Name: _____

# What's the F☀recast?

The weather forecast tells us what the temperature and air conditions are likely to be outside in the near future. There is a wide variety of weather, from sunny to stormy and warm to cool. It can be rainy or cloudy or windy. Listening to or watching the weather forecast can help us be prepared so we know what to wear. If weather conditions will be severe, like snow, a storm or a hurricane, getting information ahead of time can help us prepare so we can stay safe.

A meteorologist is a person whose job it is to forecast the weather. There are many tools available now that help the meteorologist do his/her job. A common tool for getting an accurate measurement of the temperature is a thermometer. A high temperature probably means plenty of sunshine for everyone.

When the weather is rainy, a meteorologist can use a rain gauge to get numerical data about how much rain is falling outdoors. If you are lucky, you may be able to see a rainbow if the sun comes out while the last of the rain is still sprinkling from the sky.

Wind brings us weather because it blows clouds from one place to another. Therefore, it is helpful to know from which direction the wind is blowing. A wind vane can provide this information so meteorologists know what is coming. Weather forecasts are not always right, but they get more accurate all the time.

Picture of Hurricane Isabel in 2003 as seen from space. Images from space help forecast the weather.

## Write It

Explain how a meteorologist uses tools to forecast the weather. Include passages from the text to support your answer.

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