## Sevensteps





Step 1: Plan for Success

# CBCA Award Winners 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*.

The book starts at a moment

of change: A family leave

for a trip around Australia.

Grace and her brothers will miss a whole term of school!

## **Are We There Yet?**

## by Alison Lester

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2005 – Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

They drive home along the Great Ocean Road. Finally, they are back at their own house!

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)
Grace cuddles all her pets.
Billy wakes up and asks,
'Are we there yet?' And
they're home.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

The backfill is added in the first few pages – we learn where the family is from in South Australia and see it on a map. Grace says goodbye to Nan and Poppa.

### Pebble (Small problem)

They drive across the Great Australian Bight and imagine a monster chomping at the coastline. They reach Perth and head up the west coast. Billy says, 'Are we there yet?'

### Rock (Medium problem)

They continue up the coast and explore the Outback. They visit the Red Centre and have several adventures in the Top End. Repetition: 'Are we there yet?'

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene)

After more adventures in Queensland, the family head south. They travel all the way down the coast, and take a ferry to Tasmania and back again.
Repetition: 'Are we there yet?'

## **Ash Road**

## by Ivan Southall

(CBCA Book of the Year, 1966 - Winner)

### **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.'

### **Sizzling Start**

Interest level

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

# Gradual build-up of tension

## 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.

### 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.

Interest level

The story begins with strong

'This is Rose. Rose has a best

friend. Her name is Olive.'

statements that prompt

curiosity in the reader:

## **Collecting Colour**

## by Kylie Dunstan

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2009 – Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

After three long days, all of their hard work pays off; the weavings are a beautiful sight.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

Olive's father admires the baskets, the bags and the mats. He says the mats Olive and Rose made are special and he hangs them on the wall.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Rock (Medium problem)

Often there are nests of pesky green ants in the palms so they have to be careful not to get bitten.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene)

They have to be careful of crocodiles when they fish by the river while eating their lunch.

### Backfill

WHO: Rose, Olive, Olive's mother and aunty.

WHAT: The girls learn how to collect pandanus leaves and dyes to make baskets. WHERE: The Top End (NT).

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Rose and Olive help collect pandanus leaves. They need the softest newest leaves. but these are at the top of the palm trees so they have to reach them with a long stick.

The book starts with humour and rhyme: 'Hey diddle diddle, you all know the riddle, a cow jumps over the moon. It happened, all right, on a crisp, cloudless night, on the second-last Friday in June.'

Backfill

WHO: The cow.

WHAT: The real story of how

moon in the nursery rhyme.

the cow jumped over the

WHERE: A farmyard.

## The Cow Tripped Over the Moon

by Tony Wilson & Laura Wood

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2016 - Honour Book)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

With the support of the cat, the dog, the dish and the spoon, the cow finally jumps over the moon.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) The cat plays the fiddle and they all dance in the farmyard to celebrate.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The cow tries to jump over the moon, but she trips over the little dog Rover and falls flat on her face.

### Rock (Medium problem)

The cow has six more hilarious failed attempts.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

The night is almost over and the cow still hasn't managed to jump over the moon. Her friends try to cheer her up and encourage her to have one last attempt.

## Do Not Lick This Book: It's Full of Germs

### Sizzling Start (Introduction)

Interest level

The book starts by introducing the main character: 'This is Min. Min is a microbe.' We learn about how tiny microbes like Min are everywhere, even in this book

## by Idan Ben-Barak, Julian Frost & Linnea Rundgren

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2018 - Winner)

### **Ending with Impact** (Conclusion)

The book ends with a link to the introduction and a call to action: Min, Rae, Dennis and Jake want to go back into the book, so the reader is instructed to put them there before being asked where they will take Min tomorrow.

## Progression of information

### Fact Section 1 (Strong interest)

The book engages the reader by asking them to 'pick up' Min and take her on an adventure! The first stop is the reader's teeth, where they learn about the microbes that cause tooth decay and they pick up Rae.

### Fact Section 2 (Medium interest)

The second stop is the reader's shirt, where they learn about the microbes that live on our clothes and they pick up Dennis.

### Fact Section 3 (Strongest interest)

The final stop is the reader's belly button! They learn about the microbes that live on our skin and they pick up Jake.

blood.'

Interest level

The book starts with action:

'Tonight is the night. The

family has to flee. They've

authorities are after their

been tipped off that the



## Flight

## by Nadia Wheatley & Armin Greder

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2016 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

They find a refugee camp and become one of many families waiting for help to arrive.

**Boulder** 

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

The baby grows up and promises his mother that one day they will find a place they can call home.

