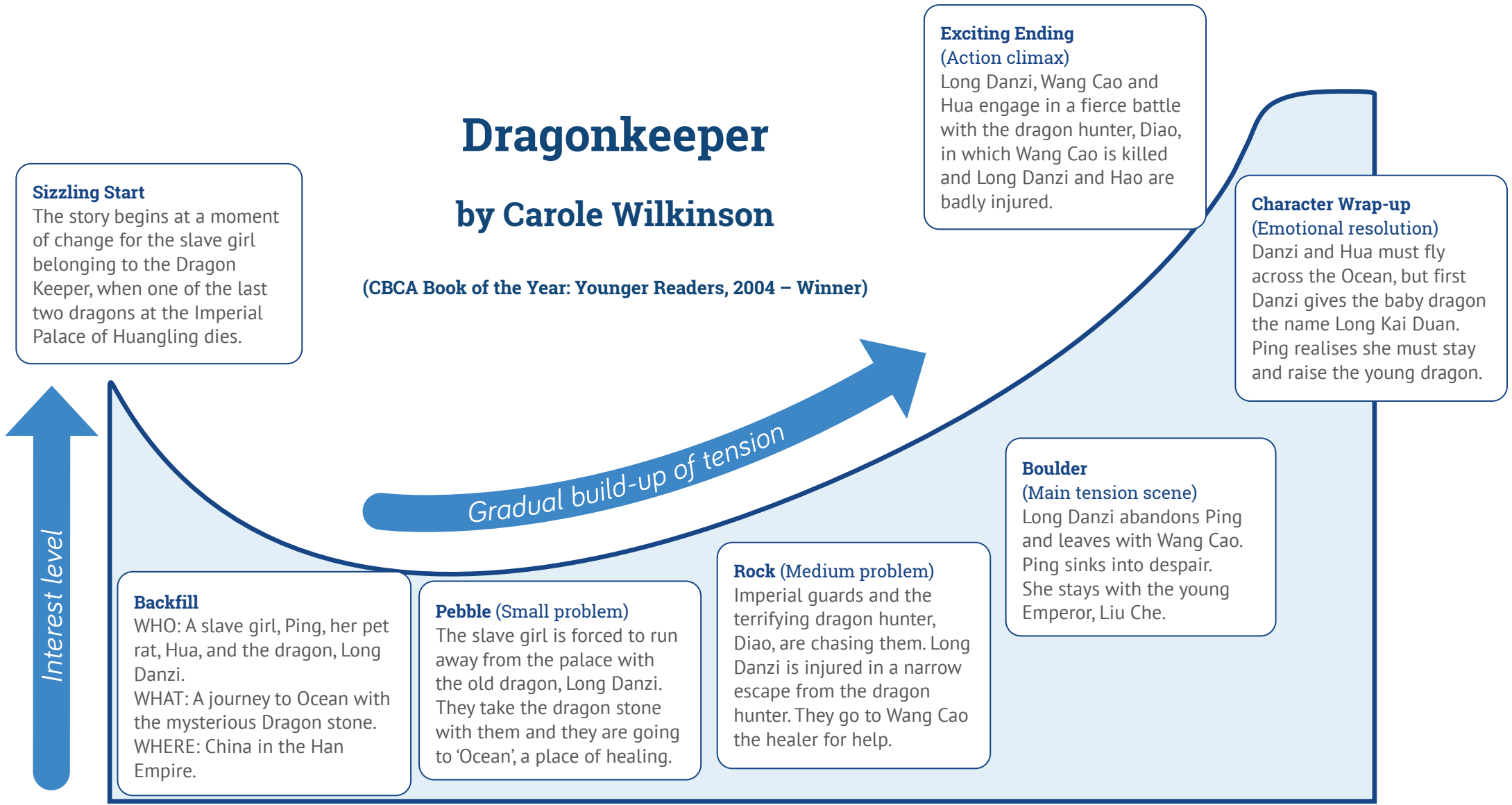


Dragonkeeper by Carole Wilkinson

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



Sizzling Start

The story begins at a moment of change for the slave girl belonging to the Dragon Keeper, when one of the last two dragons at the Imperial Palace of Huangling dies.

Backfill

WHO: A slave girl, Ping, her pet rat, Hua, and the dragon, Long Danzi.
WHAT: A journey to Ocean with the mysterious Dragon stone.
WHERE: China in the Han Empire.

Pebble (Small problem)

The slave girl is forced to run away from the palace with the old dragon, Long Danzi. 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.

Exciting Ending

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

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
Danzi and Hua must fly across the Ocean, but first Danzi gives the baby dragon the name Long Kai Duan. Ping realises she must stay and raise the young dragon.