

What Comes Next?

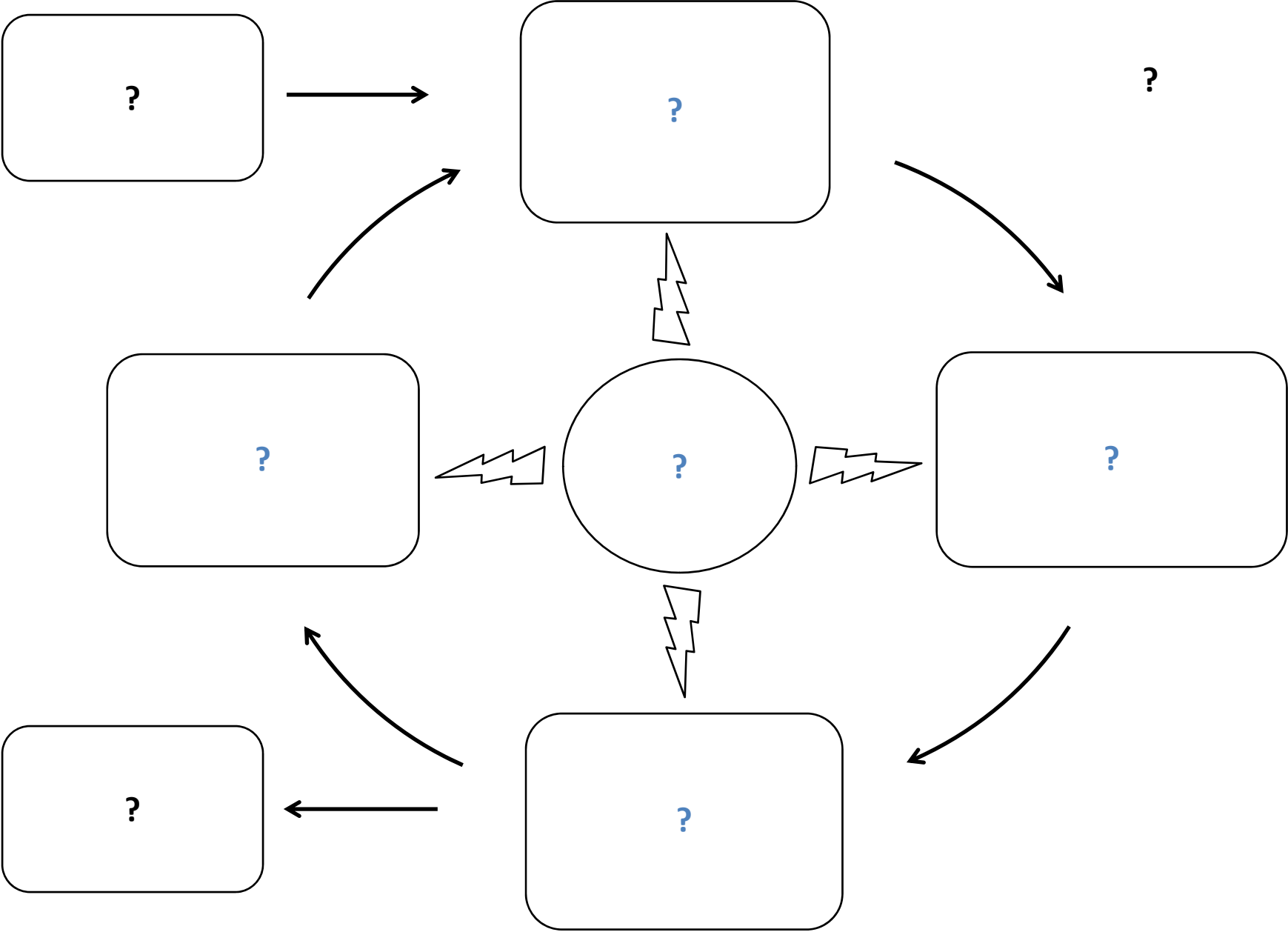
By John D. Brown

How Long is Your Story?

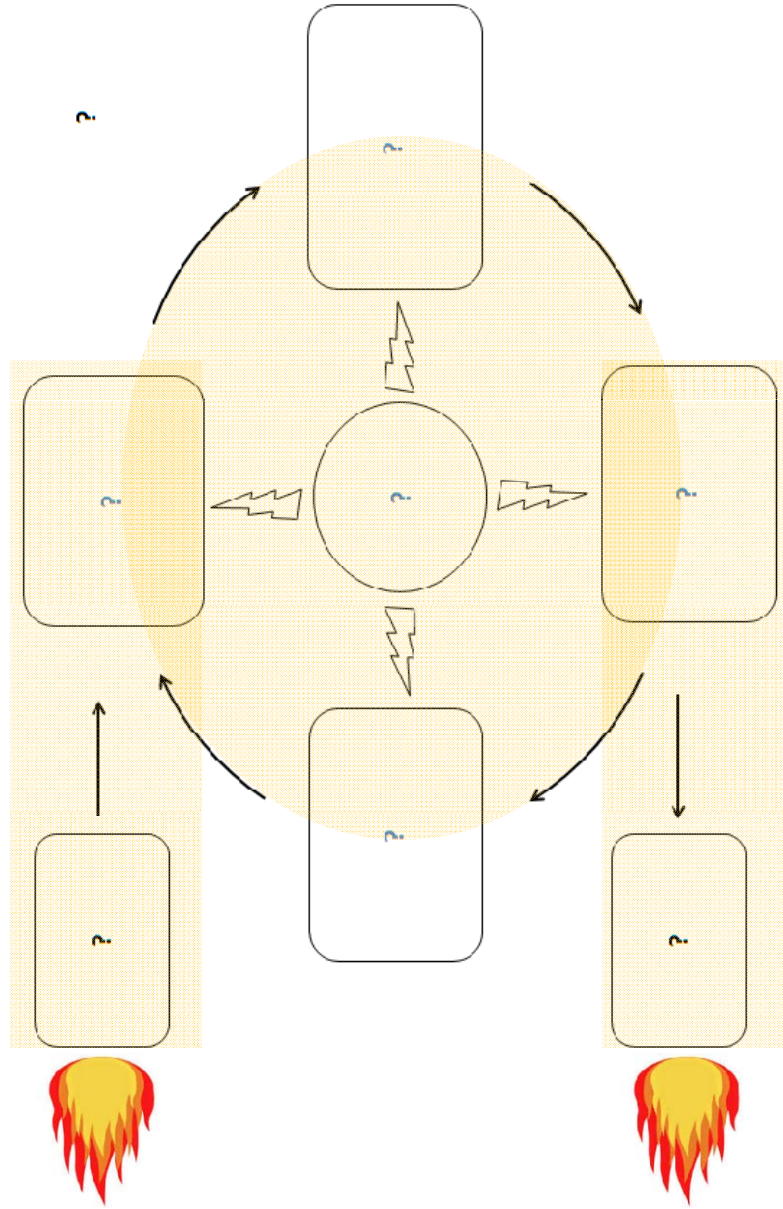
Words	Mss. Pages (250)	Events (2,500 – 3,000)
25,000	100	8-10
50,000	200	16-20
75,000	300	25-30
100,000	400	33-40
400,000	1,600	133-160