# Gradual build-up of tension

## Rock (Medium problem)

The nightly bombardment starts and the donkey is scared by the noise of the tanks.

As they head into the wilderness, the mother begins to struggle from exhaustion. They are down to their last drops of water and they can hear the howl of jackals.

(Main tension scene)

### Backfill

WHO: A mother, father and baby.

WHAT: They have to flee their home to escape the authorities.

WHERE: A war-torn country.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The family follow a star, but they are not sure they are going in the right direction.

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## Go to Sleep, Jessie!

## by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2015 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) Dad puts Jessie back in her cot and she starts screaming again. Her sister climbs into the cot and finally she stops crying.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) The sisters cuddle each other and fall asleep together.

### **Sizzling Start**

Interest level

The book starts with action: 'Jessie is screaming!'

Gradual build-up of tension

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Jessie screams every night, which keeps her sister awake.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Mum changes Jessie's nappy and Dad turns on her music box, but she keeps screaming.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene) Jessie's sister has had enough. When she demands her own room back, Dad takes Jessie out for a drive. But now it's too quiet to sleep!

### Backfill

WHO: Jessie and her sister. WHAT: Jessie's screaming keeps her sister awake every night.

WHERE: The family home.

river.'

The story begins by making

the reader curious: 'This is

the last time I'll fish in this

## Goodbye House, Hello House

## by Margaret Wild & Ann James

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2020 - Honour Book)

### **Exciting Ending** (Action climax)

At the new house, Emma is excited to do everything for the first time! She says hello to every room.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) Emma is happy to be in a new house in the city. 'Hello, new house, hello!'

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

An illustration at the beginning of the book shows a girl sitting with a big pile of moving boxes, looking out at a farm.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The girl runs through the trees, pats the pony, swings on the gate. Every time she does something, it's for the last time.

### Rock (Medium problem)

She does the same thing inside the house: 'This is the last time I'll eat at this table ... the last time I'll sleep in this bed.'

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

The girl moves from room to room and says goodbye to every part of the house. She writes 'Emma lived here' on the wall. They drive away: 'Goodbye, old house, goodbye!'

## The Happiness Box

### **Sizzling Start**

The book starts at a moment of change: It is the evening before the surrender of Singapore. Griff hears gunfire and feels the jolts of shells.

### by Mark Greenwood & Andrew McLean

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2019 – Honour Book)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

A secret radio tells the prisoners that the Japanese have surrendered. They celebrate. They will be free! They rescue the book from its hiding place before they are rescued.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

Griff's storybook is declared a National Treasure and tours Australia. We see children finally enjoying the story, as Griff intended.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### **Backfill**

WHO: Sergeant 'Griff' Griffin and his fellow prisoners of

WHAT: The fall of Singapore in 1942, during World War II. WHERE: Changi Prison.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Thousands of women and children are held in Changi Prison, near the barracks where Griff and the prisoners of war endure hardship. Griff worries that the children will have no toys for Christmas.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Griff gets permission for the prisoners of war to make tovs for the children. He writes a story called The Happiness Box. But General Saito suspects the story hides secret messages.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene)

All the toys are taken away. The children in Changi Prison receive no presents and the general orders the book to be destroyed.



## **Jeremy**

### **Sizzling Start** The story starts at a

moment of change and makes the reader curious: 'Last year a pair of kookaburras made a nest in our garden.'

## by Christopher Faille & Danny Snell

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2014 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

Jeremy is six weeks old and he can now fly and fend for himself.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) On the day before Christmas Jeremy comes to say goodbye. He finds his family and they fly away together.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Rock (Medium problem)

They name the baby kookaburra Jeremy and look after him. He eats all the time and grows quickly.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene) Jeremy wants to fly, but

when he tries to, he crashes into walls. It's time for him to be outside.

### Backfill

Interest level

WHO: The cat, the baby kookaburra and the family. WHAT: The baby kookaburra falls out of the tree and is brought in by the cat. WHERE: The family home.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The cat brings a baby kookaburra into the lounge. It has fallen out of the nest in the garden and they can't put it back because the nest is too high up.

## Koala

### Sizzling Start (Introduction)

Interest level

The book begins with action: 'In a high tree fork, a grey ball unfurls.'
The writer paints a word picture of the young koala in his tree.
Informative text on the same page tells us what koalas eat.

## by Claire Saxby & Julie Vivas

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2018 - Honour Book)

### **Ending with Impact** (Conclusion)

The koala has found a new home

– the ending links back to the
introduction by showing the koala
happy in a tree once more. At the
end of the book are some more facts
about koalas and a glossary.

