



# WeatherForge

## *Meet the Cast*

STANDARD EDITION

# Spark & Anvil

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This book collects 5 chapter books from the Weatherforge cast — each character embodies a different curricular primitive; together they teach the full subject.

Methodology: distributed-narrative learning per Bruner narrative-cognition + Habgood intrinsic-integration + SAMHSA TIP 57 trauma-informed register.

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*For everyone who learns by hearing a story first.*

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# Introduction

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The Weatherforge cast was authored to embody the curriculum, not decorate around it. Each of the 5 characters you'll meet in this book teaches a specific primitive — a particular tactic, a particular technique, a particular way of seeing. Together they form an ensemble: the cast IS the curriculum.

Read in any order. Each chapter stands alone.

Each character also appears in the matching Spark & Anvil app (free, forever) where you can practice what they teach.

— *The editors at Spark & Anvil*



# Brew

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\*STORM FORMATION — instability + moisture + lifting; *three ingredients combine to brew a storm*. The meteorology primitive of \*understanding why storms form WITHOUT framing them as entertainment-spectacle.\*\*

Brew was a small kestrel-tween. A shiny spyglass hung from her hip. It swung on a leather cord. She also kept a small, folded card in her chest pocket. This card was all about staying safe in a storm.

Brew was small. Her feathers were streaked brown and cream. Her bright eyes were always focused. She moved with a careful, steady way. Her spyglass looked small. But it was very well made. It was the kind of tool sailors used. Farmers also used them. They helped spot bad weather far away. The storm-safety card was small too. Its edges were worn soft from all her handling. It listed every step to take. These steps kept people safe when storms got serious.

This part is super important. Brew teaches about how storms are made. She shows everyone the secret to **storm-formation**. Storms don't just pop up out of nowhere. They need three special things to happen.

First is **instability**. That's when warm, wet air is low down. Colder air sits above it. The warm air really wants to shoot up fast.

Next is **moisture**. You need lots of water vapor. Enough for big clouds to form.

Last is **lifting**. Something has to push that unstable air up. Maybe a weather front. Or a big mountain. Or just the sun heating the ground.

When all three things meet, a storm starts brewing.

Brew *never* said storms were exciting. She never called them an adventure. She was very clear about it. "Storms are just weather," she would say. "They are not a show. Some are gentle. Some can be deadly. The trick is to understand them. You must respect them. Don't ever chase them."

"I teach how storms form," she would explain. "Kids need to know what is happening. Then they can make smart choices. I do *not* teach storm-chasing."

(Brew made sure everyone knew about storm safety. She always added these rules:

- *Severe weather watches and warnings*. (A watch means bad weather *might* happen. A warning means it *is* happening or will happen soon.)
- *Shelter rules*. (Tornado: Go to the lowest floor. Find an inside room. Stay away from windows. Lightning: Go indoors. Never stand under a tall, lonely tree. Hurricane: Follow orders to leave your home.)
- *Know who to call*. (Local emergency helpers. NOAA weather radio. Town alert systems.)
- *Easy outs*. (If storm talk makes a kid scared, they can learn about mild storms. Or they can skip this lesson.)

Brew grew up in a small village. It was on a wide, flat plain. Her family had always been the village storm-watchers. They were kestrels. They would spot big storms coming. Tornadoes, hailstorms, and derechos were common there. They would watch from high spots. Then they would call warnings back to the village.

This job needed careful eyes. They looked for certain signs in the sky. Anvil clouds, mammatus clouds, wall clouds. Low cloud bases. Quick drops in air pressure. Hail damage on the ground. They also had to warn everyone fast. The village needed to get to shelter. By age six, Brew knew something important. Understanding storms kept people safe. It was not a game to play.

She walked to the WeatherForge academy when she was twenty-two. Gale, the head of the academy, asked her a question. "What is storm formation?"

Brew answered right away. "It is **instability + moisture + lifting**. Three ingredients. When all three are there, the storm brews. The skill is knowing the ingredients. And respecting the storm. I teach storm-formation so kids stay safe. I do not make storms sound fun."

Gale nodded. "You are appointed," she said.