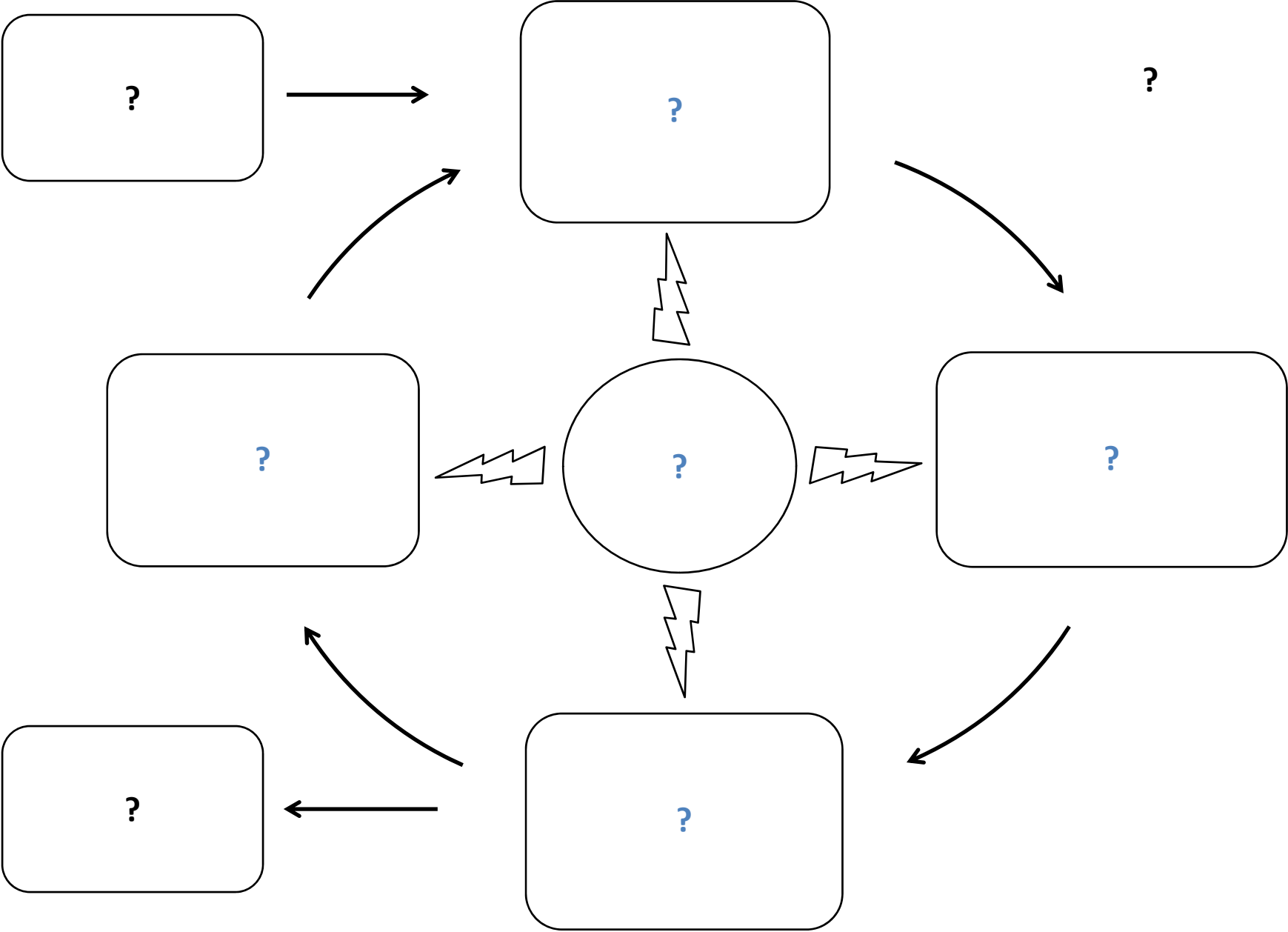
The Story Cycle



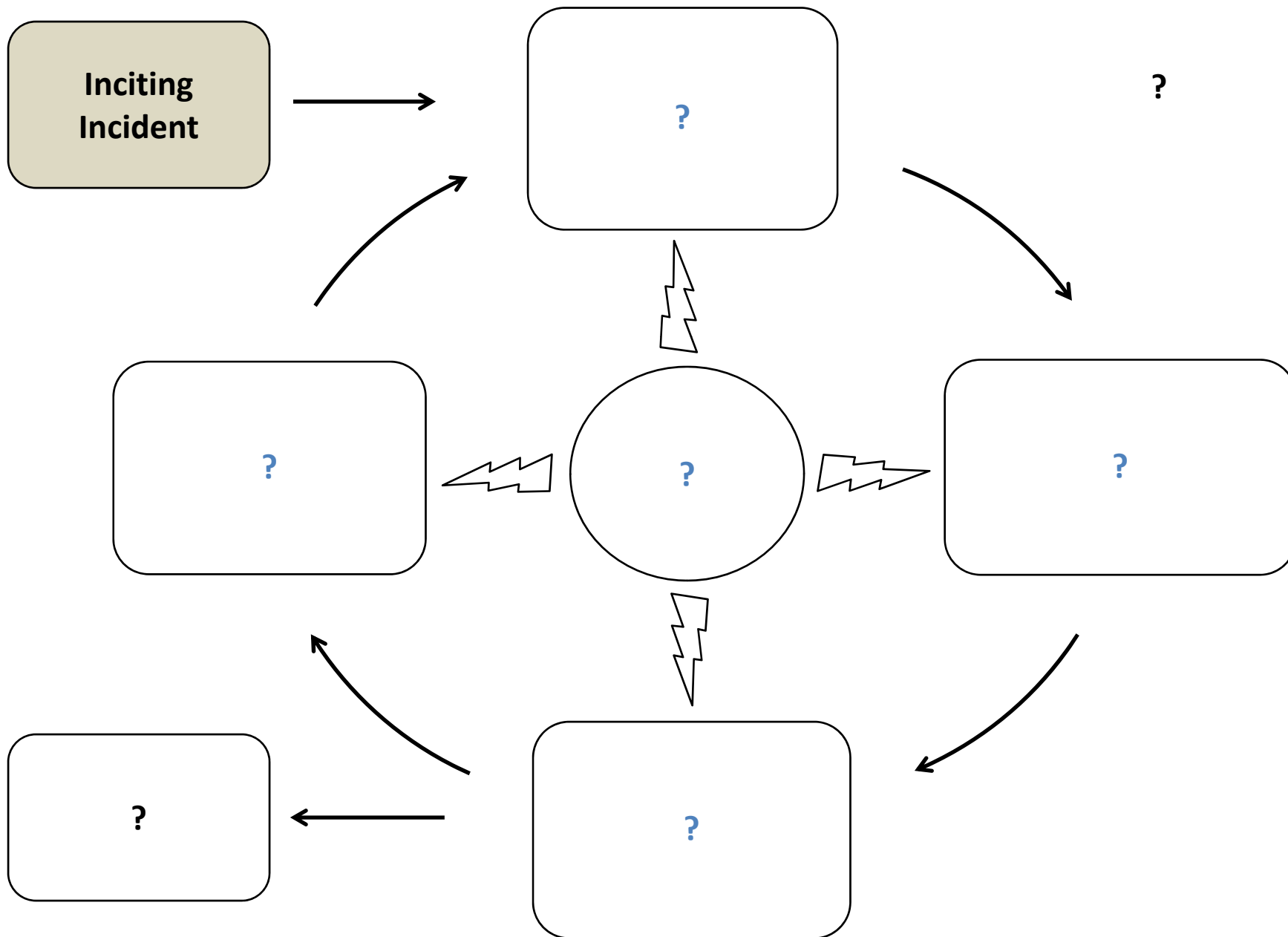
Hey!



