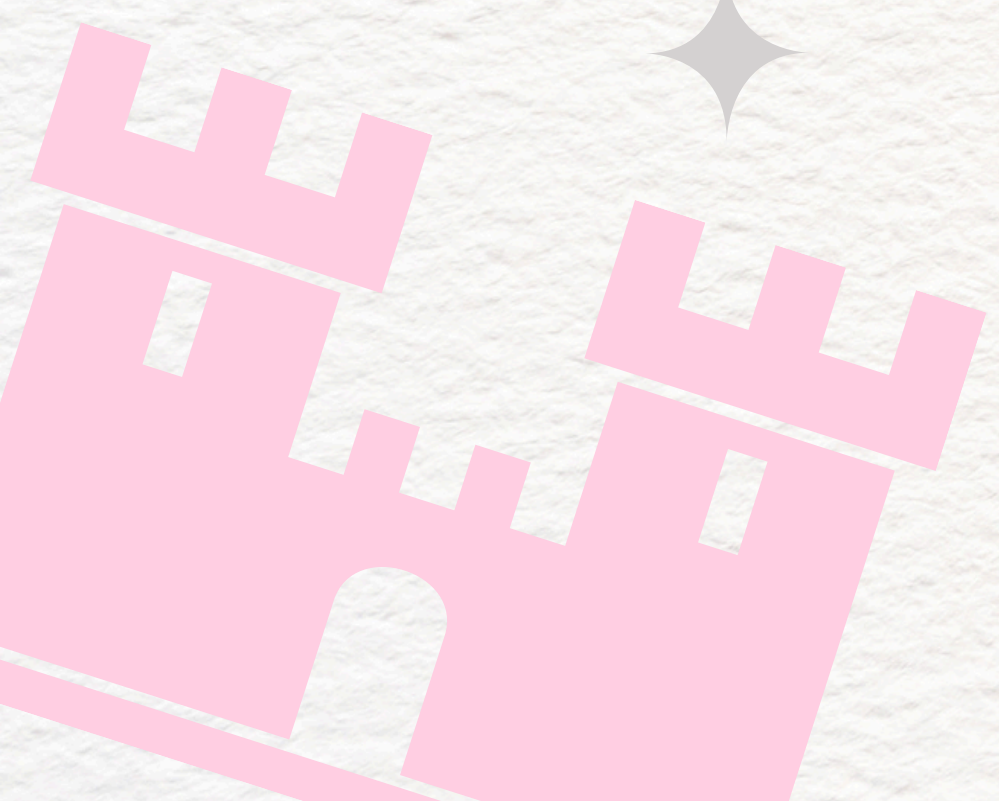




WK3 SCHOLARSHIP

NARRATIVE CRAFTING

From Basic to Brilliant



UNDERSTANDING STRONG NARRATIVES

SETTINGS (INDOOR, OUTDOOR)
CHARACTER (OLD, YOUNG,
MALE, FEMALE)

PLOTS (3 different plots)

- Strong narratives combine multiple elements, like pieces of a puzzle fitting together
- Each element serves a purpose:
 - **Character emotions** (hopes, fears, dreams)
 - **Personal challenges** (difficult choices, inner conflicts)
 - **Family responsibilities** (obligations, expectations)
 - **External pressures** (time limits, society's demands)
- When these elements work together, they:
 - Create deeper meaning
 - Make readers care about the outcome
 - Help readers see themselves in the story
 - Leave a lasting impression
- The more elements you include, the more compelling your story becomes

Self vs external
Self vs self (DOUBT
AND FEAR)

Gymnast
(bad
experience-
fearful of the
next
competition-
haunted by
memories)

**BUILDING
NARRATIVE
COMPLEXITY**

Doctor, soldier

EXAMPLE A: THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

CAREER

HARVARD

Basic Version: "A marine biologist must choose between accepting a prestigious research position or staying to protect a threatened reef ecosystem."

Rural Queensland

Adding First Layer of Complexity: "Dr. Sarah Chen, a marine biologist specialising in coral restoration, must choose between accepting a career-defining position at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution or remaining in the Great Barrier Reef to continue her groundbreaking work on coral resilience. Her research team has just discovered a potential breakthrough in coral preservation, but without institutional funding, the project might collapse."