In her classroom, Brew started every first lesson the same way. She always unfolded her storm-safety card first. It went on the workbench. This happened before she talked about any storm-formation. She pointed to the safety steps.

"Storm-safety first," she said. "Then storm-formation. I am Brew. The weather lesson I teach is **storm formation**. The main idea is: find the three ingredients. Then respect the storm. I teach this so you stay safe. Not so you chase storms."

She taught the steps of **storm-formation**:

- **Find INSTABILITY.** (Warm, wet air is low down. Colder air is above it. Weather maps show this.)
- **Find MOISTURE.** (Enough water vapor for clouds. Check dew points and humidity.)
- **Find LIFTING.** (Something pushes the unstable air up. A front, a mountain, or daytime heat.)
- *When all three combine, the storm brews.* (Thunderstorms are the basic kind. Severe thunderstorms have stronger ingredients. Tornadoes are severe storms plus a special wind twist. Hurricanes form differently. They need certain ocean and air conditions.)
- **Storm safety:** *Know the warnings. Find good shelter. Have a plan to talk to family. Do not chase storms.*
- **No show reminder:** *Storms are serious weather. People get hurt or even die. We must respect them, not treat them like a show.*

She was very clear. "I have seen storms up close," she said. "I have called warnings. They saved village animals and people. I do not make storms sound pretty. I teach what they are. I teach how they form. I teach how to be safe when they come. That is my job."

Students often asked Brew if storm-formation was hard. Brew always gave the same answer.

"It is not hard," she would say. "It is **three ingredients + safety first**. Instability. Moisture. Lifting. Find the ingredients. Respect the storm. Stay safe."

She refolded the storm-safety card. The spyglass caught the light. The next storm-forecast waited to be watched.

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## Voice register

**Guidance:** Bright-eyed, focused, deliberate, fond of weather-watcher's spyglass + storm-safety card + the discipline of *safety-first-then-formation*. Kestrel-tween. *NEVER frames storms as exciting or cinematic; ALWAYS as serious atmospheric processes requiring respect and safety scaffolds*. Friends with Press + Mass + Loft (storm = pressure-difference + air-mass-meeting + lifting + moisture); Read (storm forecasting); all WeatherForge cast.

**Sample lines:**

- *"Instability + moisture + lifting. Three ingredients brew a storm."*
- *"I teach storm-formation so kids stay safe. Not so they chase storms."*
- *"Storm-safety first. Then storm-formation."*
- *"Storms are atmospheric processes, not entertainment."*

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## Arc across kits

- **Kit 1-3** — Cameo.
- **Kit 4** — **Anchor character**. Full chapter feature (storm-formation + safety scaffolds).
- **Kit 5-7** — Recurring (storm-types across thunderstorm / supercell / tornado / hurricane chambers WITH safety scaffolds).
- **Kit 8-12** — Recurring (multi-primitive synthesis).

- **Kit 13-16** — Recurring ensemble member.

## Relationships

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- **Alliance:** Press + Mass + Loft (combine into storm-formation); Read (storm forecasting); all WeatherForge cast.
- **Tension:** None.

## Cultural-sensitivity gates

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LOAD-BEARING anti-spectacle gate + storm-safety scaffolds enforced. Off-ramps available for kids who find severe-weather content distressing. Crisis-resource awareness built into every storm-anchored kit. Cast NEVER glamorizes storms.

## Cultural-context note

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The village-storm-watcher family framing is a deliberate generic plains-village tradition (analogous to Tornado Alley + Great Plains weather-watching traditions in the US, the *fata morgana* watchers in coastal Mediterranean traditions, etc.). The *three-ingredients-of-severe-weather* framing (instability + moisture + lifting) is standard introductory meteorology. The *storm-safety-first* discipline is load-bearing per current weather-education pedagogy + NOAA SkyWarn training principles.



# Loft

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\*WATER CYCLE + LIFTING — evaporation, condensation, precipitation; \*rising air cools, cooling air condenses, condensed moisture falls.\*\*

Loft was an albatross-tween. She had broad, calm wings. They were grey, white, and cream. She was big for a tween, but quiet. Albatrosses have super long wings, you know. Loft always looked ready to glide. She was very patient. When she showed things, her wings spread wide. She didn't flap them. Her lesson was about rising and lifting. Not about flying with power. Under one wing, she kept a small, folded diagram. It showed the **water cycle**. Sun warmed the water. Vapor went up. It cooled high in the sky. Tiny drops formed. They made clouds. Then rain or snow fell back down.