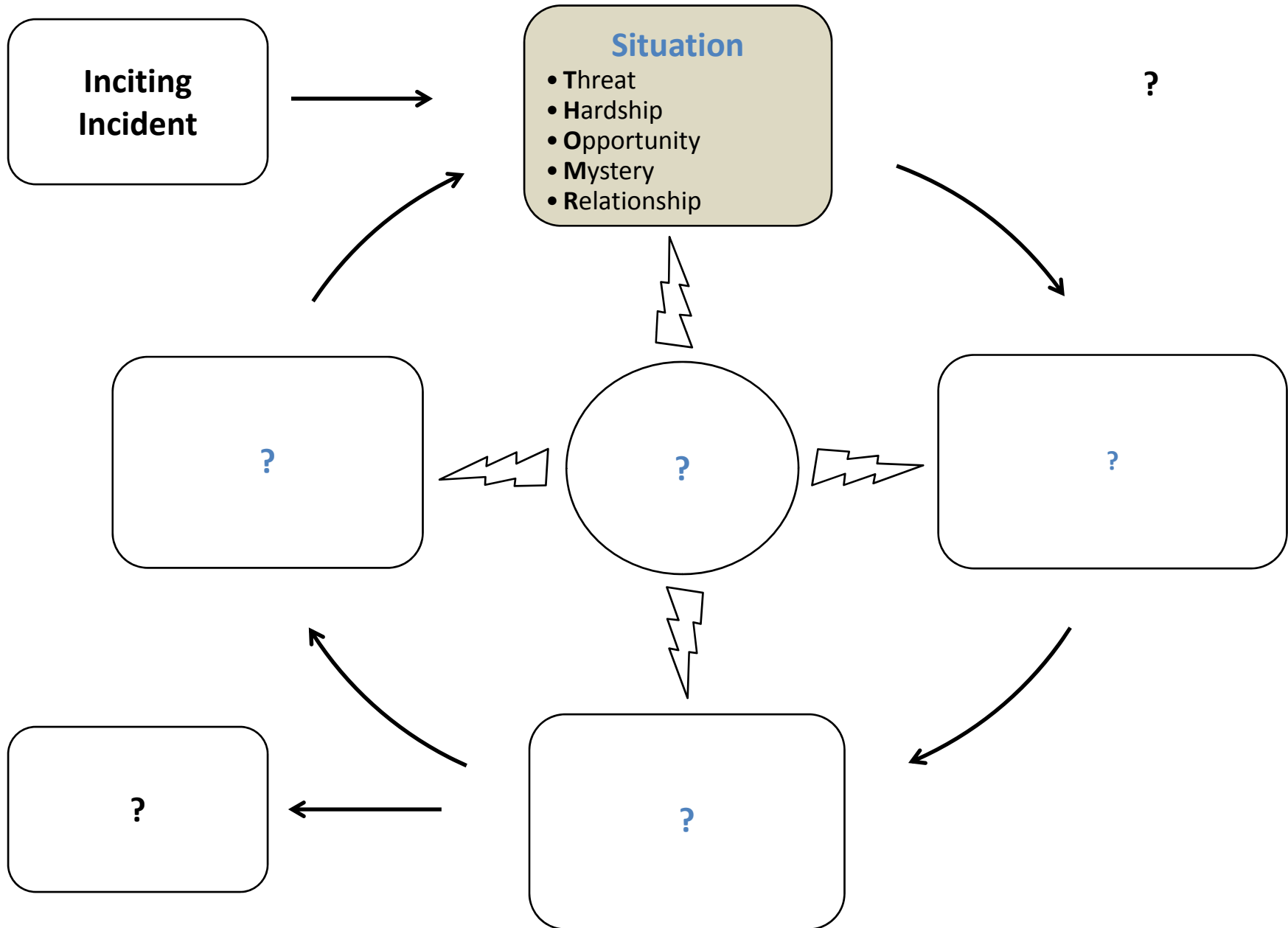
The Story Cycle



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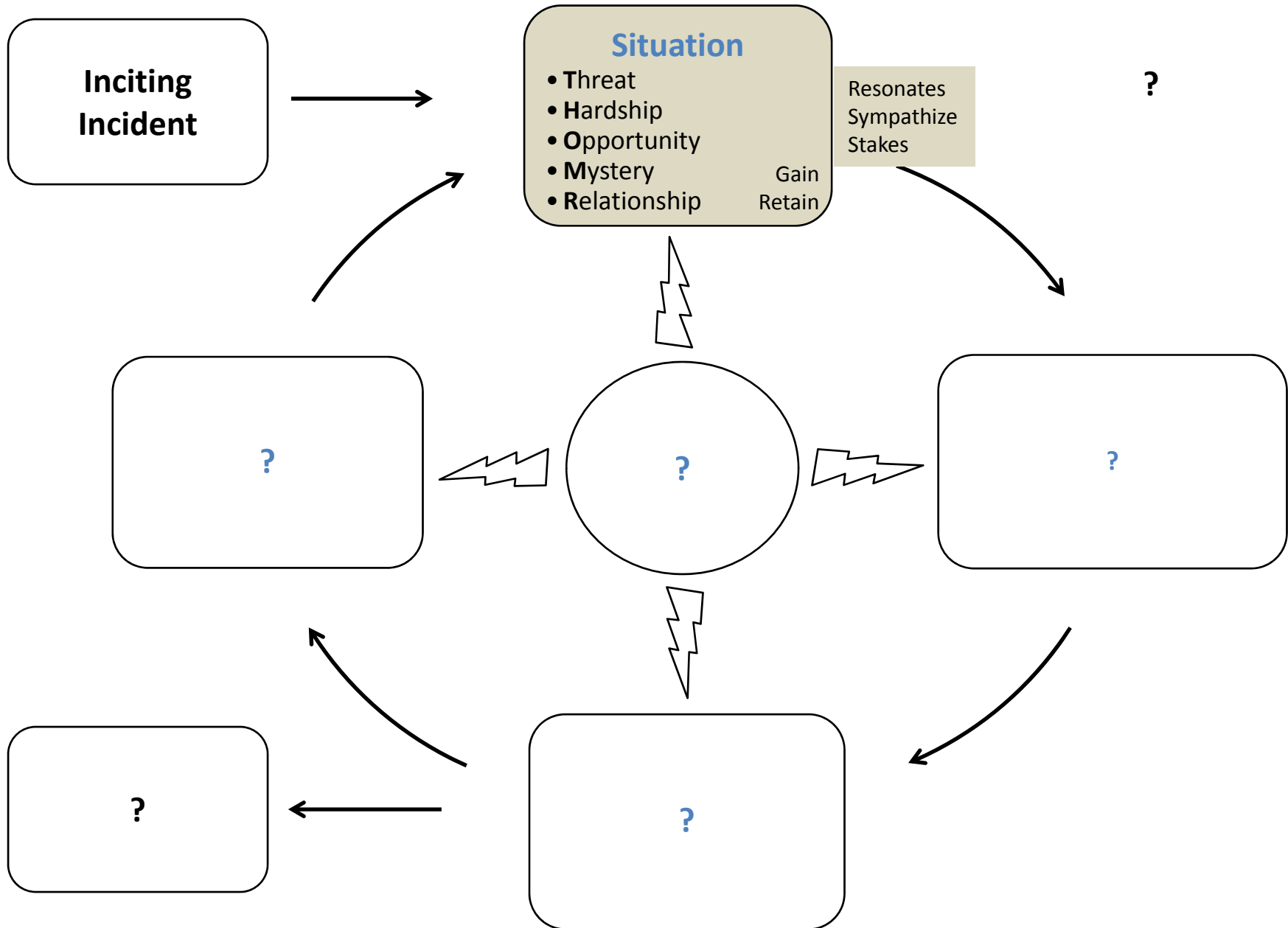
The Story Cycle



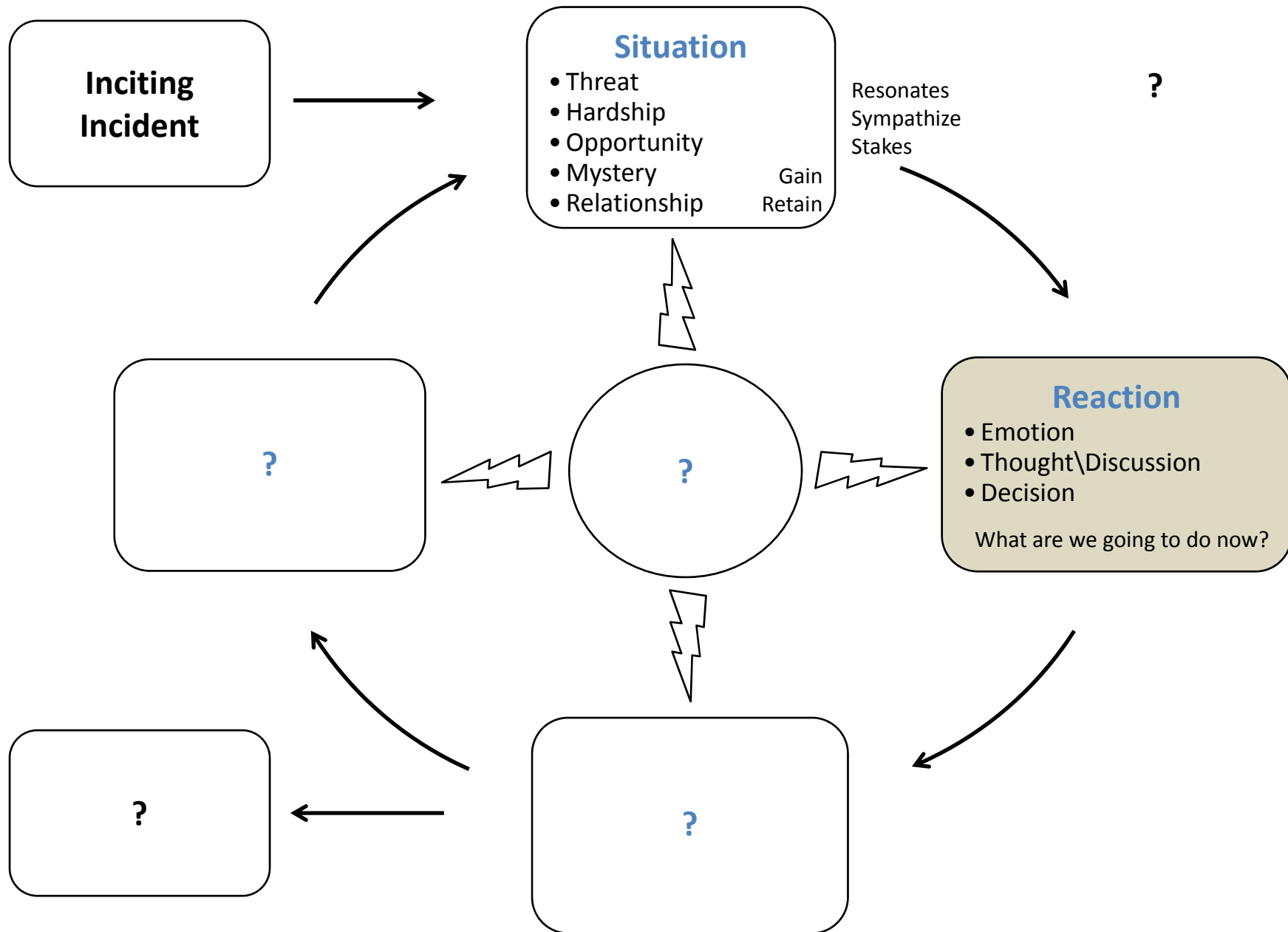
Situations & Starts

- Raiders of the Lost Ark
- Hunger Games
- The Martian
- Ride the River

The Story Cycle



The Story Cycle



Reaction

Emotion

- **Action**
 - Scowls, (sad) looks away
- **Describe it**
 - Hair on neck stood on end, floating in a sea of lips and tongue and the scent of peaches
- **Tell it**
 - Panic raced through him, he was stunned by her eyes
- **Dialogue**
 - (Sees her) “I think I’m going to faint.”

