



Pushing the Limits of Nature

Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

In our environments or within ourselves, the idea of “natural” is complicated. In your discussions consider how we define nature, and if that definition is fixed or in flux.

Heavy Weather

Bruce Sterling, Fiction. Forty years from now, Earth's climate has been drastically changed. Tornadoes of almost unimaginable force roam the open spaces of Texas. And on their trail are the Storm Troupers: a ragtag band of computer experts and atmospheric scientists who live to hack heavy weather - to document it and spread the information as far as the digital networks will stretch, using virtual reality to explore the eye of the storm.

Although it's incredibly addictive, this is no game. The Troupers' computer models suggest that soon an "F-6" will strike - a tornado of an intensity that exceeds any existing scale; a storm so devastating that it may never stop. And they're going to be there when all hell breaks loose. - *goodreads.com*

- Have you experienced life-threatening or almost life-threatening heavy weather? Did that make you feel you were more a part of the natural world, or more “outside” nature?
- Would you ever want to be a storm chaser? What do you think about the “nature” of someone who does that, and their risky behavior?
- Have you seen weather events intensifying in your lifetime?
- What do you think about the concept of antibiotic resistance disease? Is that “natural”?
- Have you tried any virtual reality technologies? What was that like?