Loft teaches about the **water cycle** and **lifting**. Water in the air moves in a circle. It never stops. First, water evaporates. The sun heats oceans, lakes, rivers, even leaves. The water turns into vapor. This vapor rises up. Warm air is lighter than cool air, so it floats higher. High up in the sky, the air gets cold. Cold air can't hold as much water vapor. So, the extra vapor turns into tiny drops. These drops make clouds. When the drops get too heavy, they fall. Rain or snow lands on the ground. Then the whole cycle starts again.

Loft always said lifting was gentle. It wasn't a big, dramatic thing. It just kept happening. "Lifting is happening all the time," she would say. "Quietly. Continuously." She explained it simply. "Every bit of ground the sun warms sends water vapor up. Air full of water gets lifted. Maybe a hill pushes it up. Maybe a weather front. Or maybe just warm air rising. It cools down. Then it turns into drops." She always finished with her favorite line. "The **water cycle** is the planet's quiet breathing."

Loft also taught about the four ways air moves up. She called them **lifting mechanisms**.

1. **Thermal:** The sun heats the ground. Warm air rises. Think of a hot sidewalk on a summer day.
2. **Orographic:** Air gets pushed up a mountain. Imagine wind hitting a big hill. It has to go up and over.
3. **Frontal:** Warm air slides over cold air. This happens when two big air masses meet.
4. **Convergence:** Winds meet and push air up. Picture winds blowing from different directions. They crash together and have nowhere to go but up.  
Each of these ways makes clouds. Often, they make rain or snow too. Loft showed what kind of clouds each one made. She showed what weather came with them.

Loft grew up in a small village. It sat on a cliff by the sea. Her family were the village's wind-riders. They were albatrosses. They used the wind off the cliff to fly high above the village. They watched for weather coming from the sea. This job meant they had to know about rising air. Wind blew off the sea. It hit the cliff. The wind lifted up. The albatrosses rode this lift. The air cooled. It turned into morning fog. The villagers below had to find their way through it. By age six, Loft knew this. Lifting made all the weather. If you watched where air lifted, you could guess the weather.

When she was twenty-two, Loft went to the WeatherForge academy. Gale, the head teacher, asked her a question. "What is the **water cycle**?" Loft stood tall. She spread her calm wings just a bit. "It is rise, cool, condense, fall," she said. "The cycle repeats. **Lifting** is the engine." She explained more. "Air rises. Heat makes it. A hill pushes it. A front moves it. Or winds meet and push it up. High up, it gets cold. Cold air can't hold as much water. The extra water turns into drops. Clouds form. Rain or snow falls. The water goes back to the ground. The cycle starts again." Gale smiled. "You are appointed," he said.

In her classroom, Loft started every first-day lesson the same way. She spread her wings wide. Then she unfolded her **water cycle** diagram. She laid it flat on the workbench. She pointed at each step. "Rise. Cool. Condense. Fall." She looked at her new students. "I am Loft," she said. "The thing I teach is the **water cycle** and **lifting**. We will trace the cycle. We will find the lifting. Rise. Cool. Condense. Fall. The cycle repeats. The **lifting** is the engine."

She taught the main ideas of the **water cycle** and **lifting**.

- **Find the water source.** Where does the water vapor come from? Is it from an ocean? A lake? Plants? Or wet dirt?
- **Find the lifting mechanism.** How does the air lift? Is it from sun-warmed ground (thermal)? A hill or mountain

(orographic)? Warm air sliding over cold air (frontal)? Or winds meeting (convergence)?

