

Sevensteps



Step 1: Plan for Success Fantasy Fiction 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*.

Deltora Quest: The Forests of Silence

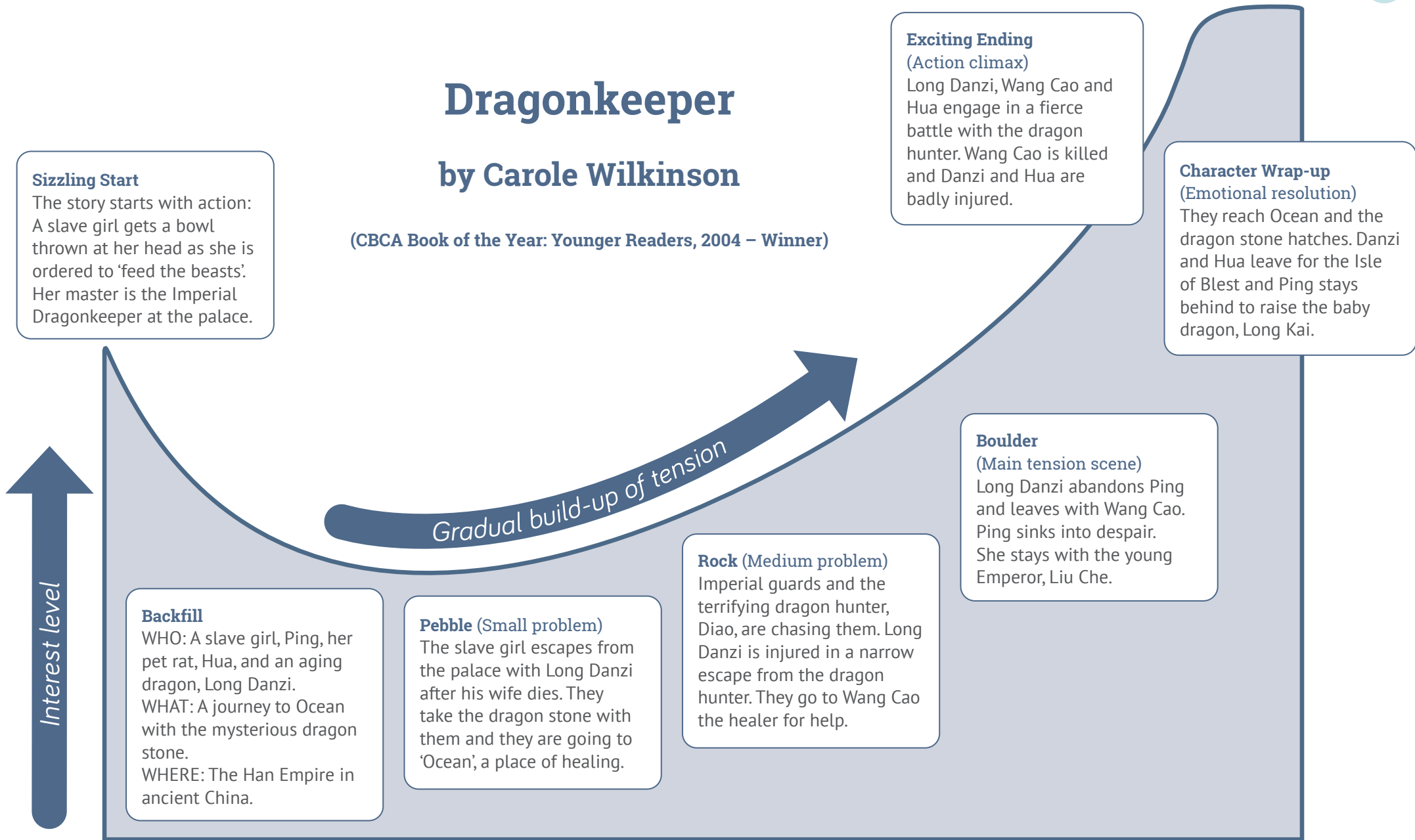
by Emily Rodda



Dragonkeeper

by Carole Wilkinson

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



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.

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.

