Sevensteps

NARRATIVE N

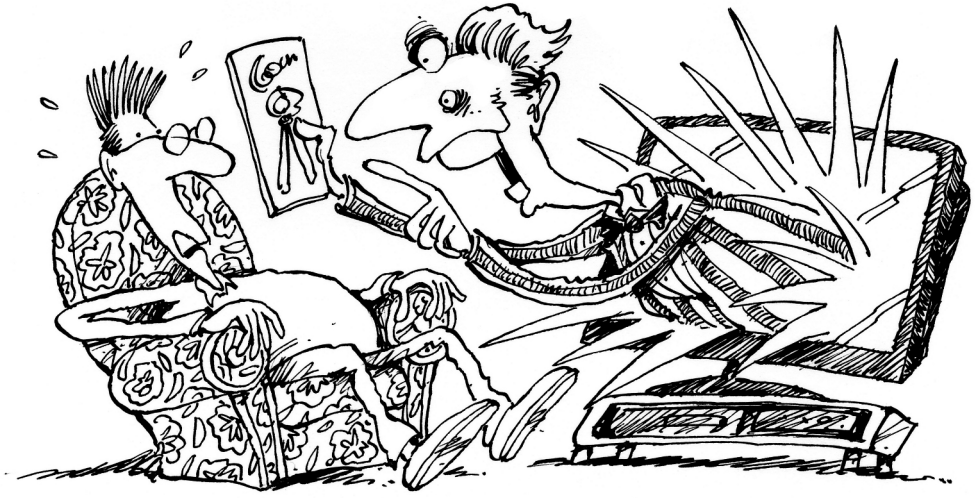
Step 1: Plan for Success

Animations and Advertisements 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*.

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The Greatest Gift

Sainsbury's Christmas advertisement 2016

(https://youtu.be/bq5SGSCZe4E)

Sizzling Start
The advertisement starts at a moment of change: A snowflake leads us immediately into a household where an alarm clock goes off and Dave is in a rush to get to work.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Dave creates clones of himself so he can have more time with his family. He gives them the greatest gift – HIM!

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Dave can now get everything done and spend time with his family, which makes everyone happy.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
Dave realises that he doesn't have time because there is only ONE of him!

Rock (Medium problem)
He wants to find the greatest gift for his family, but he doesn't have time to breathe.

Pebble (Small problem)
Dave is late for work and everything is hectic because it's Christmas time!

Backfill
WHO: Dave.
WHAT: Dave is overworked and is missing time with his family.
WHERE: Dave's work and home.

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Minuscule: The Poor Spider

by Futurikon

(https://youtu.be/ifXvM7rTU6c)

Sizzling Start
The animation starts with action: 'CRASH! BANG!'
The poor spider is stuck to a strand of spider silk with the fly on the other end, flying from one place to another.

Backfill
WHO: The fly and the poor spider.
WHAT: The spider is being bashed about by the fly.
WHERE: A cosy lounge room in a house.

Pebble (Small problem)
The poor spider is dragged back and forth over the top of the oil heater.

Rock (Medium problem)
The poor spider is taken through an artwork maze.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The poor spider is whipped back and forth through the air as the fly tries to find a way out.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The fly finds a way out through the keyhole, but the poor spider gets stuck on the other side of the door when the strand of spider silk snaps.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The poor spider manages to return to his web on the ceiling with his friends, but his stomach is rumbling with hunger.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

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Mog's Christmas Calamity

Sainsbury's Christmas advertisement 2015

(https://youtu.be/kuRn2S7iPNU)

Sizzling Start
The advertisement starts by making the viewer curious: It's Christmas Eve and everyone in the Thomas family is dreaming sweet dreams, except Mog.

Backfill
WHO: Mog the cat, and the Thomas family.
WHAT: Mog is having a nightmare and accidentally sets off a series of disasters.
WHERE: The Thomas family home.

Pebble (Small problem)
Mog's nightmare causes him to wave his tail, which pulls on the Christmas lights and sets off a domino effect.
He wakes up to find black smoke wafting from the oven.

Rock (Medium problem)
Mog gets up to investigate and sets off a series of events that make the situation worse. The kitchen is destroyed, Christmas tree and all.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
Black smoke billows from the oven and Mog dashes outside just as the fire brigade arrive. They douse the burnt turkey in foam and the family proclaims Mog a hero.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The family look inside the house and are very sad.
There will be no Christmas.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The neighbours all rally around and invite the Thomas family to share their Christmas. Everyone is happy as the whole street celebrates together!

