Sizzling Start

The story starts with action: A slave girl gets a bowl thrown at her head as she is ordered to 'feed the beasts'. Her master is the Imperial Dragonkeeper at the palace.

Dragonkeeper

by Carole Wilkinson

(CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers, 2004 - Winner)

Exciting Ending

(Action climax) Long Danzi, Wang Cao and Hua engage in a fierce battle with the dragon hunter. Wang Cao is killed and Danzi and Hua are badly injured.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)

They reach Ocean and the dragon stone hatches. Danzi and Hua leave for the Isle of Blest and Ping stays behind to raise the baby dragon, Long Kai.

Gradual build-up of tension

Backfill

WHO: A slave girl, Ping, her pet rat, Hua, and an aging dragon, Long Danzi.

WHAT: A journey to Ocean with the mysterious dragon stone.

WHERE: The Han Empire in ancient China.

Pebble (Small problem)

The slave girl escapes from the palace with Long Danzi after his wife dies. They take the dragon stone with them and they are going to 'Ocean', a place of healing.

Rock (Medium problem)

Imperial guards and the terrifying dragon hunter, Diao, are chasing them. Long Danzi is injured in a narrow escape from the dragon hunter. They go to Wang Cao the healer for help.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)

Long Danzi abandons Ping and leaves with Wang Cao. Ping sinks into despair. She stays with the young Emperor, Liu Che.

Interest level