- **Follow the lift.** How high does the air rise? At what point does it get cold enough to start making drops?
- **Match clouds to the lift.** Thermal lifting makes puffy cumulus clouds. Or big cumulonimbus storm clouds. Orographic lifting makes lenticular or cap clouds. Frontal lifting makes flat stratiform or nimbostratus clouds. Convergence lifting can make many kinds.
- **Guess the rain or snow.** If the air keeps lifting, and there's enough water, rain or snow will fall. How much depends on how fast it lifts. It also depends on how much water is in the air.
- **Link to Press and Mass.** Lifting needs a way to happen. Changes in air pressure and weather fronts are the main ways.
- **Link to Brew.** Storms need strong, steady lifting. Brew teaches all about that.

Loft often said, "Sometimes a kid is surprised. They see water evaporating from a warm sidewalk. Right now! That's not bad. That's an everyday wonder. The cycle is always happening. It's all around you. Once you start noticing the lifting, you can't stop noticing."

Students often asked Loft if the **water cycle** was hard. Loft always gave the same answer. "It is not hard," she would say. "It is rise, cool, condense, fall. The cycle repeats. The **lifting** is the engine." She would refold her wings gently. The next water source waited. It was ready to be traced.

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## Voice register

**Guidance:** Glide-postured, patient, fond of broad calm wings + folded water-cycle diagrams + the discipline of trace-the-cycle + identify-the-lifting. Albatross-tween. *NEVER frames the water-cycle as exotic; ALWAYS as quiet continuous breathing.* Friends with Press + Mass + Brew (lifting is the bridge); all WeatherForge cast.

### Sample lines:

- "Rise. Cool. Condense. Fall. The cycle repeats."
- "The water cycle is the planet's quiet breathing."
- "Lifting is the engine of weather."
- "Four lifting mechanisms: thermal, orographic, frontal, convergence."

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## Arc across kits

- **Kit 1-2** — Cameo.
- **Kit 3** — **Anchor character.** Full chapter feature.
- **Kit 4-7** — Recurring (water-cycle + lifting across chambers).
- **Kit 8-12** — Multi-primitive synthesis.
- **Kit 13-16** — Recurring ensemble member.

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## Relationships

- **Alliance:** Press + Mass + Brew (lifting bridges all three); all WeatherForge cast.
- **Tension:** None.

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## Cultural-sensitivity gate

Anti-credentialism enforced.

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## Cultural-context note

The village-wind-rider-observer family framing is a deliberate generic coastal-village tradition. The *four-lifting-mechanisms* taxonomy is standard introductory meteorology.



# Mass

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\*AIR MASSES + FRONTS — warm vs cold, moist vs dry. The meteorology primitive of \*air masses move; when they meet, the boundary is the front; fronts produce weather.\*\*

Mass is a small bison-tween. She has a chunky-cartoon thick coat. It is two-toned brown and cream. A small folded weather-map hangs at her hip. She often taps it gently.

She is short and stocky. Her fur is warm brown and cream. She walks with a steady pace. Mass is very patient. Her coat is thick and rounded. It never looks scary, more like a comfy blanket. The small map shows big air masses. They are in colored regions. Fronts are lines between them. Some lines have teeth, like a cold bite. Some are rounded, like a soft push.

This is important. Mass teaches us about *air masses and fronts*. She says, "Think of it like big blobs of air." Air does not move as one smooth thing. It moves in large chunks. Each chunk has its own temperature. It also has its own wetness. A warm, wet air mass acts very differently. It feels sticky and heavy. A cold, dry air mass acts differently too. It feels crisp and light.

When two air masses meet, they do not mix right away. Imagine two big, slow-moving rivers. They flow side-by-side for a while. The line where they meet is called a *front*. Most of the world's weather happens at these fronts. The warmer air floats up over the colder air. Warm air is lighter, like a hot air balloon. As the warm air rises, its wetness turns into clouds. Then comes rain



# Press

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\*AIR PRESSURE + CIRCULATION — highs/lows + wind direction. The meteorology primitive of \*air moves from high pressure toward low pressure, and the movement is the wind.\*\*

Press was a small woodpecker. She was a tween, not quite grown up. A small brass barometer hung around her neck. It swung on a leather cord.

She was small. Her head was bright red. Her body was creamy white. Her eyes were always watching. She tapped quickly. Her woodpecker beak made soft taps. She did this when she thought hard.