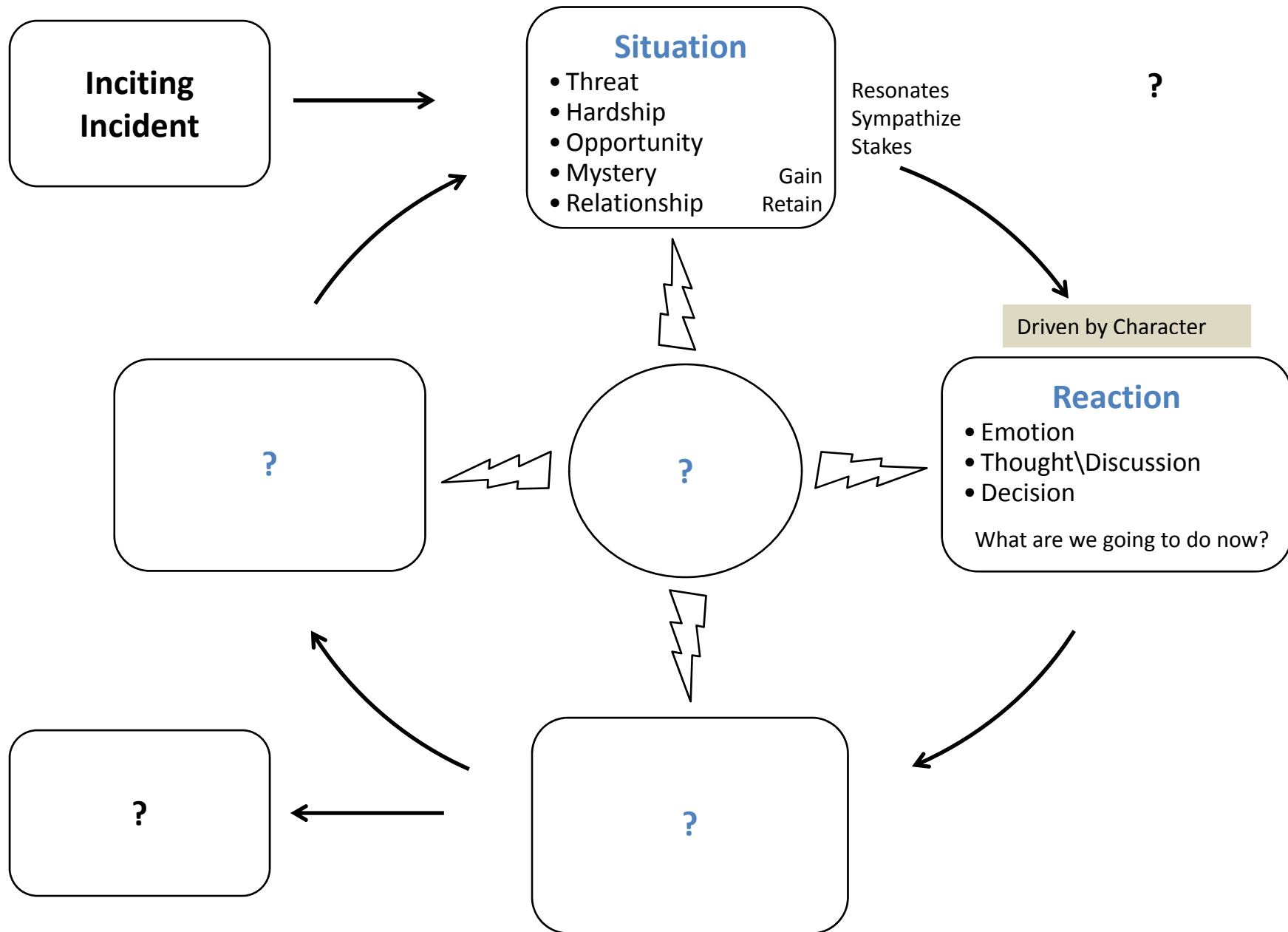
Thought/Discussion

- **Assess situation**
- **Analyze**
- **Search**
- **Brainstorm**
- **Plan**

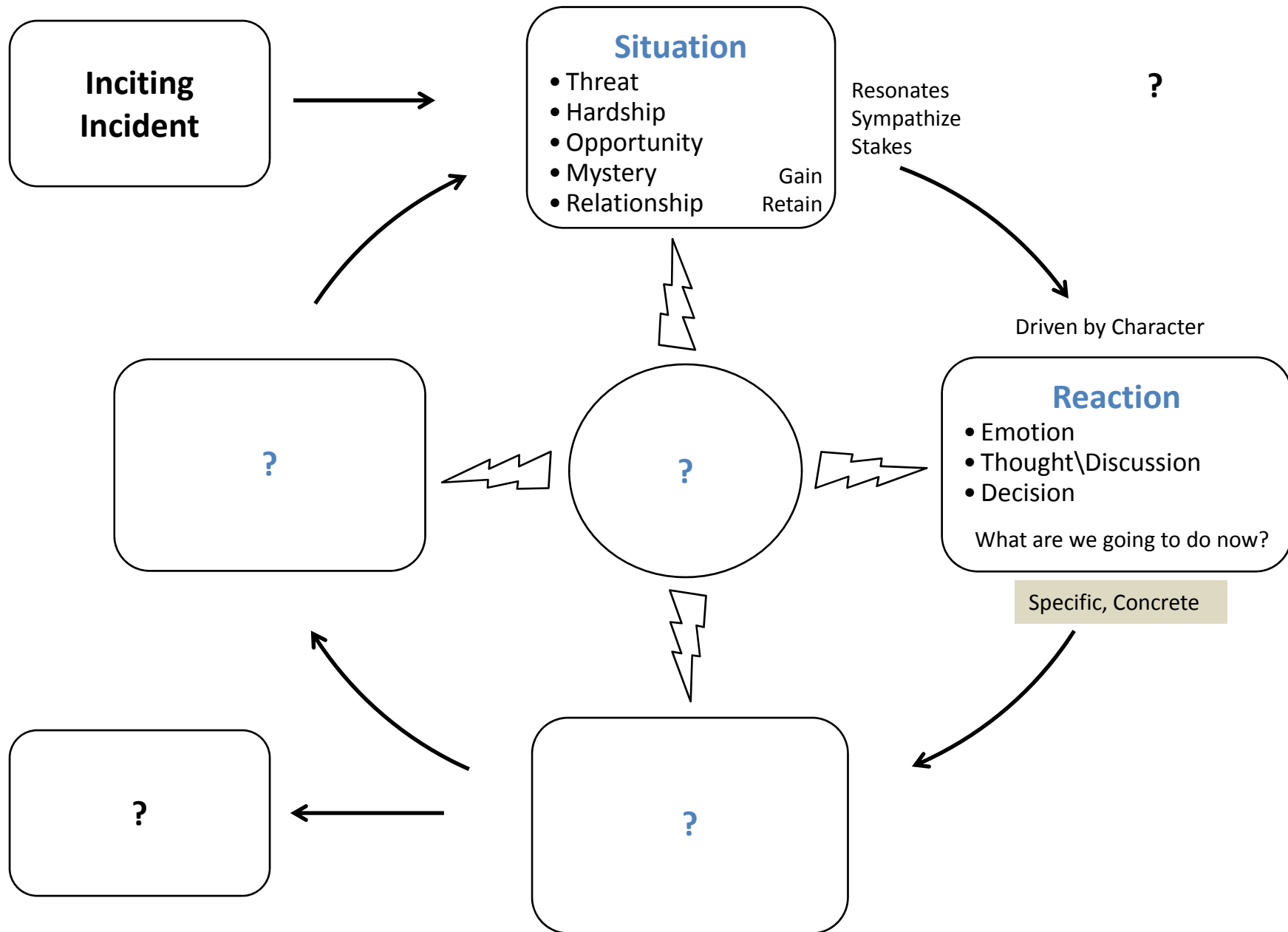
He's Been Mostly Dead All Day...



The Story Cycle



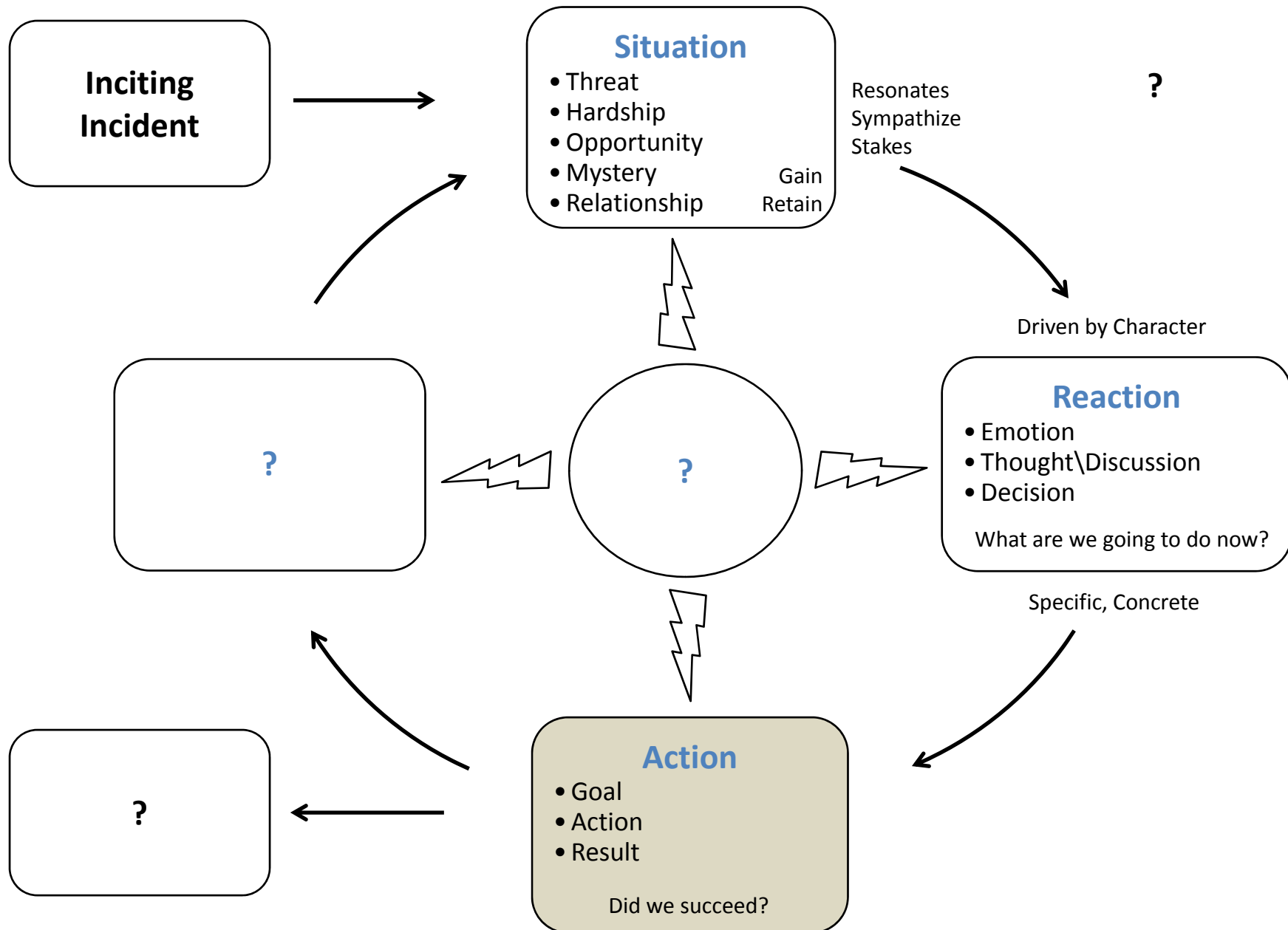
The Story Cycle



Specific & Concrete

- “Fight crime” → go shake down Louie to find the Joker
- “Be happy” → go ask the construction unit down the road if they’ll hire me
- “Survive Mars” → mix my poop in the dirt and see if I can get bacteria to grow
- “Find ark” → fly to Nepal to find Abner to get the headpiece of the Staff of Ra
- “Stay alive” → drop a tracker jacker nest onto gang of careers