EXAMPLE A: THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

Adding Second Layer of Complexity: "Dr. Sarah Chen's breakthrough coral restoration technique could save vast sections of the Great Barrier Reef, but implementing it requires choosing between two impossible options. The prestigious Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution offers her a dream position with unlimited funding and resources, while her current project in Australia stands on the brink of a major discovery. Her decision becomes more complicated when she learns that her main competitor, a commercial research firm, plans to patent a similar technique for profit, potentially restricting access for developing nations whose coastal communities depend on reef ecosystems."

**BRAIN IS
EXPLODING
BUILDING
NARRATIVE
COMPLEXITY**

**DO NOT
NEED TO
SOLVE THIS
STORY**

KID

EXAMPLE B: THE YOUNG ATHLETE

Basic Version: "A talented athlete must choose between competing in two important events."

piano

Cellist, basketball

Adding First Layer of Complexity: "Marcus Thompson, a gifted year 12 athlete, must choose between competing in the national athletics championships, where scouts from the Australian Institute of Sport will be present, or participating in his small town's centenary rugby match, where he would be the fourth generation of his family to play."

**BUILDING
NARRATIVE
COMPLEXITY**



BUILDING NARRATIVE COMPLEXITY



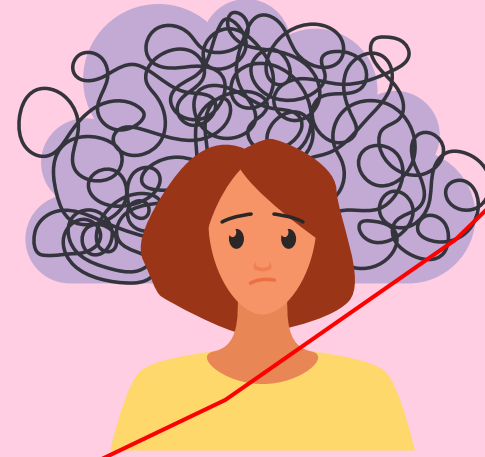
EXAMPLE B: THE YOUNG ATHLETE

Adding Second Layer of Complexity: "Marcus Thompson's athletic talents have brought him to a crucial crossroads. The national athletics championships, where AIS scouts could offer him a life-changing scholarship, coincide with his town's centenary rugby match. His family has played in every important town rugby match for three generations, and his grandfather, recently diagnosed with early-stage dementia, has been holding on to the dream of seeing Marcus wear the family jersey one last time. Meanwhile, Marcus's athletics coach believes he could qualify for the Commonwealth Games with proper training."

TYPES OF CONFLICT

A. PERSON VS. SELF

An internal struggle where a character battles with their own thoughts, doubts, fears, desires, or moral dilemmas.



C. PERSON VS. SOCIETY

A conflict where a character's values, beliefs, or goals put them at odds with societal norms, rules, expectations, or institutions.



ALONE

B. PERSON VS. NATURE

A struggle where a character faces challenges posed by natural forces, environments, or phenomena (wilderness, natural disasters, etc.).



D. PERSON VS. PERSON

A direct conflict between characters who have opposing goals, values, or interests that can't be mutually satisfied.



