Alpacas with Maracas
by Matt Cosgrove
(National Simultaneous Storytime Book, 2019)

Sizzling Start
In words and images, we are introduced to Macca – ‘He’s an alpaca!’ – and his best friend Al.

Backfill
WHO: Macca and Al, both alpacas.
WHAT: Music-making alpacas who are best friends.
WHERE: A talent competition.

Pebble (Small problem)
Al is clumsy – he falls into the stream and gets bitten by fish.

Rock (Medium problem)
The two friends enter a talent competition, but all the music they make (thrashing and bashing, strumming and drumming) – is absolutely awful.

Gradual build up of tension

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
They dance and shake maracas at the talent show. They come last, but they don’t care, they had so much fun!

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
They decide, ‘It’s hopeless!’ They are about to give up. Al shakes his fist in frustration! The Macca looks at Al and gets an idea – shake-shake-shake!

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Al and Macca start playing in a band with Yaks playing sax.