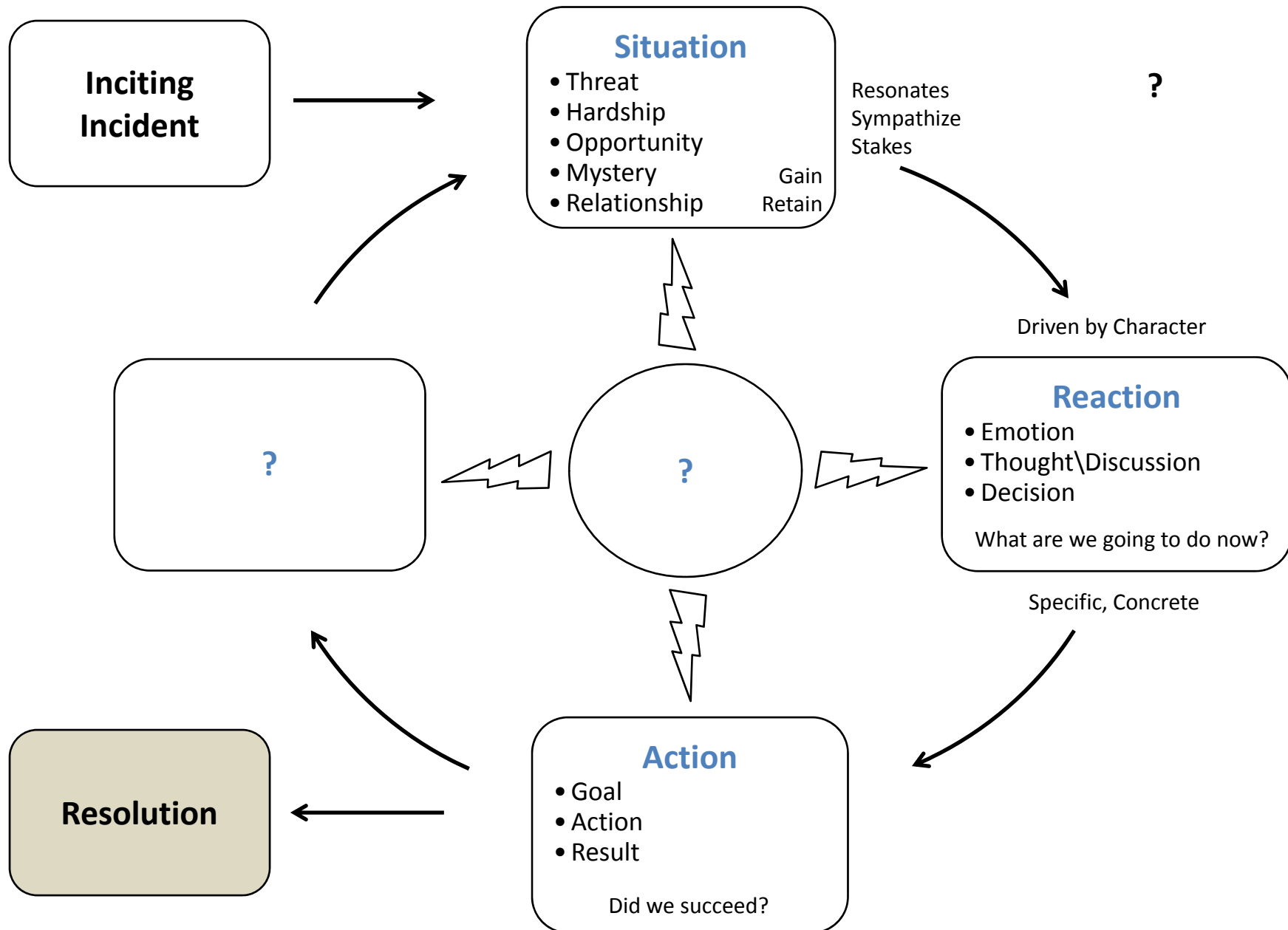
The Story Cycle



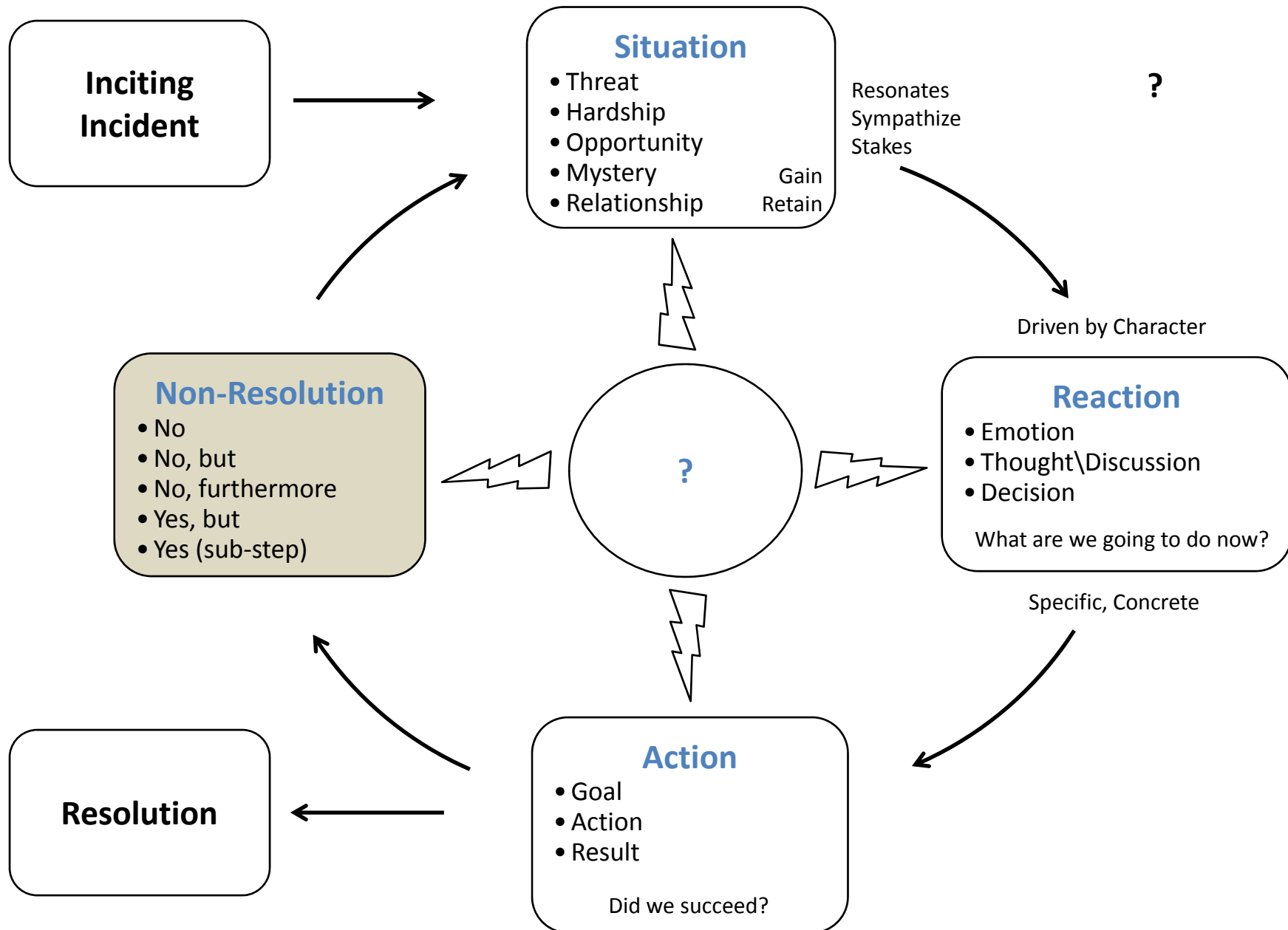
Action

- Princess Bride
- Hunger Games
- The Martian

The Story Cycle



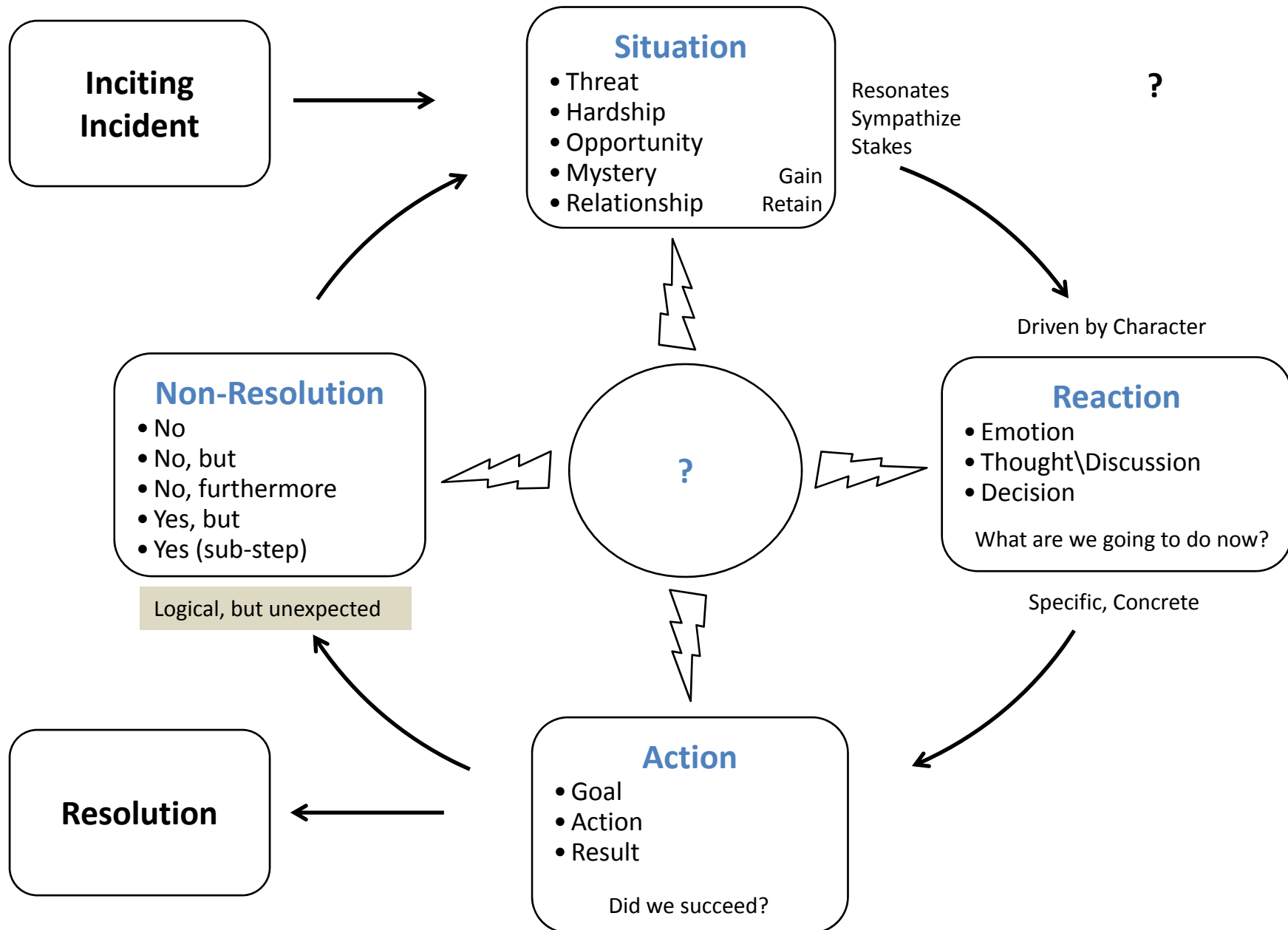
The Story Cycle



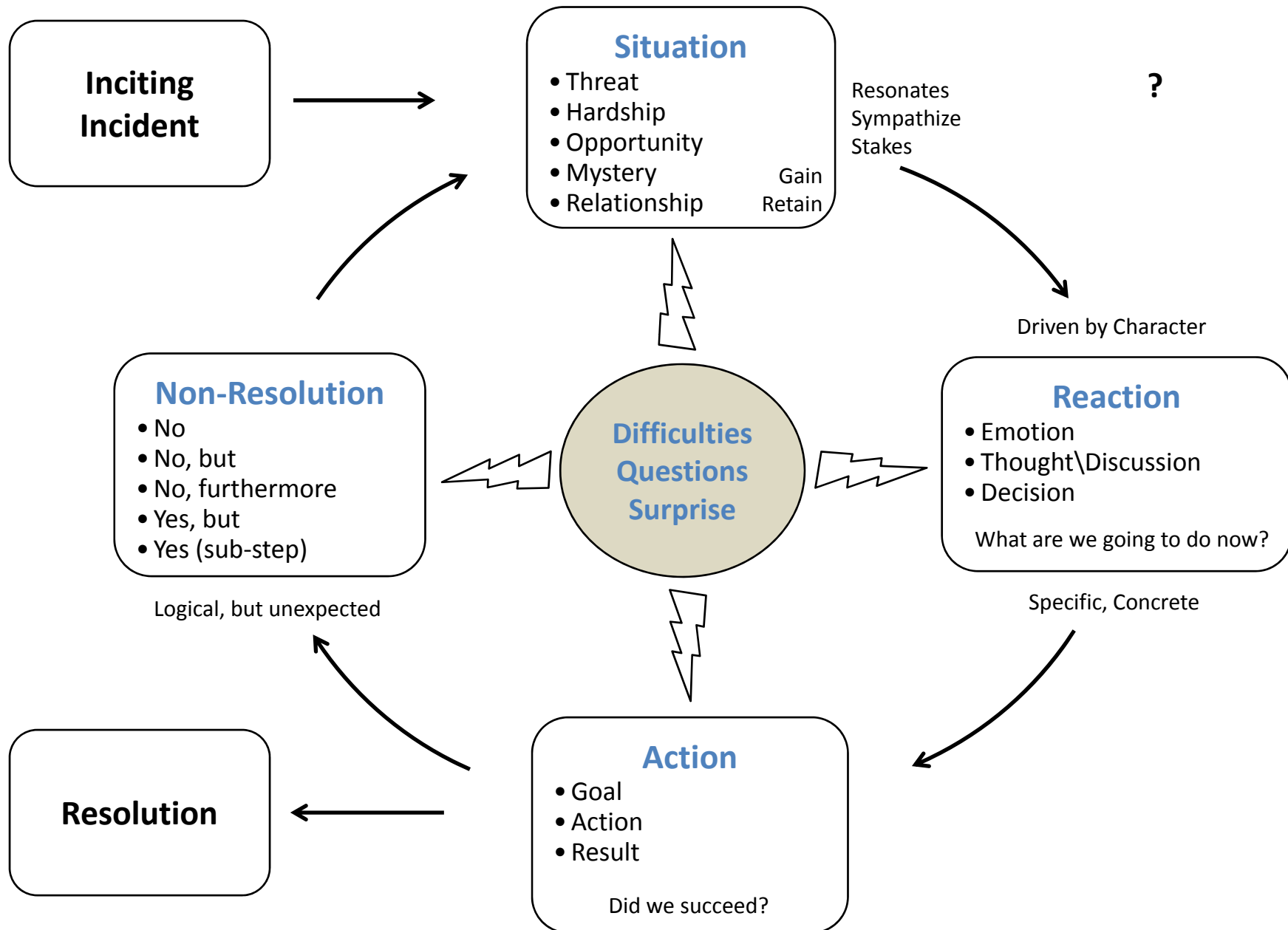
Comedy crime. Bill and Marsha staking out friend Sally. Is she's in danger? Find out who she's meeting

- **No:** It's a total bust. Some weird transient with killer flatulence or BO keeps following them
- **No, but:** Don't find out, but they do see a dude run away, and Bill knows he's seen that jacket before
- **No, furthermore:** They break a window and fall in. Sally discovers them, is angry. Her crazy boyfriend puts a gun to their heads and tells them if he sees them again, he's going to unleash Bilbo, his one-eyed pit bull
- **Yes, but:** They see Sally talking to some guy, but it's the priest acting all sly. What the heck?
- **Yes (sub-step):** They need to get app on her phone to track her; Bill distracts, while Marsha gets it activated on phone

The Story Cycle



The Story Cycle



Story Juice

Difficulties

Conflict (opposing goals)

- **Antagonist:** Priest pulls strings and causes problems
- **Others, including allies, animals, things:** Transient, the one-eyed pit bull, boyfriend
- **Self (dilemmas):** Love Sally, but may lose her over this

Obstacles

- **Physical environment:** Get up to roof to see what's going on
- **Cultural environment:** Bill needs to go into women's bathroom to spy
- **Objects:** Can't get his dumb night vision to work, fogging up
- **Lack'o Knowledge, Skills, Resources, Ability:** Don't know where she works, how to tail a car, no weapons so they bring a garden rake and big old kitchen knife

Pressures

- **Underdog:** Priest is 10 steps ahead, has guys, money, knowledge, etc.
- **Stakes:** bad guys are now hunting them, Sally has disappeared
- **Time!**

Story Juice

Questions

- **Think commercial break**
- What has the priest got to do with this?
- Where is she going?
- “I know what to do!”
- “Was that guy following us?”