## Progression of information

### Fact Section 1 (Strong interest)

Mother koalas will ignore their joeys once they are pregnant again, and the young koalas must take care of themselves.

### Fact Section 2 (Medium interest)

During the mating season, male koalas fight each other as they search for a female. Mature males rub their scent gland on the base of a tree to mark their territory.

### **Fact Section 3** (Strongest interest)

Koalas mostly live alone in their own trees. They have thick oily fur that keeps them warm and dry, even in heavy wind and rain. Koalas can move very quickly when they need to! They can hop with their hind legs together, like kangaroos.

The start of the story makes

the reader curious: 'Once

keeper called Mr Grinling.'

there was a lighthouse

## The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch

## by Ronda & David Armitage

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1978 – Highly Commended)

### **Exciting Ending**

### (Action climax)

Mrs Grinling makes special sandwiches of extra-hot mustard. The seagulls hate the taste of mustard and so they leave.

### **Character Wrap-up**

### (Emotional resolution)

On Saturday, Mr Grinling receives his lunch safely. As he watches the coast, he sees the seagulls helping themselves to a fisherman's picnic.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### **Backfill**

WHO: Mr and Mrs Grinling. WHAT: Seagulls keep stealing Mr Grinling's lunch. WHERE: The lighthouse and the little white cottage.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Every day, Mrs Grinling sends a delicious lunch to the lighthouse on her special wire. One Monday, three seagulls eat it all before it gets to the lighthouse.

### Rock (Medium problem)

On Tuesday, Mrs Grinling tries tying the napkin to the basket, but this does not stop the seagulls from eating all of the delicious food.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

The next day, Mrs Grinling sends Hamish, their cat, in a basket on the wire with the lunch. But Hamish is too sick and scared to protect the lunch.

start of the day.

The story starts by making

is split in half with title

Both stories begin at the

the reader curious: The book

pages in English and Arabic.

## **Mirror**

### by Jeannie Baker

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2011 - Joint Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

The Australian family unwrap the carpet and place it in front of the fireplace. The Moroccan family open the box and set up their new computer.

### Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)

The story ends with a picture of the two boys at the end of the day, looking out of their windows at the night sky.

# Gradual build-up of tension

**Pebble** (Small problem)

The Australian family has

father is working on. The

a broken fireplace that the

mother in Morocco has just

finished weaving a beautiful

### Backfill

WHO: Two families.

WHAT: Parallel stories, told through pictures, of families living on opposite sides of

the world.

WHERE: Australia and

Morocco.

### **Rock** (Medium problem)

The Australian son and father drive to the hardware store for supplies to fix the fireplace. The Moroccan son and father travel on a donkey to take the carpet to market.

### Boulder

(Main tension scene)

The Moroccan son and father sell the carpet to a merchant. They return home on a long journey carrying a box.

Meanwhile, the Australian boy sees a shop near the hardware store called 'Magic Carpets'. They return home with a carpet.

carpet.

the day.'

The book starts with a sticky

situation: 'When Bill woke up,

he looked out his window. Cloudy with a chance of rain ... He had a bad feeling about

## Mr Huff

### by Anna Walker

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2016 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) Mr Huff decreases in size as Bill becomes more accepting that bad days happen sometimes.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) The next day Bill is happy and Mr Huff is gone.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

WHO: Bill and Mr Huff. WHAT: Bill is lonely and sad because he can't relate to other people.

WHERE: School and home.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The day starts badly: Bill can't find his favourite socks, he spills the milk, his cereal is soggy, it is raining and he's late for school.

### Rock (Medium problem)

The day gets worse. Everything seems increasingly difficult and his feeling of gloom (Mr Huff) gets bigger.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene) Bill tells Mr Huff he hates him and wishes Mr Huff never arrived.



## My Friend Fred

### by Frances Watts & A Yi

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2020 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) We find out who's been telling the story – it's the cat! 'Even though we are different, Fred is my best friend.'

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) The story ends with a picture of Fred and the cat fast asleep together.

### **Sizzling Start**

Interest level

The story starts with humour: 'My friend Fred eats dog food for breakfast. I think dog food is disgusting.'

Gradual build-up of tension

### Rock (Medium problem)

Fred likes digging holes, although he's not supposed to. He doesn't like climbing stairs.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

Fred likes baths, and howls at the moon, and turns around three times before going to sleep. The narrator has no idea why Fred does all these things!

### Backfill

No backfill given. We can tell from the illustrations that Fred is a dog with lots of energy! We don't know vet who the narrator is.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Fred sniffs trees and barks when the doorbell rings. He wears a coat when it's cold.