**BUSHFIRE
EARTHQUAKE**



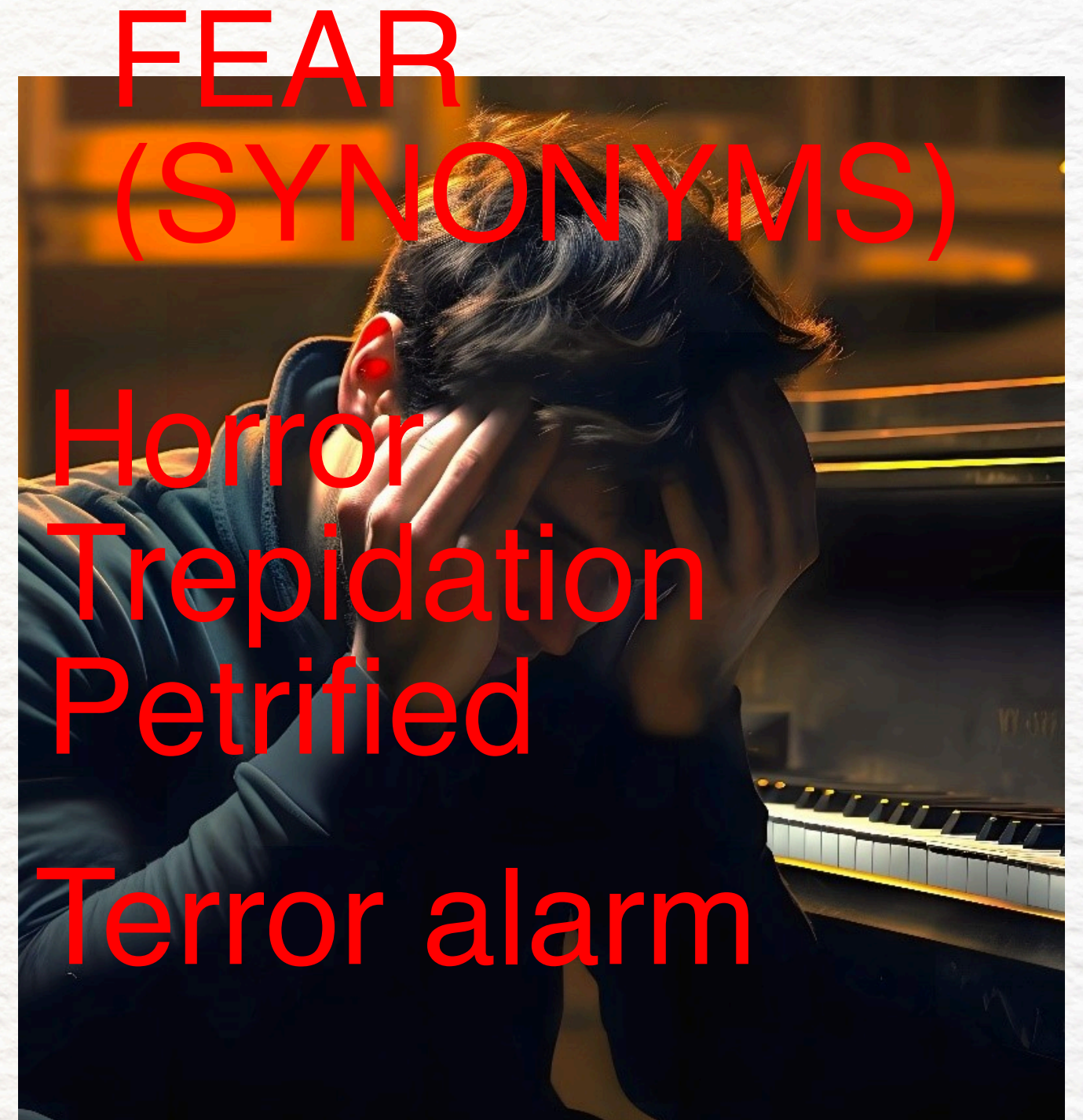
E. PERSON VS. TECHNOLOGY

A struggle where a character confronts challenges created by technological advancement, or grapples with the impact of technology on their life and values.

CHARACTER (EMOTIONS, OUTFITS, BODY REACTIONS) VS. PATHETIC SELF FALLACY

Basic Example: "A student doubts their ability to perform in the school musical."

Enhanced Example: "Despite being the most talented musician in the school orchestra, Aaron Park battles crippling performance anxiety before the state music competition. His fear stems from a disastrous performance three years ago, but winning this competition could secure his future at the Sydney Conservatorium. Each practice session becomes a battle between his love for music and his fear of public performance."



Fright....