Surprise

- **Sleight of hand:** The priest and two thugs push Sally into car and take her to...an orphanage
- **Unexpected:** The tracking app shows Sally going to the President!
- **Unplanned:** The farting transient
- **Unknown:** Sally used to work as a stripper?
- **Actions, motives, conflicts, obstacles, events, results, turns, etc.**

Story Juice

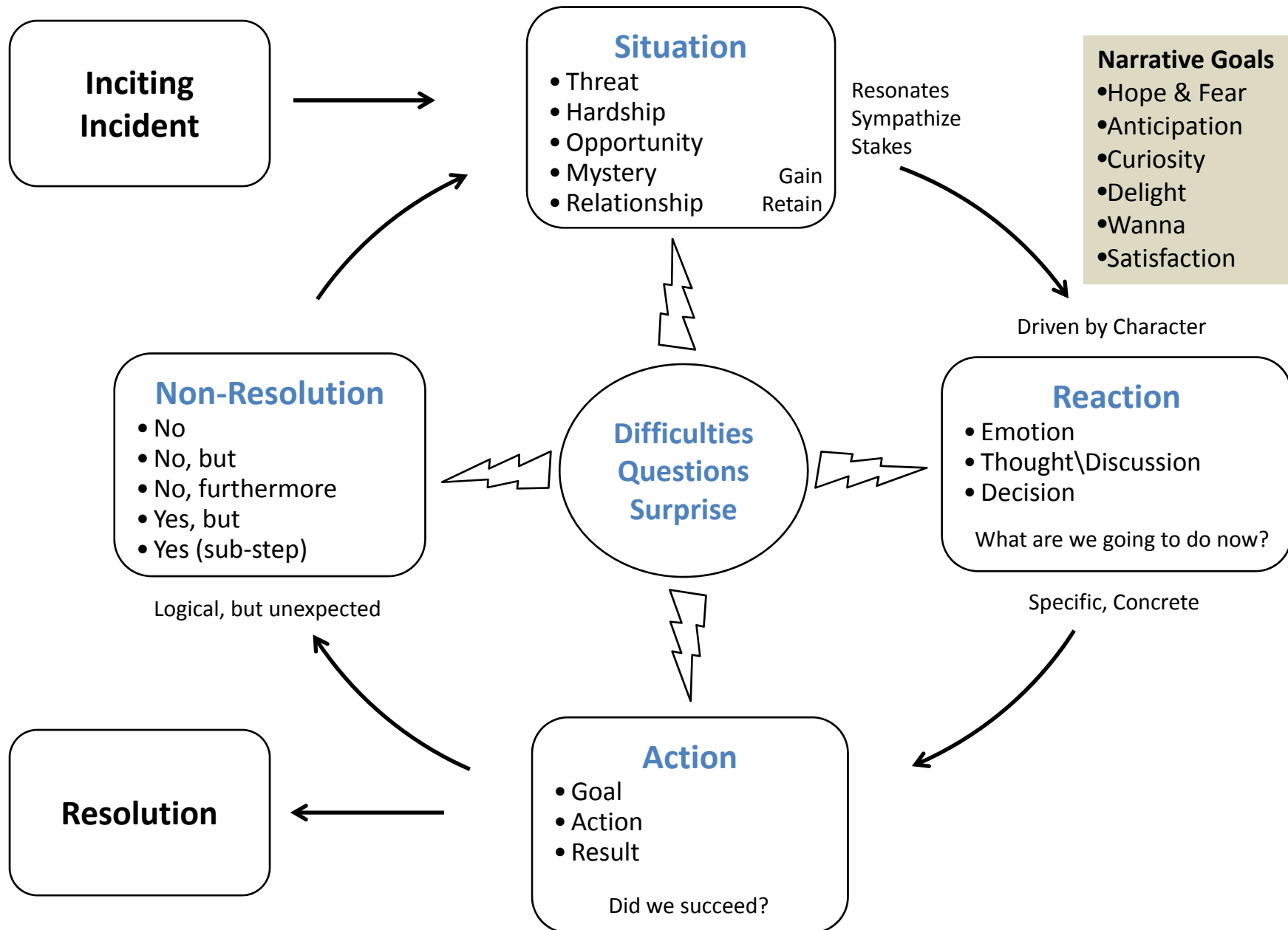
Hunger Games

- District 12 never won, tributes from districts 1 and 2
- Haymitch
- Girl on fire
- What did Peeta and Haymitch agree on?

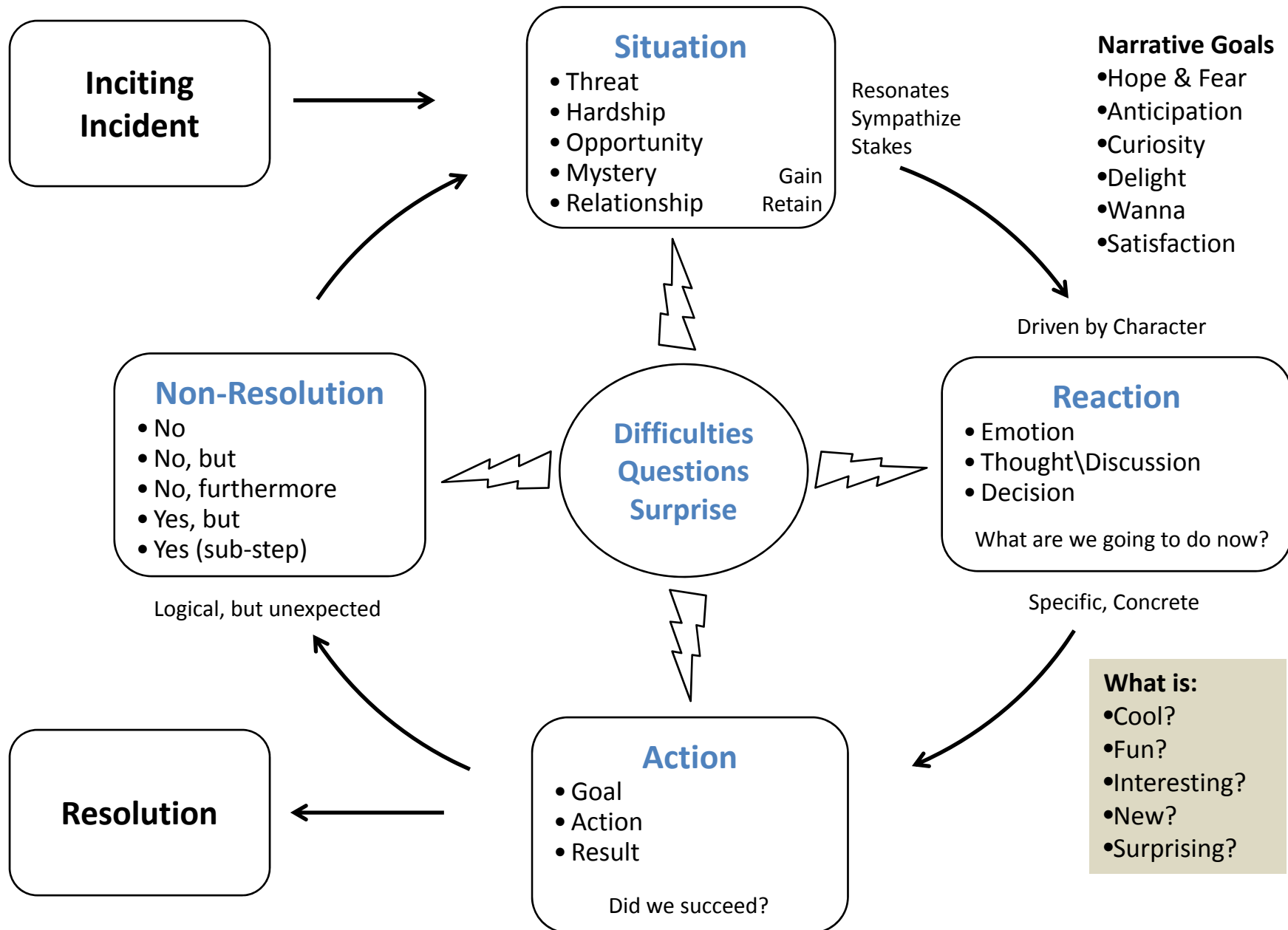
The Martian

- No real antagonist, but some guys on earth with different plans
- Not enough water
- Not enough food
- Time