## Sevensteps



### **Sizzling Start**

The book starts with action: Luk and his grandmother work hard in the mountains. dragging timber from the forest. They hope that their baby elephant Mali will be able to help one day.

## One Step at a Time

by Jane Jolly & Sally Heinrich

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2016 - Honour Book)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) A group of men and women make a plastic leg for Mali. Over time she learns to walk again.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) Luk and Mali step out together, one step as a time. Luk also has a plastic leg.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

WHO: Luk and Mali. WHAT: Luk is Mali's keeper, but he loves her like a sister and they are inseparable. WHERE: South East Asia (landmine territory).

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Mali reaches for the sweetest bananas and is badly injured by a landmine.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Mali is taken to the hospital and Luk prays that she won't die.

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene) Mali loses a leg and she

stumbles and falls when she tries to stand on three legs.

Interest level

## The Peasant Prince

## by Li Cunxin & Anne Spudvilas

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2008 - Honour Book)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

Finally, after 10 years, Cunxin's parents can come to see him dance in America! He sees them from the stage, their faces beaming with pride.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

He remembers a story his father told him when they were flying the kite, about a little frog that climbed out of a dark well to see the whole world.

The story starts with action: a little boy and his father fly a kite in their peasant village in China.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Rock (Medium problem)

At the age of 11, Cunxin is selected to go to the state ballet school in Beijing. It is very difficult training. He is the worst dancer in the class; he is lonely and misses his family.

**Boulder** 

(Main tension scene)

He practises very hard and eventually becomes one of the best dancers in China. He longs to see his family, but at 18 he goes even further away to dance in America.

### Backfill

WHO: The author, Li Cunxin. WHAT: A peasant boy in China becomes one of the world's best ballet dancers. WHERE: Qingdao village, Beijing and America.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Cunxin's family is very poor. There is never enough food, so they are cold and hungry. Many people die of starvation in their village.

The story begins by making

the reader curious: We meet

Hush and Grandma Poss.

and learn that Grandma

Poss can do bush magic.

## **Possum Magic**

## by Mem Fox & Julie Vivas

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1984 – Highly Commended)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) It works! Hush is fully visible again. She and Grandma Poss are so happy that they dance for joy.

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) Hush stays visible for good. But every year on her birthday, she and Grandma Poss eat the same three foods, just to be safe.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### **Backfill**

Grandma Poss made Hush invisible to keep her safe from snakes. Hush has lots of adventures because the other animals can't see her.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Hush wants to be visible again. She asks Grandma Poss to reverse the spell, but Grandma Poss can't find the answer in any of her magic hooks.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Grandma Poss knows the solution involves food, so they travel around Australia eating different foods to try and break the spell.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

Hush is partially visible after eating a vegemite sandwich and some pavlova. In Hobart they find a lamington - could this be it? Hush nibbles as Grandma Poss holds her breath ...

The story begins with dialogue and a question. Clancy says, 'I wonder where all this water comes from.' Uncle Egg replies, 'How about we go and find out sometime, kid?'

## Rockhopping

### by Trace Balla

(CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers, 2017 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

### (Action climax)

Clancy waits for Uncle Egg to climb down the other side of the mountain and come around. It gets dark and a huge thunderstorm hits. Clancy finds a cave and manages to make a small fire. Uncle Egg eventually arrives.

### **Character Wrap-up**

### (Emotional resolution)

Clancy and Uncle Egg climb the mountain and see two eagles. The rain begins and they are at the source of the Yarra! They dance in the rain.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

Interest level

WHO: Clancy and Uncle Egg. WHAT: They go to find the source of the Yarra River. WHERE: The Grampians (Gariwerd).

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Clancy has to train for the expedition by walking to school carrying a heavier and heavier pack each day for weeks. He breaks in his squeaky new boots.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Uncle Ray meets Clancy and Uncle Egg at the trail head. He tells them that there is no water on the track so they need to carry three or four days' worth of water.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

Clancy knocks Uncle Egg's pack off a small cliff. It has all their water in it! He tries to reach it. but tumbles down after it. Uncle Egg can't reach him. A big gorge separates them.

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The story starts at a

their new house.

moment of change: The

Summers family move into

**Backfill** 

WHO: Rose, Faith, Blossom,

WHAT: They are new to the

WHFRF: Their house is next

door to Mr Wintergarten's.

and their mum and dad.

neighbourhood.

## **Rose Meets Mr** Wintergarten

by Bob Graham

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1993 – Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) Mr Wintergarten goes outside for the first time in

years. He sees Rose's ball, and after a moment he kicks it right over the fence!