CLUES AND RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

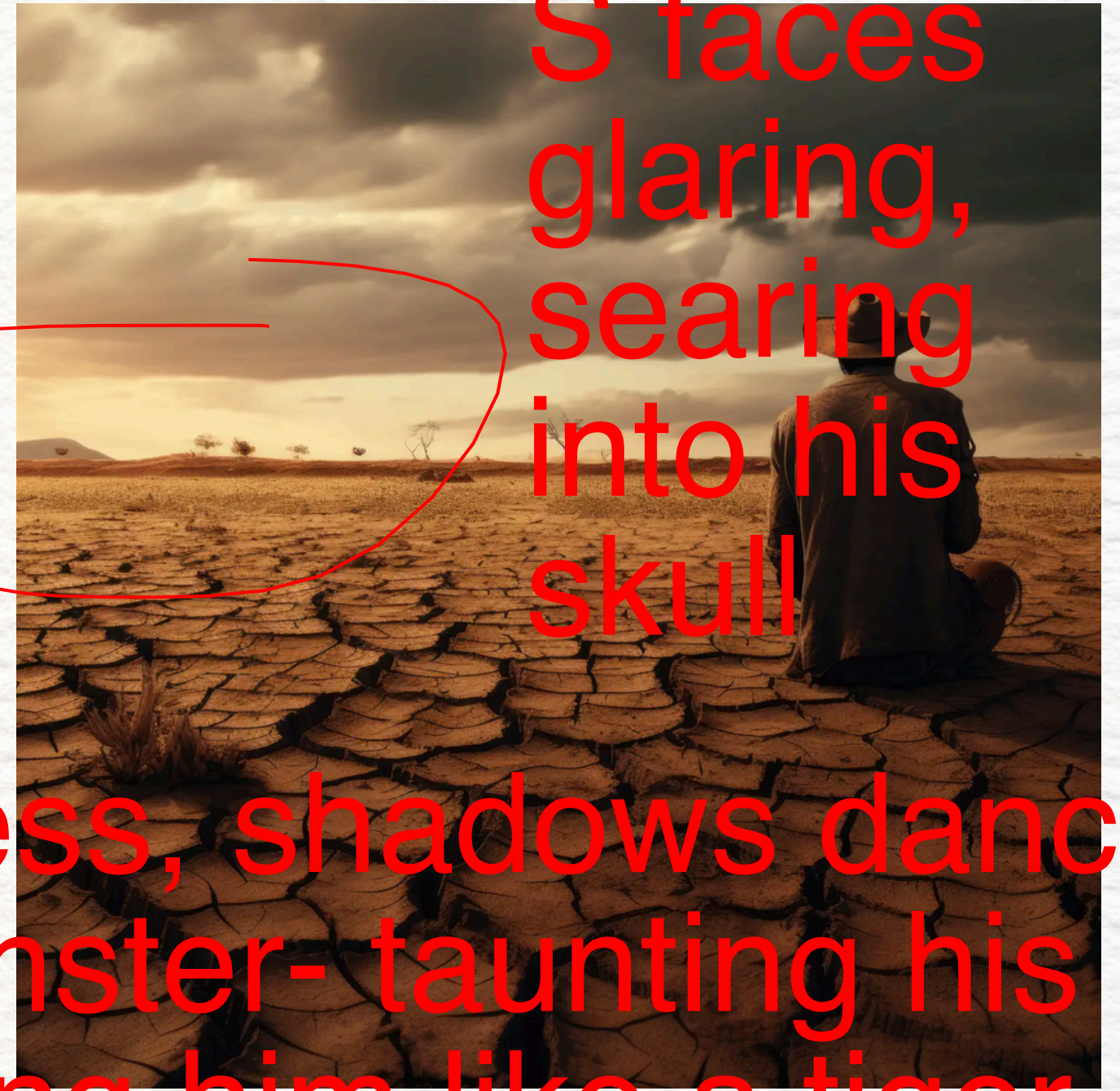
B. PERSON VS. NATURE

Piano (environment)- white
and black keys taunting
him, jeering, mocking

Basic Example: "A farmer faces a drought."

Enhanced Example: "Third-generation farmer Jack Murray battles the worst drought in living memory while trying to maintain his family's organic farming certification. The sustainable practices he's championed for years now threaten the farm's survival, as conventional methods might help them survive the drought but would destroy decades of soil restoration work."

Audience
S faces
glaring,
searing
into his
skull



Lights/darkness, shadows danced
mocking-monster- taunting his
death... circling him like a tiger
circles prey

C. PERSON VS. SOCIETY

Basic Example: "A student challenges school uniform rules."

Enhanced Example: "Year 12 student Maya Patel launches a campaign to modify the school's uniform policy to include cultural dress options. Her petition gains national media attention, forcing her to navigate discrimination, traditional values, and the complexity of cultural identity in modern Australia while maintaining her academic performance in her final year."