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

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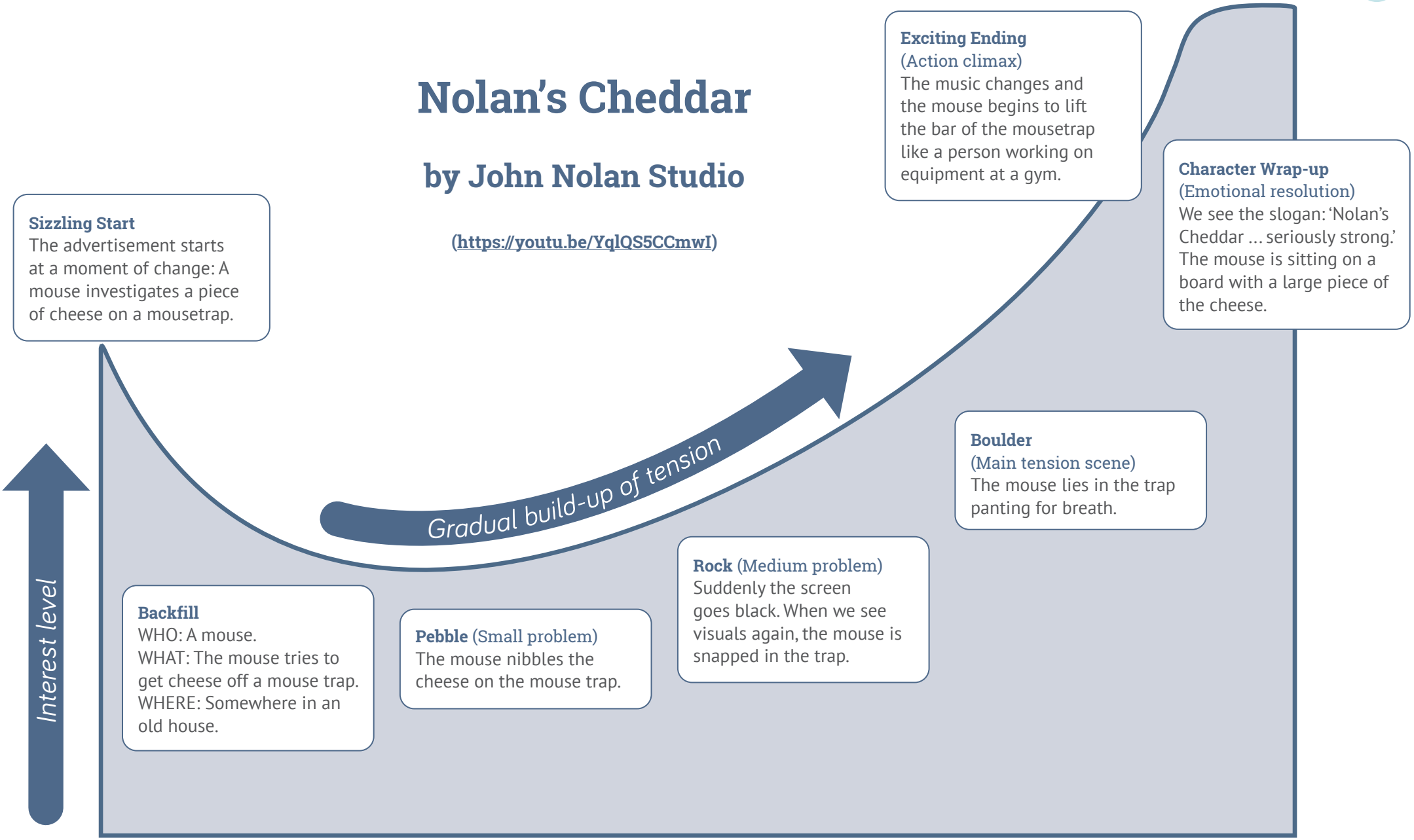
Nolan's Cheddar

by John Nolan Studio

(https://youtu.be/YqlQS5CCmwI)



Sizzling Start
The advertisement starts at a moment of change: A mouse investigates a piece of cheese on a mousetrap.

Backfill
WHO: A mouse.
WHAT: The mouse tries to get cheese off a mouse trap.
WHERE: Somewhere in an old house.

Pebble (Small problem)
The mouse nibbles the cheese on the mouse trap.

Rock (Medium problem)
Suddenly the screen goes black. When we see visuals again, the mouse is snapped in the trap.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The mouse lies in the trap panting for breath.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The music changes and the mouse begins to lift the bar of the mousetrap like a person working on equipment at a gym.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
We see the slogan: 'Nolan's Cheddar ... seriously strong.' The mouse is sitting on a board with a large piece of the cheese.

