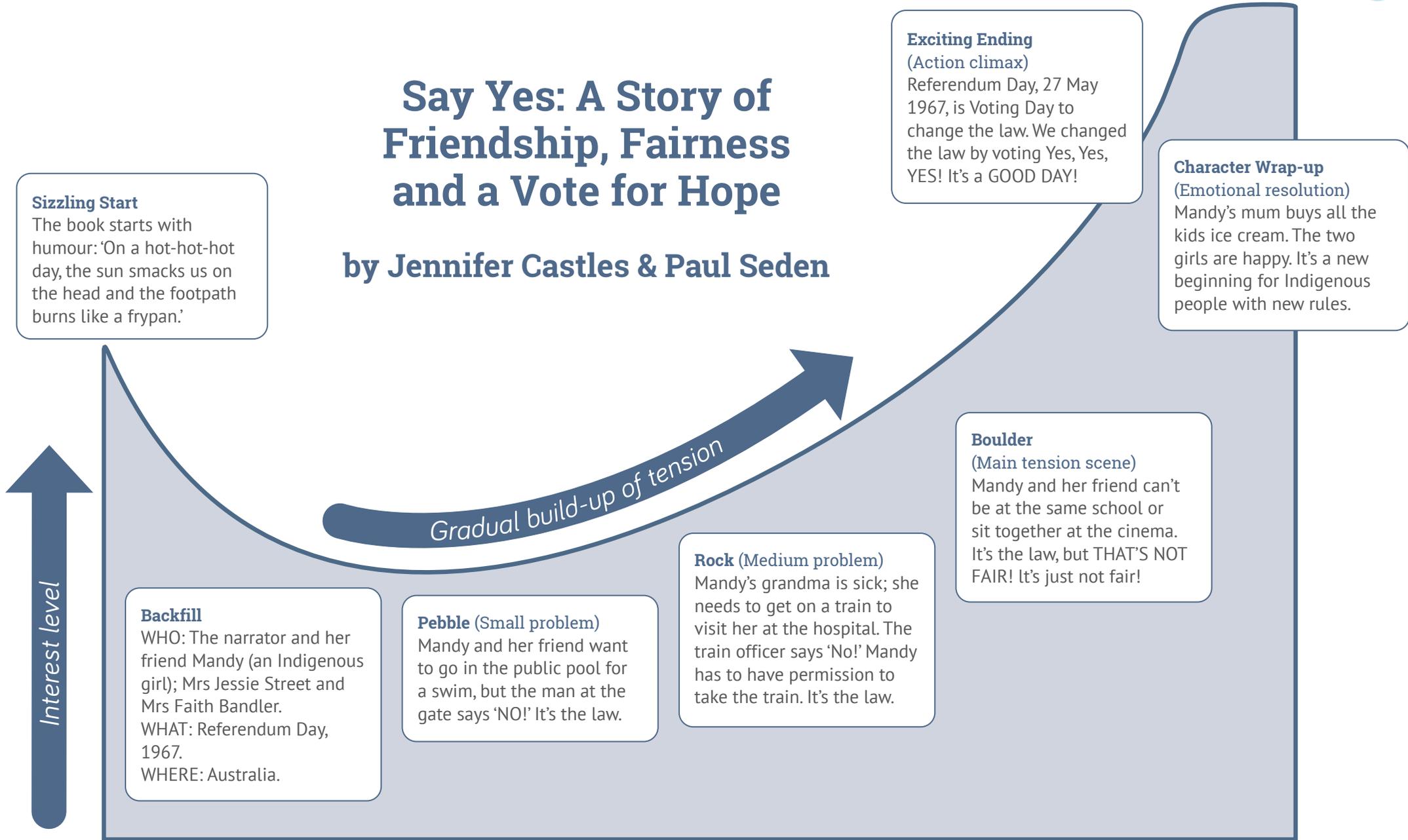
Sizzling Start
The book starts with humour: 'On a hot-hot-hot day, the sun smacks us on the head and the footpath burns like a frypan.'

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Referendum Day, 27 May 1967, is Voting Day to change the law. We changed the law by voting Yes, Yes, YES! It's a GOOD DAY!

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Mandy's mum buys all the kids ice cream. The two girls are happy. It's a new beginning for Indigenous people with new rules.

Gradual build-up of tension

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
Mandy and her friend can't be at the same school or sit together at the cinema. It's the law, but THAT'S NOT FAIR! It's just not fair!

Interest level

Backfill
WHO: The narrator and her friend Mandy (an Indigenous girl); Mrs Jessie Street and Mrs Faith Bandler.
WHAT: Referendum Day, 1967.
WHERE: Australia.

Pebble (Small problem)
Mandy and her friend want to go in the public pool for a swim, but the man at the gate says 'NO!' It's the law.

Rock (Medium problem)
Mandy's grandma is sick; she needs to get on a train to visit her at the hospital. The train officer says 'No!' Mandy has to have permission to take the train. It's the law.