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

The story ends with a picture of the two houses with all the fences removed, and everyone playing together.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

The other kids tell Rose that Mr Wintergarten is mean and horrible - he has a pet crocodile, and he eats children! No one has ever gone into his yard.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Rose's ball goes over the fence and lands in Mr Wintergarten's yard. Rose is scared to go and ask for it, but Mum comes with her.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

Rose enters the house and meets old Mr Wintergarten. She nervously asks if she can please get her ball back. He growls, 'NO! CLEAR OFF!'

### Sizzling Start (Introduction)

The book starts by painting a word picture of Jack's childhood. In the summer he leads donkeys along the beach for a penny a ride with his friend Billy, and in the winter he delivers milk to support his family, but he dreams of sailing away on a great adventure.

## Simpson and His Donkey

### by Mark Greenwood & Frané Lessac

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2009 - Honour Book)

### **Ending with Impact** (Conclusion)

Early one morning as he lead his donkey up Dead Man's Ridge, Jack is shot through the heart by a Turkish soldier and killed instantly. Duffy, the donkey, returns alone. Jack Simpson rescued over 300 men in 24 days. One of them was his friend Billy (link to the introduction).

## Progression of information

### Fact Section 1 (Strong interest)

At 17 Jack sets sail for Australia, but when he hears England is at war he enlists in the army. He is sent to Egypt rather than England, and from there to Turkey.

### Fact Section 2 (Medium interest)

When they land at Gallipoli the fighting is terrible. Many soldiers die immediately. Jack carries wounded soldiers to the lifeboats until the stretchers run out.

### **Fact Section 3** (Strongest interest)

Jack finds a donkey. Jack and the donkey rescue dozens of wounded soldiers in dangerous territory, being shot at all the time. He is named the 'Bravest of the Brave'.



## The Swap

## by Jan Ormerod & Andrew Joyner

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2014 - Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax) Caroline gets her baby brother back and he has a new tooth. She realises he is just right after all!

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution) Mama Crocodile says he will grow up to be just like Caroline and gives her a big smacky-smoochy kiss.

## **Sizzling Start**

Interest level

The book starts with dialogue: "Your baby brother is gorgeous." said Mama Crocodile.'

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Rock (Medium problem)

Caroline babysits her brother, but she can't stand him, so she swaps him at a 'baby shop' for a different baby.

### **Boulder**

### (Main tension scene)

The twin baby tigers are too tiring, the baby elephant is too squirty and the baby panda eats the bamboo chairs.

### Backfill

WHO: Mama Crocodile, Caroline and her baby brother.

WHAT: Caroline has a new baby brother.

WHERE: The family home.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Caroline is jealous of her baby brother because Mama Crocodile is busy giving him kisses. He's also smelly, no fun and he dribbles.

The story starts at a

moment of change, as the

characters go exploring:

'My father knows a place

we can only reach by boat.'

# Meets the Sea

## by Jeannie Baker

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1988 – Honour Book)

# Where the Forest

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

We'll come here again someday ... but will the forest still be here when we come back?

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

The final picture shows the beach and forest covered by a swimming pool, hotel and other buildings. We are left to imagine what might happen.

# Gradual build-up of tension

### Backfill

WHO: A father and child. WHERE: The Daintree Rainforest on the coast of

Oueensland. WHAT: A day out.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

What if there are still crocodiles here? I pretend it is a hundred million years ago.

### Rock (Medium problem)

Push through the vines into the forest. Find a hollow tree to hide in – perhaps Aboriginal children played here too?

### **Boulder**

(Main tension scene)

It's time to go back- find my way out of the forest. My father is cooking fish on the beach. The day has gone so quickly.

the bay.

Interest level

The story starts at a

morning the animals decide to go for a row in

moment of change: One

## Who Sank the Boat?

### by Pamela Allen

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1983 – Winner)

### **Exciting Ending**

(Action climax)

Mouse flies through the air ... everyone falls into the water with a huge splash. 'You DO know who sank the boat!'

### **Character Wrap-up**

(Emotional resolution)

Evervone walks home together, dripping wet. The mouse is smiling.

# Gradual build-up of tension

(Main tension scene)

**Boulder** 

Sheep knows how to get in carefully.

Repetition: 'Do you know who sank the boat?'

The illustration shows the boat very low in the water.

### Backfill

A cow, donkey, sheep, pig and mouse live at Mr Peffer's place beside the sea. They are good friends.

### **Pebble** (Small problem)

Cow tries to be dainty but tilts the boat.

'Do you know who sank the boat?'

### Rock (Medium problem)

Pig is dramatic and causes 'a great flutter'. Repetition: 'Do you know who sank the hoat?'

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