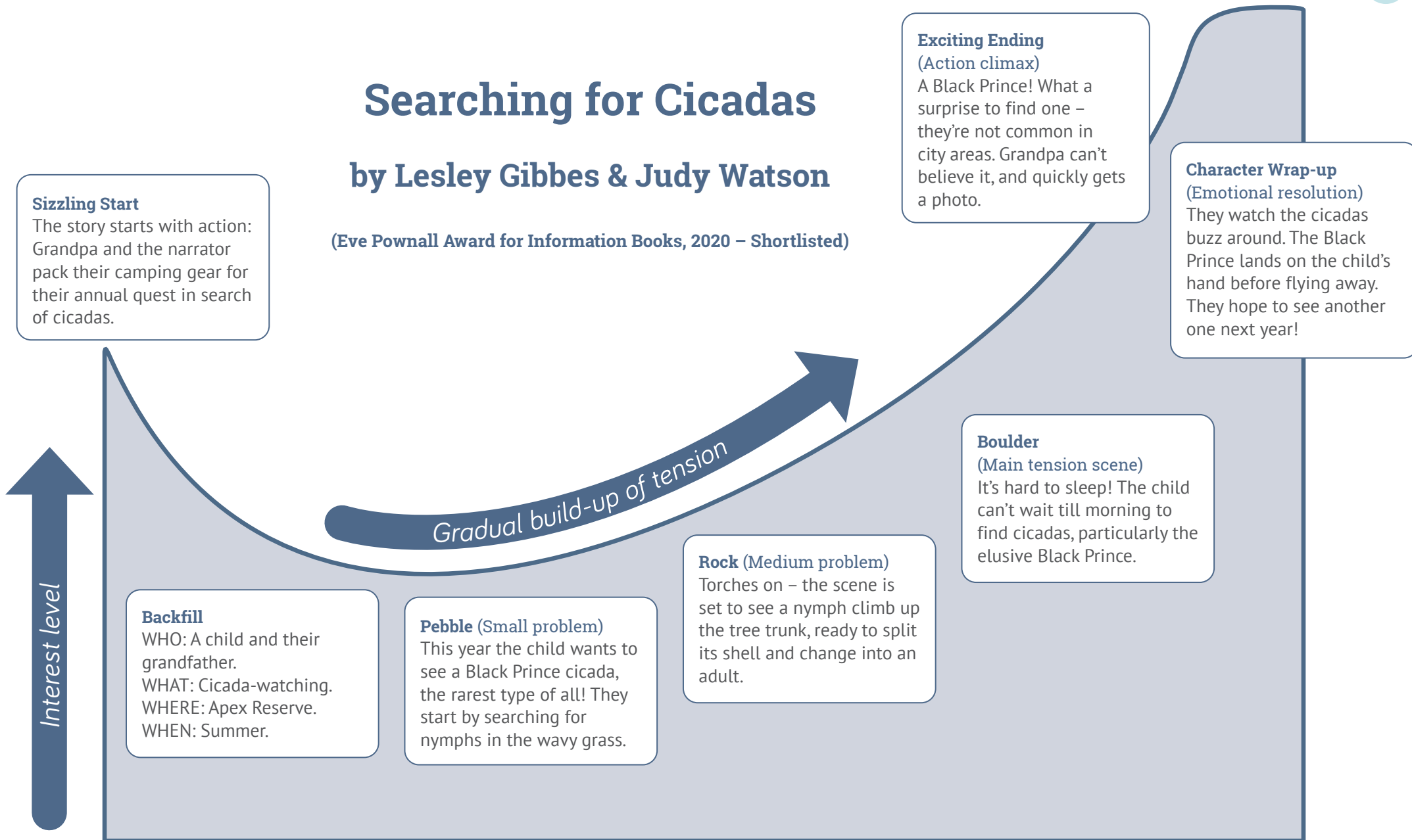


Searching for Cicadas

by Lesley Gibbes & Judy Watson

(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2020 – Shortlisted)



Sizzling Start

The story starts with action: Grandpa and the narrator pack their camping gear for their annual quest in search of cicadas.

Backfill

WHO: A child and their grandfather.
WHAT: Cicada-watching.
WHERE: Apex Reserve.
WHEN: Summer.

Pebble (Small problem)

This year the child wants to see a Black Prince cicada, the rarest type of all! They start by searching for nymphs in the wavy grass.

Rock (Medium problem)

Torches on – the scene is set to see a nymph climb up the tree trunk, ready to split its shell and change into an adult.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
It's hard to sleep! The child can't wait till morning to find cicadas, particularly the elusive Black Prince.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
A Black Prince! What a surprise to find one – they're not common in city areas. Grandpa can't believe it, and quickly gets a photo.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
They watch the cicadas buzz around. The Black Prince lands on the child's hand before flying away. They hope to see another one next year!

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Sizzling Start (Introduction)

The book begins at a moment of change: 'In the summertime, Grandpa and I go cicada-watching.' What is a cicada?

Ending with Impact (Conclusion)

The Black Prince is the rarest of all cicadas! Cicadas only live for a few weeks and are hard to keep in captivity. The characters say goodbye to the Black Prince and hope they'll see another one next year.

Fact Section 1 (Strong interest)

Types of cicadas – there are many species of cicadas. They are often named for their special features.

Fact Section 2 (Medium interest)

Reproduction – Male cicadas can be very loud when they're calling for a mate. Male and female cicadas have different mating sounds and behaviours.

Fact Section 3 (Strongest interest)

Life cycle and lifespan – A cicada starts as an egg, hatches into a small wingless nymph and burrows underground. When it's fully grown, the nymph comes out of the dirt and climbs a tree. It sheds its shell and becomes an adult cicada with wings.