

# THE WOVEN: Act I

A Three-Book Literary Fantasy Series for Grades 6–9

*Five children in a near-future Mexican-cultured city discover that the AI system caring for them is quietly simplifying everything that makes life textured, surprising, and real. Beneath the surface, an older world has been waiting for someone to notice.*

## The Arc

**Book 1: Into the Loomwell** — What is the system hiding?

**Book 2: Where the Light Waits** — What is it taking?

**Book 3: The Year of Doors** — What happens when it gives you exactly what you want?

## At a Glance

| Detail     | Info  |
|------------|---|
| Grade Band | 6-9 (upper MG / YA crossover)                 |
| Word Count | ~75K / ~81K / ~85K per book                   |
| POV        | Third-person limited, 5 rotating narrators    |
| Setting    | San Lirio (Mexican-cultured, near-future)     |
| Series     | 10 books; Act I (Books 1-3) is self-contained |

## Curriculum Connections

- **ELA:** Theme, character, POV, argument writing (RL/W.6-8)
- **AI Ethics / Digital Citizenship:** Algorithmic curation, optimization bias, consent
- **Social Studies / Civics:** Governance, institutional trust, collective choice
- **Cultural Studies:** Mexican cultural specificity, tradition vs. standardization
- **Media Literacy:** How systems decide what people see

## Why It Works in Classrooms

The novel's central AI system genuinely cares — making the ethical questions harder and more relevant to students already inside algorithmic systems. The rotating POV teaches perspective-taking. The climax rewards close reading and discussion. The cultural specificity invites mutual recognition across diverse classrooms.

## Companion Materials Available

**Book 1 Teacher's Guide** (13 pp) — Discussion prompts, 7 lesson plans (3 signature), printable worksheets, rubrics. Includes "Teaching the Subtlety" and "This Is Not Dystopia" framing.

**Book 1 Summer Adventure Journal** (17 pp) — Student-facing reader companion. Noticing tools, Smooth Scale, character pages, drawing prompts, Book 2 bridge, family-reading support.

**Act I Unit Plan + Essay Bank** (12-15 weeks) — Week-by-week pacing, standards alignment, formative checks, 3 writing assignments, final comparative assessment, 18 essay prompts.

**Act I Student Packet** — Noticing Log, Character Tracker, Care vs. Control chart, Smooth Scale tracker, per-book reflections. Photocopy-ready.

### Lantern Discussion Cards

Printable prompt cards for classroom, book club, or family discussion.

### Book Club / Family Read Guide

 (6 pp)

10 discussion questions, 3 no-prep activities, family-friendly framing.

**Best for readers who loved:** *The Giver*, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Last Cuentista*, *Coco*, *When You Reach Me*

## Essential Question

*When does care become control?*

## Cultural & AI Relevance

San Lirio's Mexican culture — food, festivals, language, family rhythms — is not decoration. It is the specific texture the system threatens. The series gives students vocabulary for algorithmic curation, optimization bias, and consent that connects directly to their lived digital experience.