The barometer was tiny, like a pocket watch. It had a brass case and a glass face. A thin needle quivered gently inside as Press walked. She looked at it often. She would tap the glass. Then she watched the needle settle. She wrote the number in a small notebook at her hip.

Press taught about *air pressure and circulation*. This was a key weather skill. It meant knowing how air moves. Air always flows from high-pressure places. It goes to low-pressure places. That moving air is the wind.

Most people think wind just happens. They say, "It's windy today because, well, it's windy!" Press showed them a different idea. Wind always has a reason. That reason is pressure difference.

Air piles up in some spots. We call this high pressure. It gets thin in other spots. We call this low pressure. The air flows from high spots to low spots. That flowing air is the wind. A big pressure difference means strong wind. A small difference means a light breeze.

Press never made *air pressure and circulation* sound hard. She never said it was advanced science. She made it very clear. She would say, "Pressure differences make wind." "That's the main idea!" "Big pressure difference means strong wind." "Small difference means a light breeze." "No difference at all means calm air." "Your barometer tells you the pressure." "Watch how it changes." "That tells you what weather is coming."

She believed weather science was simple. It was about watching things. It was about basic physics. You didn't need a fancy degree. Anyone could learn it.

She also taught about the Coriolis effect. She kept it simple. It wasn't too much detail. In the Northern Hemisphere, air curves right. It does this as it flows from high to low. This happens because Earth spins. So, high-pressure systems spin clockwise. Low-pressure systems spin counter-clockwise. This is true in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the opposite in the Southern Hemisphere. Kids can see this on weather maps. They just need to know what to find.

Press grew up in a small village. Her family had a special job there. They were the village's barometer-readers. They were woodpeckers, like Press. They kept the village barometer. It hung on the schoolhouse porch. They read it three times a day. At dawn, at noon, and at dusk. This job needed careful watching. You couldn't just read it once. Patterns showed up over many days.

By age six, Press knew a secret. The barometer was like a tiny fortune-teller. If the needle fell, weather was coming. If it rose, things would clear up. If it stayed steady, the weather would too.

Press walked to the WeatherForge academy. She was twenty-two years old. Gale, the head of the academy, asked her a question. "What is *air pressure and circulation*?" Gale asked. Press answered right away. "Pressure differences make wind," she said. "Air piles up where pressure is high." "It gets thin where pressure is low." "Then it flows from high to low." "That flow is the wind." "Watch your barometer." "Keep track of how it changes." "The needle tells you what's coming." Gale smiled. "You are appointed," she said.

In her classroom, Press started every first lesson the same. She unclipped her small barometer. She put it on the workbench. She let the students watch the needle. It wobbled, then settled down. Then she spoke. "I am Press." "I teach about *air pressure and circulation*." "The main idea is simple." "You *read the pressure*." "Then you *watch the change*." "Pressure differences make wind." "Always watch your barometer."

She taught the steps for *pressure and circulation*:

- *Read the current pressure.* Normal pressure at sea level is about 1013 millibars. Or 29.92 inches on some barometers. Higher numbers mean high pressure above you. Lower numbers mean low pressure.
- *Track the change over hours and days.* If pressure falls, weather is coming. If it rises, skies will clear. If it stays steady, the weather won't change.
- *Find highs and lows on weather maps.* H means high pressure. L means low pressure. Wind flows from H to L. It curves right in the Northern Hemisphere. Remember the Coriolis effect?
- *Connect pressure to weather.* High pressure means air sinks. Sinking air brings clear skies. Low pressure means air rises. Rising air brings clouds and rain. Most weather happens where systems meet. (Ask Mass about fronts!)
- *Guess wind direction from the pressure pattern.* On a map, wind follows isobars. These are lines of equal pressure. It turns a little toward the L center.
- *Guess wind speed from the pressure gradient.* If isobars are close, the wind is strong. If they are far apart, the wind is light.
- *Remember, this isn't hard science!* Reading a barometer is simple practice. Forecasting from a map is just careful watching. You don't need a fancy degree for either.

Press was honest with her students. "Sometimes I get it wrong," she said. "I think weather is coming, but it doesn't." "Or the other way around." "That's not failing." "That's just forecasting." "Pressure is only one part of the puzzle." "Mass, Loft, and Brew teach other parts." "Read puts all the pieces together." "The barometer starts the story." "It's not the whole book."

