

Sevensteps



Step 1: Plan for Success

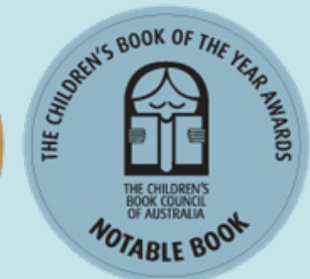
CBCA Shortlisted Books on the Story Graph – Book Week 2022

One of the best ways to learn is to see examples, like these story graphs.

How to use the story graphs:

- Explore different 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*.



The Boy and the Elephant

by Freya Blackwood

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2022 – Shortlisted)

Sizzling Start

This story starts with a close-up view of a young boy looking out a window at a tree, then pans out to expose an empty lot among a row of houses.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
The boy begs the elephant tree to leave the lot. Suddenly the trees come to life and follow the boy to his school where they will be safe.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
The school is now a happy green place and under the elephant tree the lonely boy shares a lunch with a lonely girl.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
His elephant tree and other trees are faced with the threat of being cut down to make way for a new house on the empty lot!

Rock (Medium problem)

At home his dad is busy typing away, so he ventures outside to visit his friend – an elephant tree. As the seasons pass the friendship grows.

Pebble (Small problem)

The boy lives a lonely life in a noisy city. His school yard is a concrete jungle and nobody notices him.

Backfill

WHO: Young school boy and his busy dad.
WHAT: The boy feels alone in a busy world.
WHERE: A city that is fast and loud.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