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

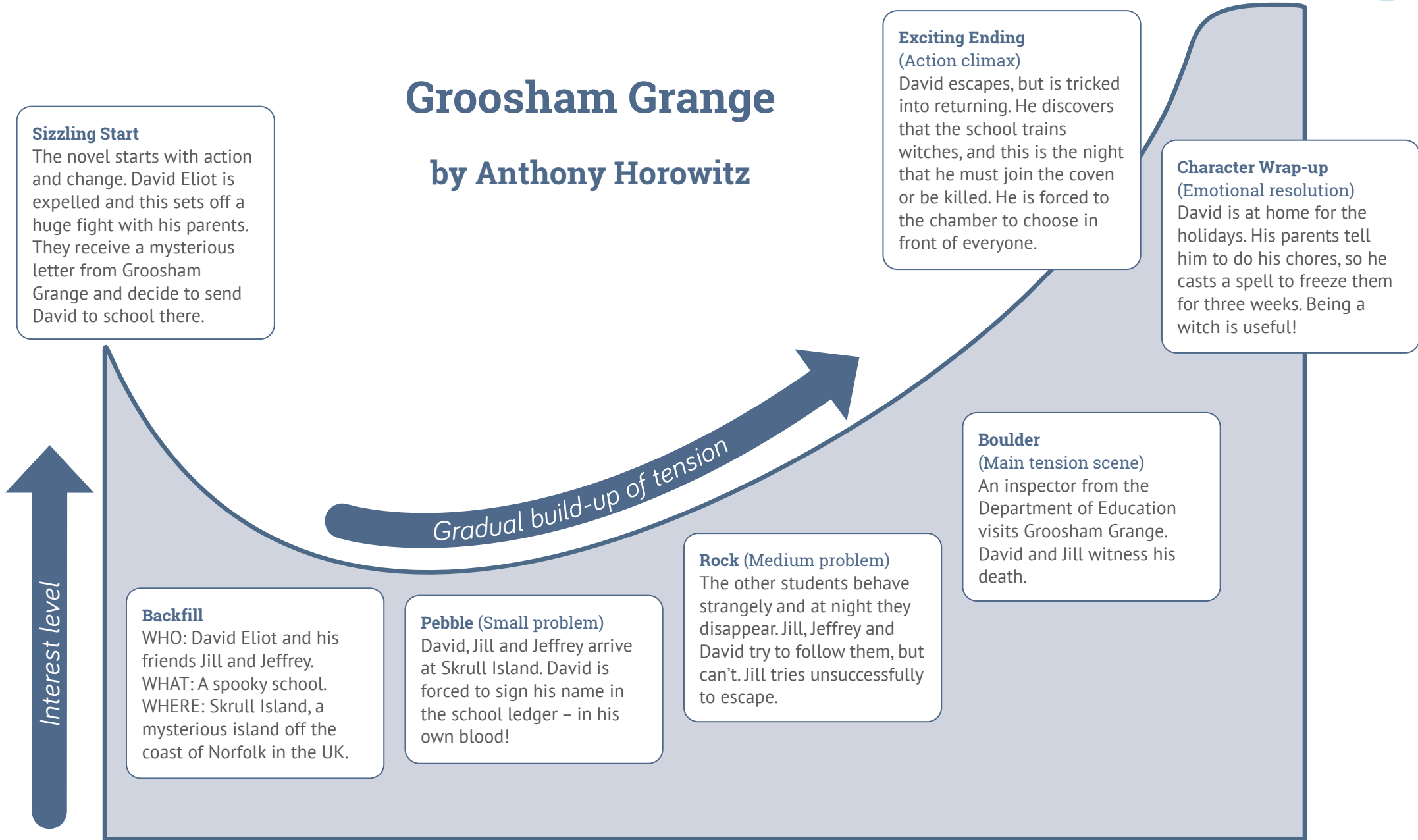
(Emotional resolution)
They reach Ocean and the dragon stone hatches. Danzi and Hua leave for the Isle of Blest and Ping stays behind to raise the baby dragon, Long Kai.

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.