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Partly Cloudy

by Pixar Animation Studios

(https://youtu.be/7DmLkugdh9s)

Sizzling Start
The animation starts with action: We see a flock of storks delivering babies, kittens and puppies across the city.

Backfill
WHO: The clouds and their storks.
WHAT: The grey cloud is the odd one out, but his stork is a loyal friend.
WHERE: Up in the sky.

Pebble (Small problem)
The grey cloud doesn't create cute and cuddly babies like the other clouds – he creates dangerous creatures.

Rock (Medium problem)
The poor stork has to deliver the harmful baby animals even when they injure him, but he soldiers on.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The stork leaves the grey cloud and goes to one of the pink clouds. This hurts the grey cloud, which makes him angry and then sad.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The stork returns to the grey cloud with protective gear. He didn't abandon his friend after all!

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The grey cloud is overjoyed and hugs the stork. They are a team again.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

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Pigeon: Impossible

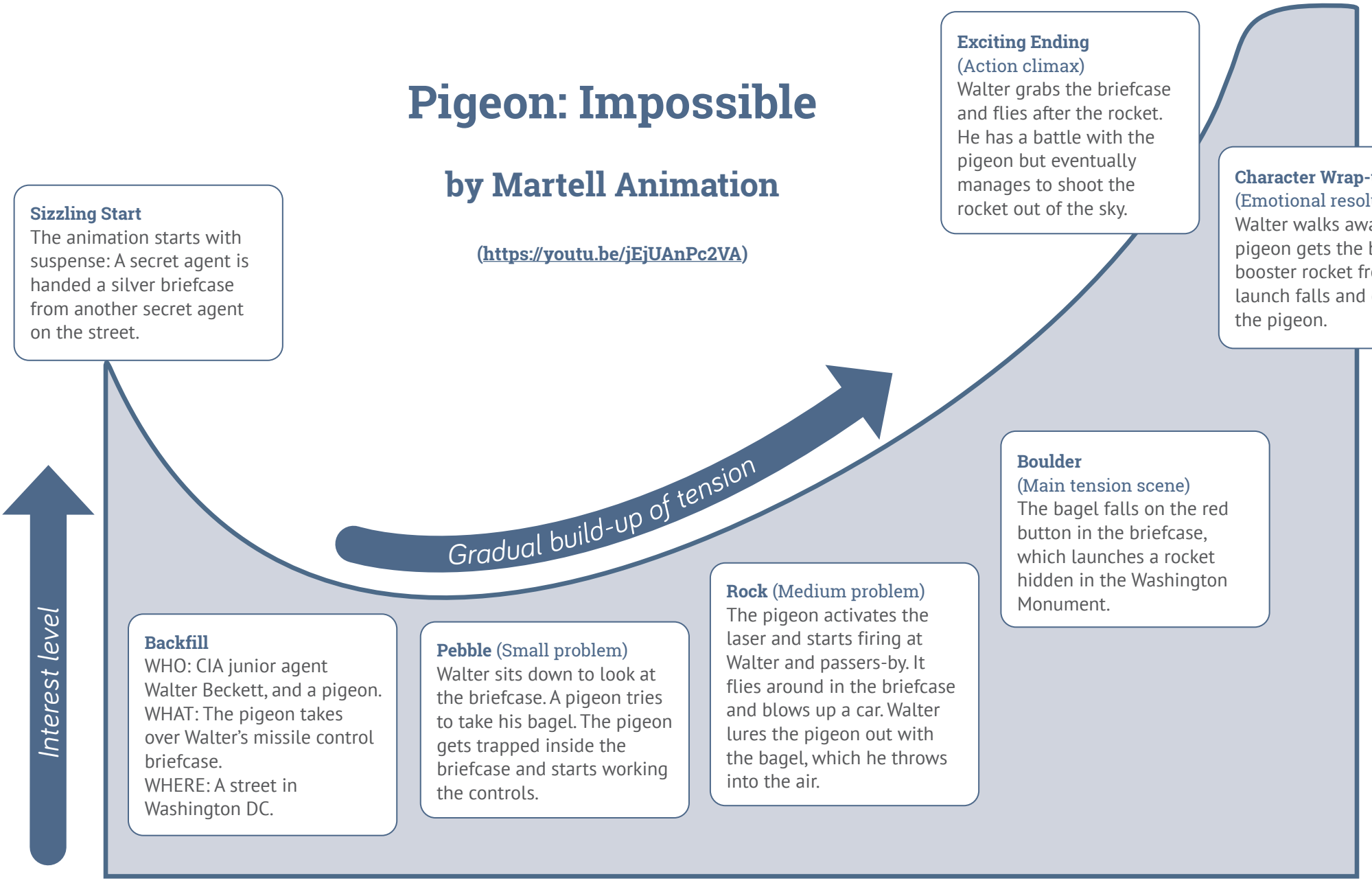
by Martell Animation

(https://youtu.be/jEjUAnPc2VA)

