

A photograph of a child with voluminous, curly blonde hair, seen from behind. The child is wearing a grey t-shirt and brown shorts, looking up at a dramatic, cloudy sky. The clouds are dark and moody, with a bright light source breaking through near the top center. The child's arms are slightly out to the sides, and their skin appears to have some sand or dust on it.

Look to the skies

Using Weather to Determine Mood

We can't control the weather, but we can use it to our advantage to create different moods within our photographs. When shooting outdoors be prepared for anything, and use it to tell your story.

I love how the weather impacts mood, both in real life and in photograph. A sunny day can instantly energize you and brighten your mood, a foggy day can calm you and a storm can excite your senses and increase your tension. Even the shapes of clouds can impact your photos. Light fluffy textured clouds amid a blue sky give off a cheerful feeling compared to the ominous intensity of dark, heavy storm clouds. Too often I see photographers only venturing out in what they perceive to be the 'perfect' conditions but rain, snow, fog and full sun (among others) can bring more depth and feeling to your images so don't be afraid to embrace the wild weather!



Wistful, calm clouds or clear skies create a peaceful summer vibe



An ominous bank of dark clouds bring a sense of unease



Windy weather creates interesting textures and patterns which give a sense of motion and chaos