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*.

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!





Sizzling Start

The story begins with action:

Jarred watches the upheaval

of the funeral. Jarred's friend

The old king is dead and

Endon is crowned king.

Deltora Quest: The Forests of Silence

by Emily Rodda

Exciting Ending (Action climax)

Barda and Lief are captured by monsters. They escape with help from Jasmine. Together they fight the Dark and get the first jewel.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution) Jasmine's mother's ghost tells her that Lief and Barda are Deltora's best hope to overcome the Shadow Lord. The three continue their quest.

ARRATIL

Gradual build-up of tension

Backfill

WHO: Jarred, his son Lief and companions Barda and Jasmine. WHAT: A quest against evil. WHERE: A magical world called Deltora.

A

Pebble (Small problem) Jarred is accused of treason by the Chief Advisor, Prandine. Jarred narrowly escapes death and gets out of the palace, but he is an outcast.

Rock (Medium problem)

Seven years later, Chief Advisor Prandine helps the Shadow Lord to steal the gems from the Magic Belt of Deltora. The whole country comes under the control of the Shadow Lord.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)

Nine years later, Jarred's son Lief (on his 16th birthday) accepts the challenge to go and find the seven jewels. He leaves on his dangerous quest with Barda.

Sevensteps

Sizzling Start

The story starts with action:

thrown at her head as she is

ordered to 'feed the beasts'

Dragonkeeper at the palace.

Her master is the Imperial

A slave girl gets a bowl



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.

Interest level

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.

Gradual build-up of tension 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.

Sizzling Start

The novel starts with action

and change. David Eliot is

expelled and this sets off a

huge fight with his parents.

They receive a mysterious

Grange and decide to send

letter from Groosham

David to school there.



Groosham Grange

by Anthony Horowitz

Exciting Ending (Action climax)

David escapes, but is tricked into returning. He discovers that the school trains witches, and this is the night that he must join the coven or be killed. He is forced to the chamber to choose in front of everyone.

Character Wrap-up (Emotional resolution)

David is at home for the holidays. His parents tell him to do his chores, so he casts a spell to freeze them for three weeks. Being a witch is useful!

Interest level

Gradual build-up of tension

Backfill

WHO: David Eliot and his friends Jill and Jeffrey.WHAT: A spooky school.WHERE: Skrull Island, a mysterious island off the coast of Norfolk in the UK.

Pebble (Small problem)

David, Jill and Jeffrey arrive at Skrull Island. David is forced to sign his name in the school ledger – in his own blood!

Rock (Medium problem)

The other students behave strangely and at night they disappear. Jill, Jeffrey and David try to follow them, but can't. Jill tries unsuccessfully to escape.

Boulder

(Main tension scene) An inspector from the Department of Education visits Groosham Grange. David and Jill witness his death.

Sizzling Start

into Hogwarts.

The novel starts at a moment

of change: Harry receives a

mysterious letter addressed

to him. On his 11th birthday,

wizard and has been accepted

Harry learns that he is a



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

by JK Rowling

Exciting Ending (Action climax)

Harry has a huge battle with Professor Quirrell/Voldemort in the cellars under the school. Dumbledore arrives just in time to save Harry.

Character Wrap-up (Emotional resolution)

Harry, Hermione and Ron are celebrated at Hogwarts for their heroic efforts. Harry returns to the Dursleys' for the summer, but he feels that he belongs at Hogwarts.

Interest level

Gradual build-up of tension

Backfill

WHO: Harry, Hermione,Ron, and others at Hogwarts.WHAT: Harry goes towizarding school and getsinto all sorts of adventures.WHERE: Hogwarts School ofWitchcraft and Wizardry.

Pebble (Small problem) Ron and Harry fight a troll

when it attacks a fellow student, Hermione. The students defeat the troll together and become best friends.

Rock (Medium problem) The friends discover there is a vicious three-headed dog guarding a trapdoor in the

school. They surmise that something very valuable is hidden at Hogwarts.

Boulder

(Main tension scene) One of the professors is acting very strangely, and Harry, Hermione and Ron think he is trying to steal the Philosopher's Stone, which grants immortality.

Sizzling Start

maths teacher.

Interest level

The novel starts with action:

Percy and his classmates

are on a trip to New York

a demon disguised as the

City when he is attacked by



by Rick Riordan

(Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)

Exciting Ending (Action climax)

Percy has a brush with death when he discovers that Luke from Camp Half Blood betrayed them. Luke stole the lightning bolt and is working for Zeus' father, Kronos.

Character Wrap-up (Emotional resolution)

Percy's mum gets her own flat and signs up to university. Percy decides to spend the school year with her and to return to Camp Half Blood next summer.

ARRATIL

Backfill WHO: Percy, Annabeth and Grover. WHAT: A quest across America to bring back Zeus' stolen lightning bolt. WHERE: Across America, New York City and at Camp Half Blood.

Pebble (Small problem) Percy and his mum, Sally, are attacked by a minotaur. The minotaur turns Sally into a

shower of gold.

Gradual build-up of tension Rock (Medium problem) Someone has stolen Zeus' lightning bolt. The gods

lightning bolt. The gods accuse each other and are about to go to war! Percy, Annabeth and Grover are sent to retrieve it from Hades, God of the Dead.

Boulder

(Main tension scene) When they get to the Land of the Dead, the lightning bolt is not there and Hades accuses Percy of stealing his helmet. Percy finds out that Ares, God of War, took the helmet in an attempt to provoke a war between the gods.



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.

Ubby's Underdogs: Heroes Beginnings

by Brenton E McKenna

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.

Interest level

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.

Gradual build-up of tension 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.

Sizzling Start

The book starts at a moment

covered in mud and dressed

like a boy. She is sent away

in disgrace by the Aunts.

of change: Stella is found



by Judith Russell

(Stella Montgomery series, Book 2)

Exciting Ending (Action climax)

The monster appears all of a sudden. The children know to stay still because it is almost blind, but the dentist runs away. The monster bites him and he turns to stone.

Character Wrap-up (Emotional resolution)

Stella has a moment alone with her sister, Luna, who is the invisible 'Tick' of the sweet shop. They find the statue that was their mother and leave her some flowers.

ARRATIL

Interest level

Backfill

WHO: Stella and her cousins.WHAT: An adventure in the family ancestral home.WHERE: A mysterious creepy, almost-deserted house, its lake and dark woods.

Mire. She has vague memories of a terrifying night there as a child. She and Strideforth see a monster in the lake, but are not sure what it is.

Rock (Medium problem) Jem, the cheerful son of the groundskeeper, goes missing. The adults are frightened of the monster, but go out hunting for it. Stella and her cousins follow Jem into the scary woods.

Boulder

(Main tension scene) In the woods, Stella and her cousins find Jem, but the evil dentist chases Stella. He wants to put her in his freak show. He captures and ties up the others to feed them to the monster.