Sizzling Start
The animation starts with suspense: A secret agent is handed a silver briefcase from another secret agent on the street.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Walter grabs the briefcase and flies after the rocket. He has a battle with the pigeon but eventually manages to shoot the rocket out of the sky.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Walter walks away. The pigeon gets the bagel. The booster rocket from the launch falls and crushes the pigeon.



Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The bagel falls on the red button in the briefcase, which launches a rocket hidden in the Washington Monument.

Backfill
WHO: CIA junior agent Walter Beckett, and a pigeon.
WHAT: The pigeon takes over Walter's missile control briefcase.
WHERE: A street in Washington DC.

Pebble (Small problem)
Walter sits down to look at the briefcase. A pigeon tries to take his bagel. The pigeon gets trapped inside the briefcase and starts working the controls.

Rock (Medium problem)
The pigeon activates the laser and starts firing at Walter and passers-by. It flies around in the briefcase and blows up a car. Walter lures the pigeon out with the bagel, which he throws into the air.

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Plot Device

by Seth Worley

(https://youtu.be/itMHVpXo2lU)

Sizzling Start
The film starts at a moment of change: The main character opens a package containing his brand new Plot Device.

Backfill
WHO: A film-making teenager and sci-fi fan.
WHAT: He has a magical device that transports him into different movie genres.
WHERE: A suburban street.

Pebble (Small problem)
Pushing the button transports the hero into a romantic comedy and then an action movie. He drops the Plot Device and has to get it back in the middle of a police shoot-out.

Rock (Medium problem)
The Plot Device transports the hero to a zombie movie. The zombies attack, but he manages to push the Plot Device button by smashing it on a zombie's head.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
He arrives in an alien thriller film. One of the aliens tries to take the Plot Device.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
He races for a weapon, shoots the alien and gets the Plot Device back. He smashes it on the ground triumphantly.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
He lands back in the romantic comedy from the start. This time he decides to stay, but he accidentally drops the Plot Device and the world goes black ...