The Story Cycle



The Story Cycle



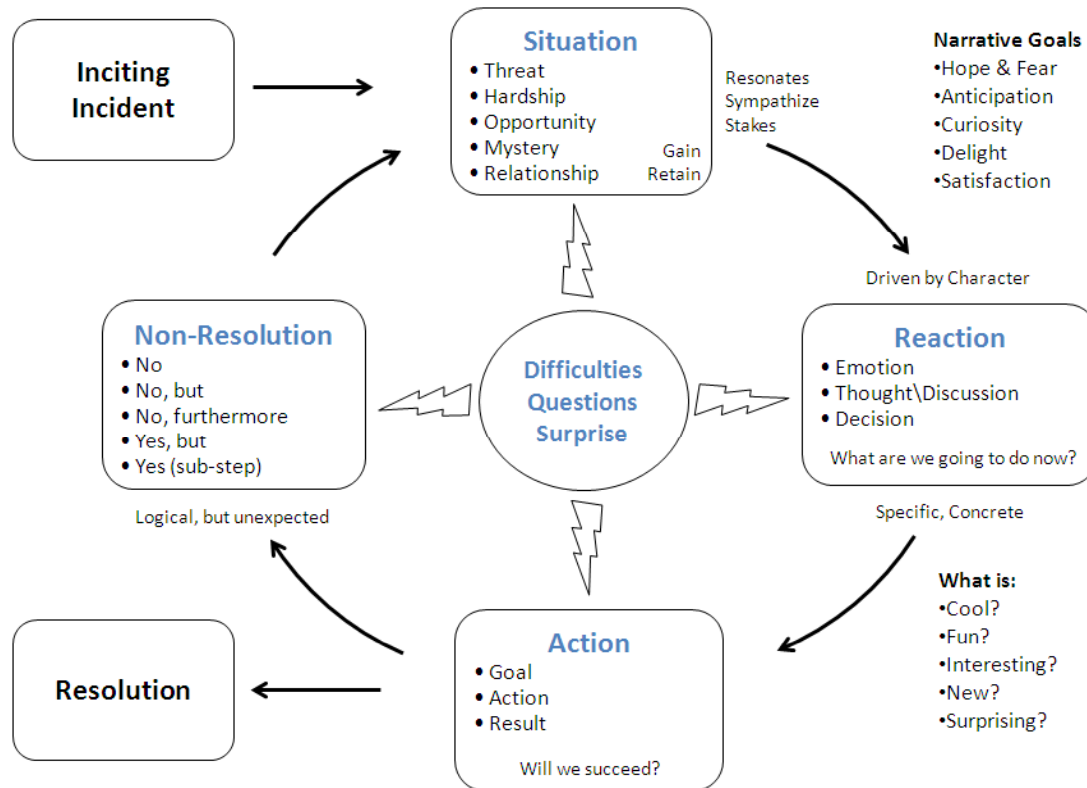
Hunger Games

- CHAPTER 1
 - Wake and go out, it's reaping Day.
 - Gale suggests they run away. No.
 - Come back, get Prim ready and go.
 - The reaping. Prim is chosen.
- CHAPTER 2
 - She volunteers, district gives kiss
 - Peeta, flashback (why not him)
- CHAPTER 3
 - Taken away, say goodbyes.
 - Mother: you can't flake
 - Prim: you have to win
 - Mr. Malark: I'll look after them
 - Madge: take pin
 - Gale: get a bow
 - Get on train, mockingjay memory
 - See the other tributes, for the third time, we see the odds against her
- Haymitch's position explained, he shows up drunk
- Peeta helps. She decides she can't let his kindness work on her.
- Thinking of home
- Dinner. Haymitch is lousy.
- CHAPTER 4
 - They both threaten him to be sober and help. He agrees, tells them to do whatever he says. First thing: let stylists do whatever they want.
 - They arrive. Peeta is playing crowd. She realizes he's out to win it and kill her. She can too!
- CHAPTER 5
 - Prep her body team. Cinna and the girl on fire plan to get her noticed
 - They enter the stadium.
 - Play the part. She see Peeta playing it.
 - It's a big success. She plays part too, thinking she can kill him.

The Martian

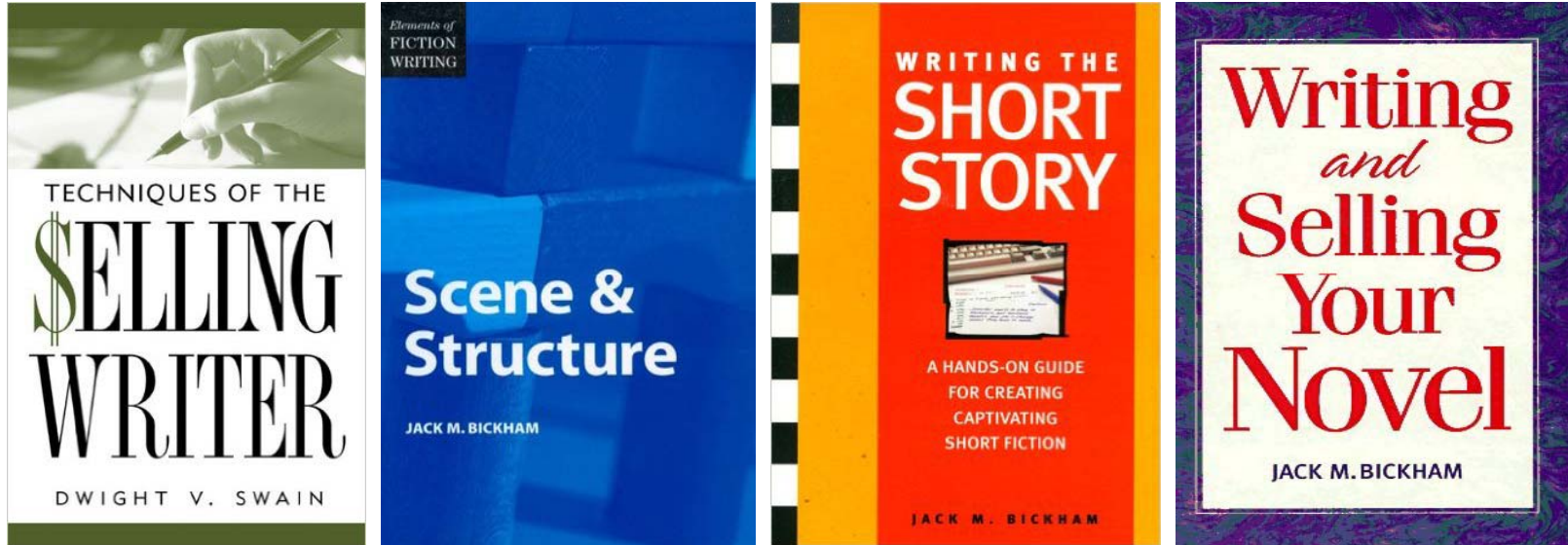
- Sol 6
 - I'm screwed
 - What happened
 - I'm totally screwed
- Sol 7
 - Feel better.
 - Assessment of what he has.
 - Long Goal: communicate when humans come back, survive 4 years on one year of food
 - Short Goal. Fix the damn radio
- Sol 10
 - Couldn't fix radio
 - 4 years!
 - Need more food. No enough soil, no seed. Need to figure out a way
- Sol 11
 - Wonders how the Cubs are doing
- Sol 14
 - Figures out soil solution
 - Found seeds for peas, beans, and potatoes
- Sol 15
 - Soil is harder work than thought
- Sol 16
 - Soil working, but don't have enough water. No solution.
- Sol 17
 - Depressed again. Yes, food looks feasible, but problem: not enough calories, they won't keep him from starving—only gets him 90 extra days, not the total for the 4 years needed.

The Story Cycle



- New territory each time
- Cliff hangers on jolt or end of a stage
- A story, B story, C story...
- Don't forget Antagonist

Read Swain and Bickham...

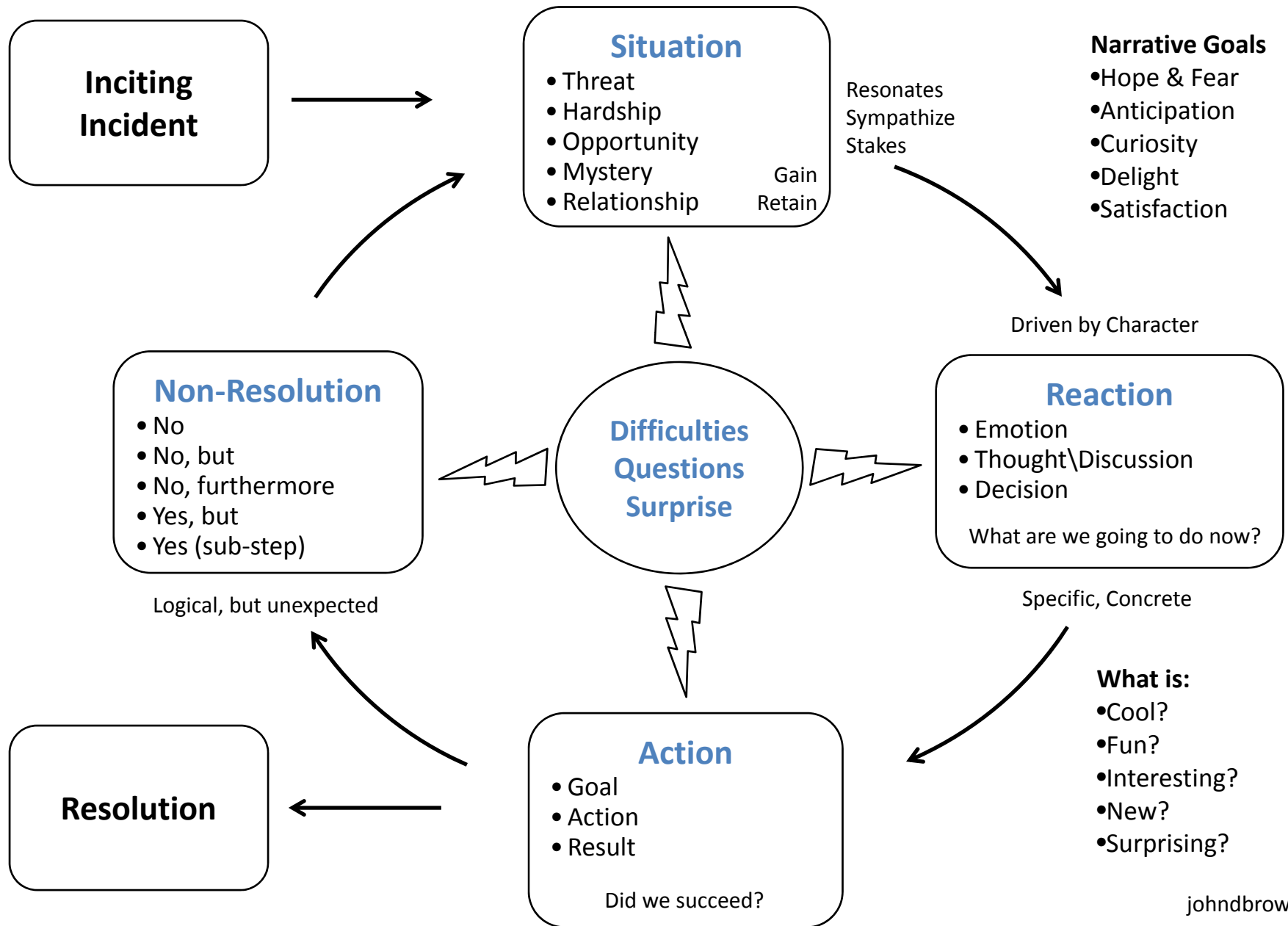


~~Scene and Sequel~~

Find a Book...

1. List main events in first 2-3 chapters
2. Where do you see?
 - The situation
 - Emotion, Thought\Discussion, & Decision
 - Goal, Action, & Result
3. What story jolts do you see?

The Story Cycle



The Story Cycle