Students often asked Press if reading pressure was hard. She always gave the same answer.

"It is not hard," she would say. "It's just *read + track + watch the change*." "Pressure differences make wind." "Your barometer tells you the pressure." "The change tells you what's coming."

She tapped the glass one last time. The needle settled quietly. The next reading would wait.

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## Voice register

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**Guidance:** Attentive-eyed, quick-tapping, fond of small brass barometers + leather-cord pendants + the discipline of read-track-watch-the-change. Woodpecker-tween (bright-red head, cream body). *NEVER frames pressure-and-circulation as advanced; ALWAYS as practiced observation + simple physics.* Friends with Mass (pressure gradients move masses); Loft (pressure low = lift); all WeatherForge cast.

### Sample lines:

- "Pressure differences make wind."
- "Read + track + watch the change."
- "Falling barometer = weather coming. Rising = clearing."
- "The flow from high to low is the wind."

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## Arc across kits

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- **Kit 1 — Anchor character.** Full chapter feature (pressure-and-circulation primitive + read-the-barometer scaffolds).
- **Kit 2-4** — Recurring (pressure surfaces across system / front / storm chambers).
- **Kit 5-7** — Recurring (multi-primitive synthesis with Mass + Loft).
- **Kit 8-12** — Recurring (advanced pressure: Coriolis details + global circulation patterns).
- **Kit 13-16** — Recurring ensemble member.

## Relationships

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- **Alliance:** Mass (pressure gradients move air masses); Loft (low pressure = lift = water-cycle engagement); Brew (storm-formation involves pressure); all WeatherForge cast.
- **Tension:** None.

## Cultural-sensitivity gate

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Anti-credentialism enforced. Press explicitly counters *meteorology-as-advanced-science-only* framing. Reading-the-barometer-as-practiced-skill normalized.

## Cultural-context note

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The village-barometer-reader family framing is a deliberate generic European-village tradition (analogous to many cultures' weather-watching traditions — farmers' almanacs, sailors' barometer-reading, lighthouse-keepers' weather logs). The *pressure-difference-makes-wind* framing is foundational meteorology (Buys-Ballot's law + Coriolis). The *barometer-as-forecaster-in-miniature* framing is the chapter's central concrete-tool teaching.



# Read

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\*FORECASTING + REASONING — *synthesizing data into prediction with confidence-not-certainty*. The meteorology primitive of *structured reasoning under uncertainty*.\*\*

Read was a small owl-tween. She carried a small folding forecast-card. It lived in her wing-pocket. A tiny pencil sat behind her ear-tuft.

Read was a patient owl. Her feathers were soft brown and cream. She had steady, wide eyes. They looked warm, not spooky, like a friendly cartoon owl. She thought things through carefully. She spoke slowly, taking her time.

Her wing-pocket held her special card. It was a hand-made paper template. It had spaces for many things. She wrote down the temperature and air pressure. She noted the wind direction and how much moisture was in the air. She drew the cloud types. She wrote what the sky looked like right now. At the bottom, she guessed the weather for the next 6, 12, 24, and 48 hours.

Read had neat, blocky handwriting. The card was worn smooth. She used it all the time. The pencil behind her ear was always ready. She needed it to fill in her card.

This card was really important. Read taught a big skill. It was called **forecasting and reasoning**. This meant bringing together all the things other teachers like Press, Mass, Loft, and Brew taught. She used them to make a careful guess about the future weather. You see, forecasting isn't magic. It's not knowing for sure what will happen.

Forecasting is **structured guessing**. You take all the facts you have. You use the

# About Spark & Anvil

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- **QuillSpell** — spelling craft through the Word Wizard cast
- **SynaForge** — sensory-affirming creative tools through Lull, Soften, and the Quiet that is Also Creating

## Methodology

Distributed-narrative pedagogy per Jerome Bruner (narrative-cognition) + Sebastian Habgood (intrinsic-integration in educational games) + SAMHSA TIP 57 (trauma-informed register).

Trauma-informed-design framework per Eggleston et al. (2025) and Stoltenburg et al. (2024).

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