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

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The Power of Words

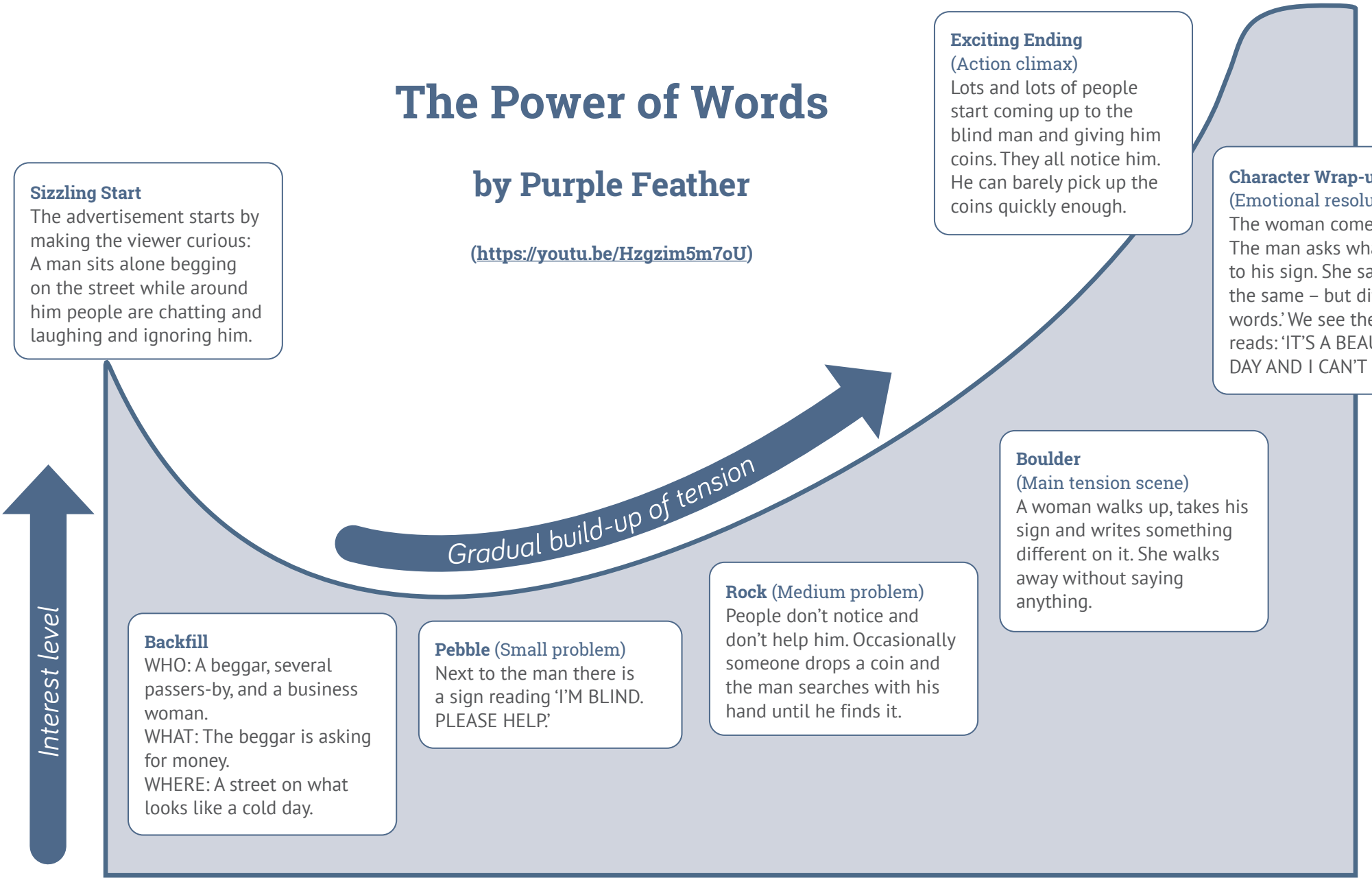
by Purple Feather

(https://youtu.be/Hzgzim5m7oU)

Sizzling Start
The advertisement starts by making the viewer curious: A man sits alone begging on the street while around him people are chatting and laughing and ignoring him.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Lots and lots of people start coming up to the blind man and giving him coins. They all notice him. He can barely pick up the coins quickly enough.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The woman comes back. The man asks what she did to his sign. She says, 'I wrote the same – but different words.' We see the sign. It reads: 'IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND I CAN'T SEE IT.'



Boulder
(Main tension scene)
A woman walks up, takes his sign and writes something different on it. She walks away without saying anything.

Rock (Medium problem)
People don't notice and don't help him. Occasionally someone drops a coin and the man searches with his hand until he finds it.

Pebble (Small problem)
Next to the man there is a sign reading 'I'M BLIND. PLEASE HELP.'

Backfill
WHO: A beggar, several passers-by, and a business woman.
WHAT: The beggar is asking for money.
WHERE: A street on what looks like a cold day.

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Soar

by Alyce Tzue

(https://youtu.be/UUlaseGrkLc)

Sizzling Start
The animation starts with action: A young girl crashes her model plane, which makes her sad.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The young girl comes up with a way to fix the tiny plane and it works! The little boy flies off into the sunset and is reunited with his squadron.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The squadron's job is to put the stars out at night. The little boy puts a star out for the young girl and sends her a message. She sees the flashing star and realises it's him!

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The little boy is going to be left behind by the squadron if he doesn't fix his plane in time, but the girl has lost all confidence in herself.

Rock (Medium problem)
The young girl tries and tries to help the tiny boy fix his aircraft, but it keeps crashing.

Pebble (Small problem)
A tiny bag falls on to the table in front of the girl and then a tiny boy pilot crashes his aircraft into the tree.

Backfill
WHO: A young girl.
WHAT: The young girl is aspiring to be a pilot but she lacks confidence in her abilities.
WHERE: In a field.

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Sweet Cocoon

by ESMA

(https://youtu.be/UUlaseGrkLc)

Sizzling Start
The animation starts with action: A caterpillar pushes a cocoon up a hill and lands in a clearing.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The caterpillar emerges as a beautiful butterfly. Her two friends are mesmerised. She flies up into the sun – and is immediately snatched by a bird.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
The insects realise what has happened. They shrug and walk away. We see the bird flying off into the distance.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

Backfill
WHO: A caterpillar and two insect friends.
WHAT: The insects help the caterpillar to go through metamorphosis.
WHERE: In a garden.

Pebble (Small problem)
The caterpillar pushes and wriggles but she can't get inside her cocoon.

Rock (Medium problem)
Two insects offer to help. They struggle to fit the caterpillar into her cocoon.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
The caterpillar goes to sleep inside the cocoon. The insects pull the cocoon up into the tree and wait all night.

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