D. PERSON VS. PERSON

Basic Example: "Two students compete for school captain."

Enhanced Example: "Former best friends Olivia Chen and James O'Connor find themselves competing for school captain, but their rivalry masks a deeper conflict. Their friendship fractured after James's family company proposed developing the local wetlands where Olivia's environmental group conducts endangered species research. Now their campaign speeches become proxy battles for community values."



E. PERSON VS. TECHNOLOGY

Basic Example: "A student struggles with social media addiction."

Enhanced Example: "As captain of the debating team, Hannah Mitchell discovers her social media expertise could help her team win the national championships through data analytics and audience engagement. However, her increasing reliance on technology begins to affect her real-world connections and public speaking abilities, forcing her to confront the balance between digital advantage and authentic human interaction."



CREATING DEPTH THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

1. TIME PRESSURE

Constraints or deadlines that force characters to make decisions quickly or race against the clock, adding urgency to their choices.



2. PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

Barriers, disabilities, injuries, or physical constraints that complicate a character's ability to achieve their goals.



3. RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

Limited access to money, materials, support, or other necessary resources that force difficult choices or creative solutions.



CREATING DEPTH THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

FAMILY

4. CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

The weight of traditions, cultural norms, and community expectations that influence or conflict with a character's choices.



5. MORAL OBLIGATIONS

Ethical responsibilities or principles that create tension between what a character wants to do and what they feel they should do.



6. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

External conditions (weather, location, terrain, etc.) that add complexity to the situation or limit available options.



1. TIME PRESSURE

Basic Example: "A daughter must collect
important medical documents before her
father's surgery."

Enhanced Example: "With only three hours until
her father's surgery, Mei must collect vital
medical documents from their old house on the
other side of the city. The peak-hour traffic
stretches before her, her phone battery is dying,
and she discovers the house keys are at her
workplace in the opposite direction. Each minute
that passes increases the risk of the surgery
being postponed, which her father's condition
can't afford."



2. PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

Basic Example: "A pianist with an injured wrist must prepare for an important audition."

Enhanced Example: "Despite her recent wrist injury, concert pianist Claire must prepare for the scholarship audition that could secure her music school future. She can only practice for ten minutes at a time before the pain becomes unbearable, forcing her to find creative ways to memorize the complex piece. Meanwhile, her competition practises for hours daily, widening the skill gap as the audition approaches."



3. RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

Basic Example: "A community centre coordinator must choose between two essential repairs."

Enhanced Example: "The community centre has enough grant money to either repair the leaking roof or upgrade the outdated computers used for senior citizens' digital literacy classes. As program coordinator, James knows the roof will eventually cause severe damage, but without new computers, dozens of elderly residents will lose their only means of connecting with distant family members. The grant deadline looms tomorrow, and both suppliers need immediate confirmation."



4. CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

Basic Example: "A daughter must decide between running the family restaurant or accepting an art scholarship."

Enhanced Example: "As the eldest daughter in a traditional family, Sarah is expected to take over her parents' restaurant, a beloved community institution for three generations. However, she's just been offered a prestigious art scholarship interstate. Her parents have already started training her brother in accounting instead of cooking, assuming she'll stay, and regular customers speak excitedly about her future as the restaurant's first female head chef."



5. MORAL OBLIGATIONS

Basic Example: "A school newspaper editor discovers his friend is involved in a cheating scandal."

Enhanced Example: "School newspaper editor Tom discovers evidence that the star basketball player, who's also his best friend, has been helping younger students cheat on exams. Publishing the story would likely cost his friend the sports scholarship he desperately needs to attend university, but staying quiet means the cheating could continue affecting other students' academic futures. The next edition deadline is tomorrow morning."



6. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Basic Example: "A park ranger must rescue hikers trapped by approaching bushfires."

Enhanced Example: "Park ranger Kate monitors a group of trapped hikers via drone feed as bushfires approach from two directions. The main access road is already cut off by flames, the water-bombing helicopters can't fly in the heavy smoke, and weather reports show an incoming wind change that will dramatically alter the fire's path. She has one vehicle and time to attempt only one rescue route."