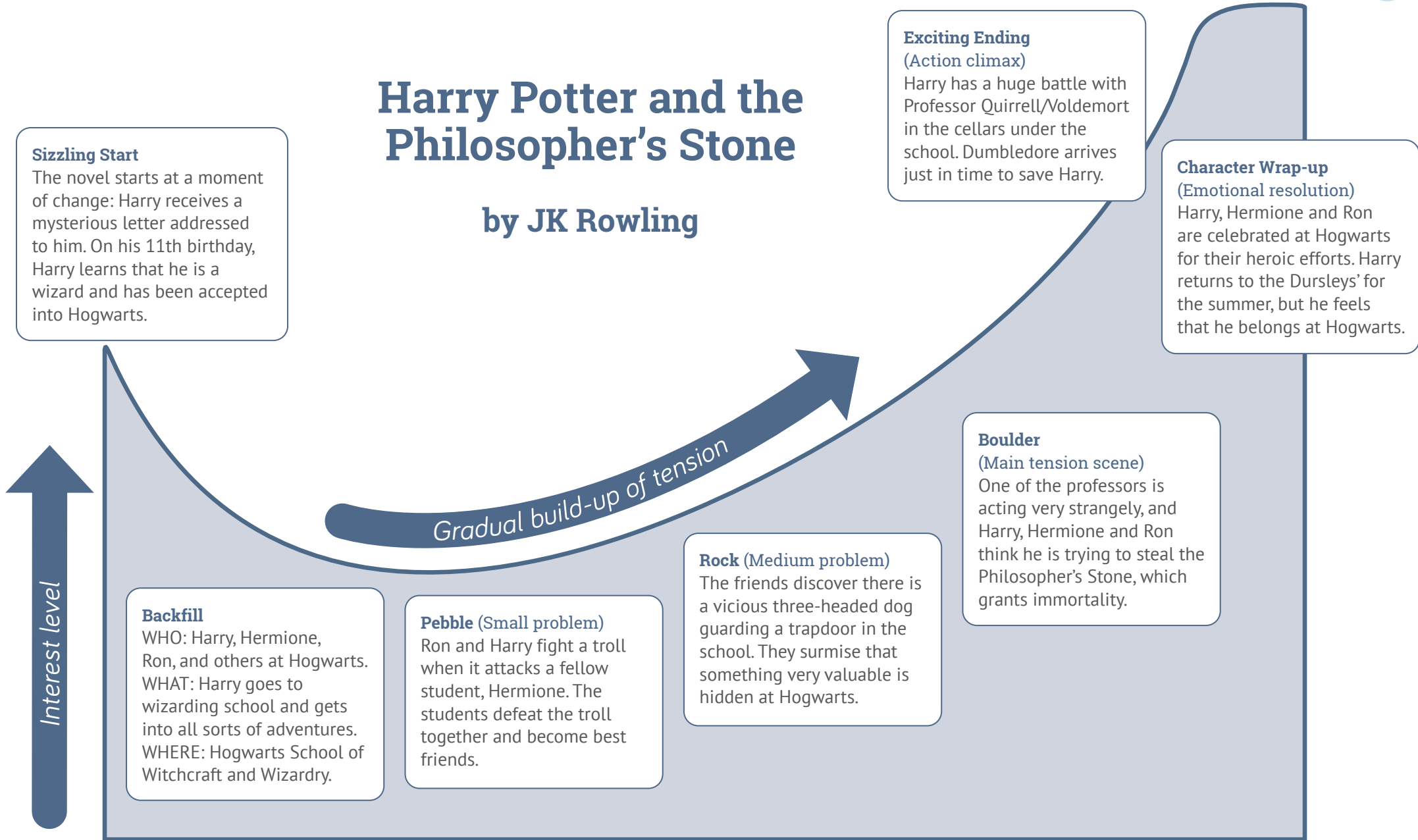
Groosham Grange

by Anthony Horowitz



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

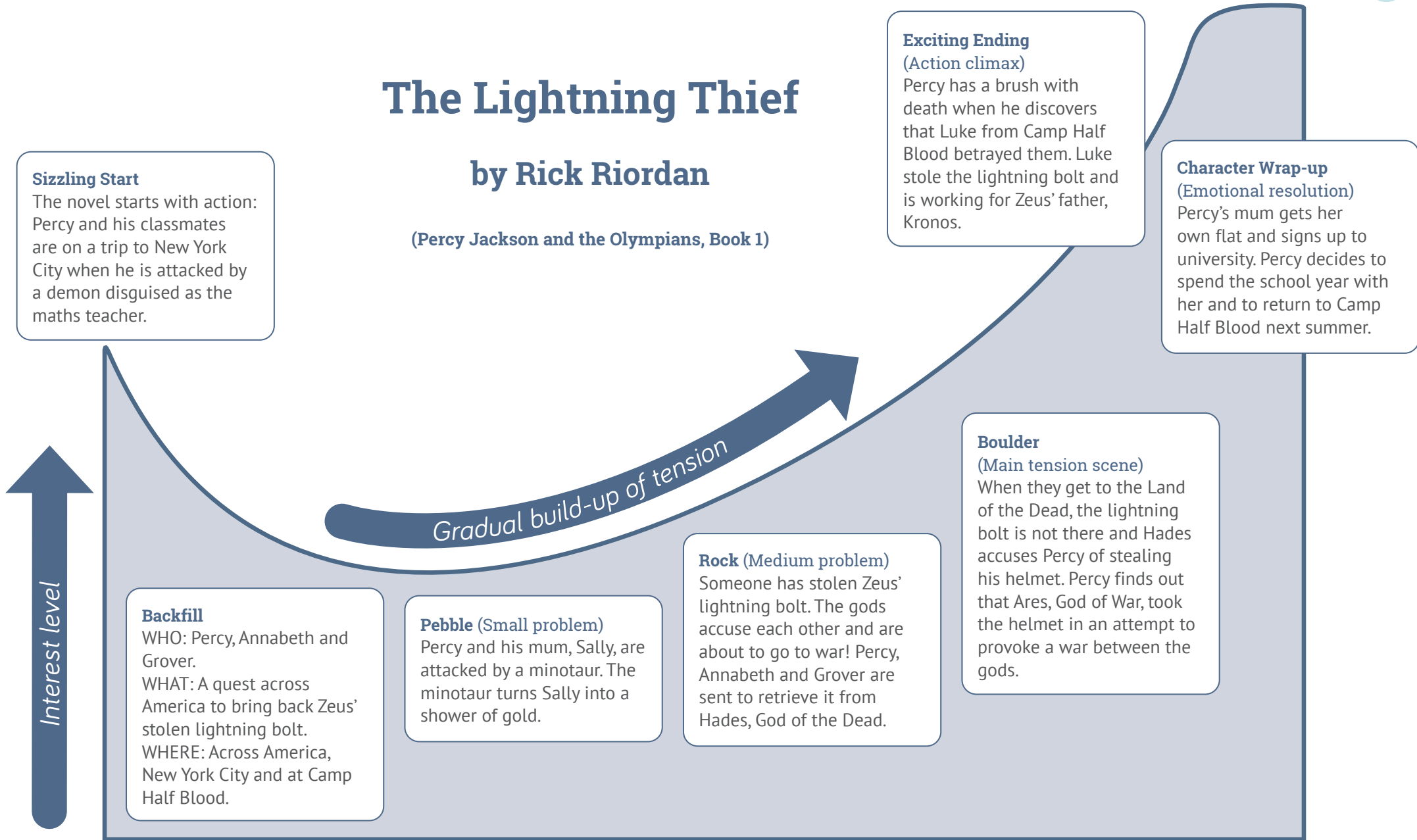
by JK Rowling



The Lightning Thief

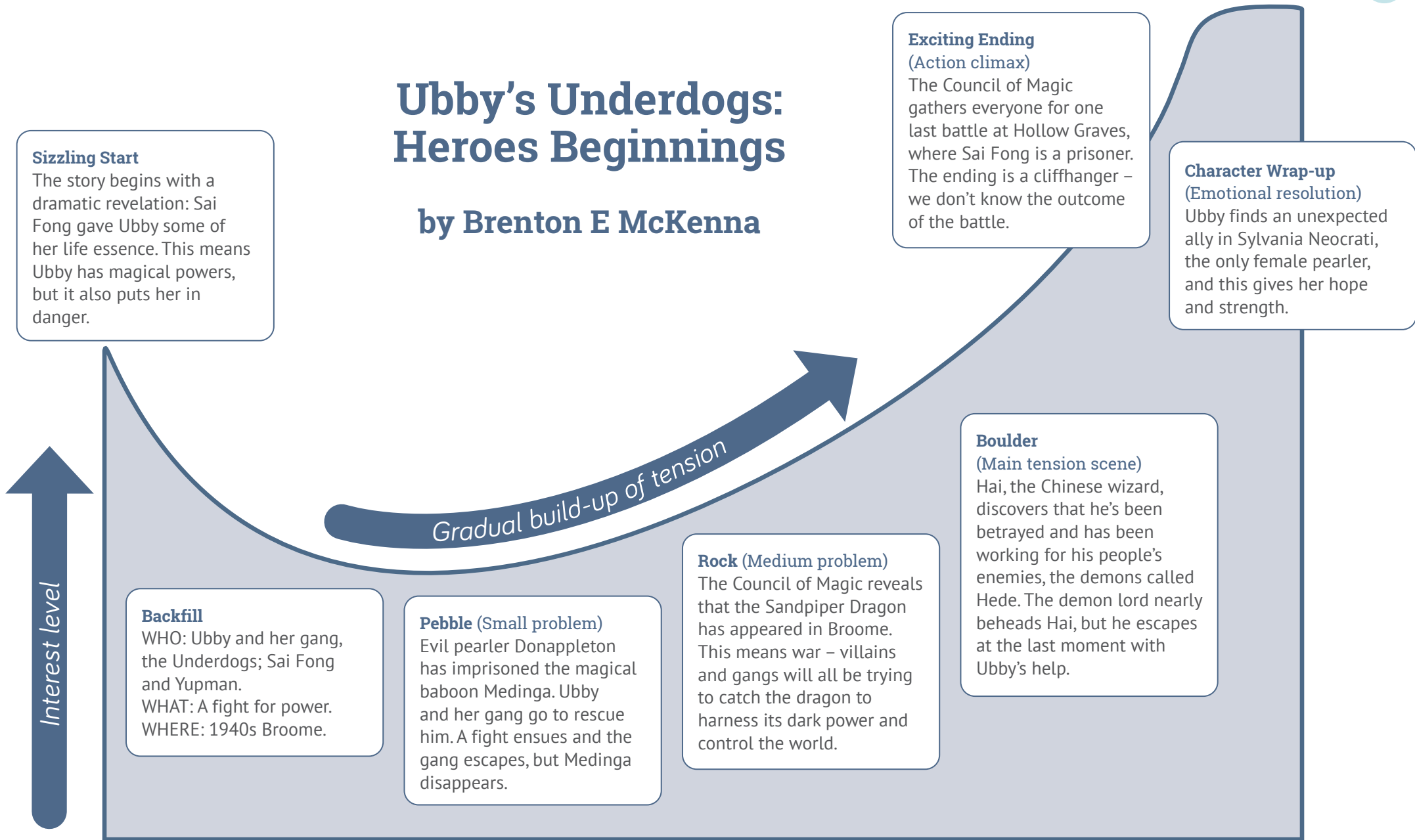
by Rick Riordan

(Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)



Ubby's Underdogs: Heroes Beginnings

by Brenton E McKenna



Sizzling Start
The story begins with a dramatic revelation: Sai Fong gave Ubby some of her life essence. This means Ubby has magical powers, but it also puts her in danger.

Backfill
WHO: Ubby and her gang, the Underdogs; Sai Fong and Yupman.
WHAT: A fight for power.
WHERE: 1940s Broome.

Pebble (Small problem)
Evil pearler Donappleton has imprisoned the magical baboon Medinga. Ubby and her gang go to rescue him. A fight ensues and the gang escapes, but Medinga disappears.

Rock (Medium problem)
The Council of Magic reveals that the Sandpiper Dragon has appeared in Broome. This means war – villains and gangs will all be trying to catch the dragon to harness its dark power and control the world.

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
Hai, the Chinese wizard, discovers that he's been betrayed and has been working for his people's enemies, the demons called Hede. The demon lord nearly beheads Hai, but he escapes at the last moment with Ubby's help.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
The Council of Magic gathers everyone for one last battle at Hollow Graves, where Sai Fong is a prisoner. The ending is a cliffhanger – we don't know the outcome of the battle.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Ubby finds an unexpected ally in Sylvania Neocrati, the only female pearler, and this gives her hope and strength.

Wormwood Mire

by Judith Russell

(Stella Montgomery series, Book 2)