Created by Pina Sernio

Jetty Jumping

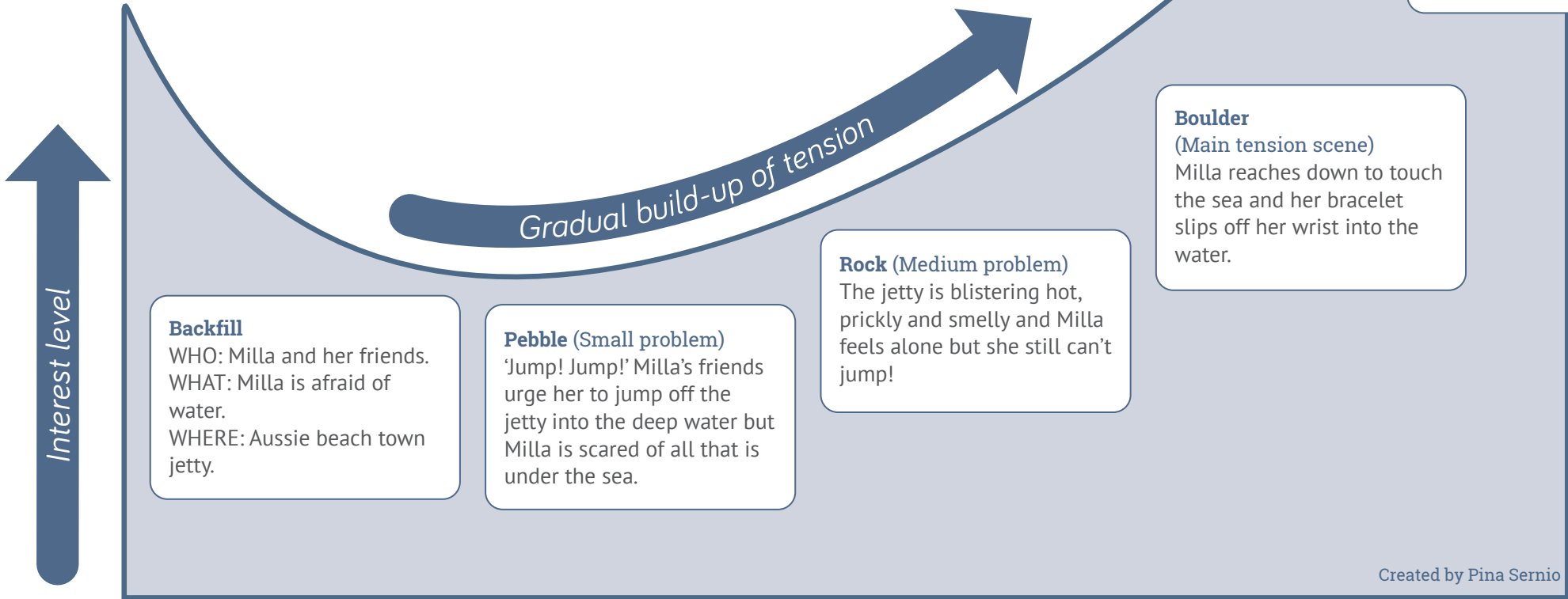
by Andrea Rowe & Hannah Sommerville

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2022 – Shortlisted)

Sizzling Start
Starts with action: Milla and her friends play on the jetty. Her friends go jetty jumping but Milla is afraid and she sits alone on the jetty.

Exciting Ending
(Action climax)
Milla accidentally falls off the edge of the jetty as she tries to grab her bracelet.

Character Wrap-up
(Emotional resolution)
Milla jumped! She has overcome her fear and discovered the beauty of the deep, dark sea. Her summer is now full of fun with her friends.



Backfill
WHO: Milla and her friends.
WHAT: Milla is afraid of water.
WHERE: Aussie beach town jetty.

Pebble (Small problem)
'Jump! Jump!' Milla's friends urge her to jump off the jetty into the deep water but Milla is scared of all that is under the sea.

Rock (Medium problem)
The jetty is blistering hot, prickly and smelly and Milla feels alone but she still can't jump!

Boulder
(Main tension scene)
Milla reaches down to touch the sea and her bracelet slips off her wrist into the water.

Created by Pina Sernio

Just One Bee

by Margrete Lamond, Anthony Bertini & Christopher Nielsen

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2022 – Shortlisted)

Sizzling Start

The story starts with a problem: 'In the wind, in the dust, in the burning sun, One-bee wonders, "When, how, where and what can I do, just me, one bee?"'

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
One-bee finds the flower and pollinates with the other flower. They wait ... a fruit, some seeds and then a whole field of flowers grow.

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
The three bees now work together: One-bee, Queen-bee and even the obstinate Other-bee.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
One-bee must find his flower and collect some pollen. He has to persist against tough scorching conditions. All seems lost!

Rock (Medium problem)

One-bee finds Other-bee but Other-bee doesn't want to share the only other flower or the trapped Queen-bee.

Pebble (Small problem)

One-bee finally finds a flower, but what use is it without another flower?

Backfill

WHO: One-bee, Other-Bee, Queen-Bee.
WHAT: One-bee is all alone and worries about his existence.
WHERE: A desolate, dry world.
WHEN: A time of no bees.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

Created by Pina Sernio

Stellarphant

by James Foley

(CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 2022 – Shortlisted)

Sizzling Start

This book starts at a moment of change: Stella the elephant walks into Space Command and applies to be an astronaut.

Exciting Ending

(Action climax)
Stella has everything she needs but Space Command still won't approve her application, so Stella launches into space without their permission!

Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)
Stella achieves her dream of becoming an astronaut after realising that she doesn't need the approval of others.

Boulder

(Main tension scene)
Stella finds teachers to train her, but the rockets are too small and she doesn't have a crew! Unless she can find a rocket and a crew, Space Command won't approve her application.

Rock (Medium problem)

Stella makes her own spacesuit, but she doesn't have the basic training she needs to be an astronaut. Unless she can find training, Space Command won't approve her application.

Pebble (Small problem)

Stella is too big to be an astronaut, she won't fit into a spacesuit. Unless she finds a spacesuit to fit her, Space Command won't approve her application.

Backfill

WHO: Stella the elephant and the Admissions Officer
WHAT: It is okay to be different
WHERE: Space Command

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

Created by Pina Sernio