

Crow and the Waterhole

by Ambelin Kwaymullina

Sizzling Start

The story starts with a statement to make the reader curious: 'There once was a crow that lived in a tree by a waterhole. Crow was unhappy.'

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
In a scary thunderstorm, Crow takes shelter in a paperbark tree. The tree is so lonely that Crow sings to attract more animal friends for the tree.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
When Crow is still sad, Kookaburra helps Crow to see that the bird in the water is actually a reflection of herself and that she is kind and good.

Gradual build-up of tension

Backfill

WHO: Crow.
WHAT: Crow wants to be like the wonderful bird she sees.
WHERE: The waterhole and various locations on Crow's journey.

Pebble (Small problem)

Crow thinks she's not as good as the wonderful bird that she sees in the water, so she decides to go on a journey to try to be a better Crow.

Rock (Medium problem)

Crow comes across a little gum tree threatened by fire. She is afraid of the fire, but Little Gum needs help, so she flies down and saves him.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
Crow sees a young goanna who is stuck in a rock pool. She encourages the goanna to have the confidence to try harder to get out of the pool, which he does.

Interest level

Nanberry: Black Brother White

by Jackie French

(CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers, 2012 – Honour Book)

Gradual build-up of tension

Sizzling Start

The story begins with action. Nanberry and his clan encounter the 'white ghosts' (English colonists) for the first time.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)

Nanberry finally undergoes the initiation ceremony and becomes a warrior of the Cadigal clan.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)

Andrew returns to Australia in 1824, after participating in the Battle of Waterloo. He finds his mother, Rachel, and they are reunited after 23 years apart.

Interest level

Backfill

WHO: Nanberry Buckenau White and his foster brother.
WHAT: Growing up between two cultures.
WHERE: The colony at Sydney Cove 1780s-1800.

Pebble (Small problem)

Surgeon White adopts Nanberry when all of his clan are killed by a smallpox epidemic.

Rock (Medium problem)

Nanberry is clever, and learns English language and customs well. He tries to translate for the Governor, but the warriors of the Eora will not speak to him because he is not a warrior.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)

Surgeon White is suddenly reposted to England, but he cannot take Rachel. She must send their son, Andrew, alone when he is seven. Nanberry goes with Andrew on the dangerous journey.