

Camus for Founders, AI Pruning Research, and the Case for Reading Archives

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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The strongest recommendation today was Clem Delangue's case for reading *The Myth of Sisyphus* as practical founder psychology for the AI era. Other high-signal picks covered AI-scaling research, human universals, 80s/90s magazine archives, and one strongly endorsed article on online life and childhood.

What stood out

There was no exact title overlap in today's set, so the signal came from how specifically each person explained the value. The strongest picks either offered a usable operating principle for builders, a concrete way to think about AI constraints, or a better model of people and history.

Start here

The Myth of Sisyphus [1]

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Albert Camus
- **Link/URL:** No direct book URL was provided; source context: Will Everyone Become an AI Builder? Clem Delangue on Hugging Face, Agents, Local AI & Robotics
- **Who recommended it:** Clem Delangue
- **Key takeaway:** Delangue uses Camus's *Sisyphus* as a founder metaphor: the durable move is to enjoy the task of building itself rather than fixate on the end state, especially when AI's pace makes people feel nervous, stressed, or overwhelmed [1]
- **Why it matters:** This was the most compelling recommendation in today's set because Delangue turned a philosophical work into a practical

operating mindset for builders trying to stay creative and relevant under constant AI pressure [1]

“adopting more of a mindset of just enjoying the the task, enjoying the the journey, the work is useful. And having fun so they can be



creative.” [1]

Will Everyone Become an AI Builder? Clem Delangue on Hugging Face, Agents, Local AI & Robotics (41:02)

Two AI-era resources with concrete operating value

2026 Global Intelligence Crisis [2]

- **Content type:** Research report
- **Author/creator:** Citadel Securities
- **Link/URL:** <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/news-and-insights/2026-global-intelligence-crisis/>
- **Who recommended it:** David Sacks
- **Key takeaway:** Sacks highlighted the report as a rebuttal to AI displacement narratives, pointing to rising software engineer job postings, continued acceleration to 18% above the prior inflection point, and expanding new business formation [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
- **Why it matters:** If you want one recommendation today that pushes back on ambient AI pessimism with labor and business-formation data, this was the clearest save [2, 4, 6]

MIT paper on pruning techniques in neural networks [7]

- **Content type:** Research paper

- **Author/creator:** MIT researchers; names were not specified in the source materials
- **Link/URL:** No direct paper URL was provided; source context: OpenAI Misses Targets, Codex vs Claude, Elon vs Sam Trial, Big Hyperscaler Beats, Peptide Craze
- **Who recommended it:** David Friedberg
- **Key takeaway:** Friedberg said the paper showed large models could be pruned by 90% with the same accuracy, enabling about 10x lower inference cost and about 10x more output per unit of energy [7]
- **Why it matters:** Among today’s recommendations, this was the clearest pointer to an algorithmic path around compute and power constraints rather than simply asking for more infrastructure [7]

Resources for understanding people and history

Human Universals (title as recalled by Sam Altman) [8]

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Anthropologists; specific names were not provided in the source materials
- **Link/URL:** No direct book URL was provided; source context: Sam Altman’s Vision For the Future!
- **Who recommended it:** Sam Altman
- **Key takeaway:** Altman described a book that tried to identify truly universal human traits by removing anything absent from even one culture; he said some results, like valuing travel, were not obvious to him in advance [8]
- **Why it matters:** It is a useful recommendation for separating what may be broadly human from what is more culturally contingent [8]

Archival issues of *Soft Talk*, *Wired*, *Spy*, and *The New Yorker* [9, 10]

- **Content type:** Magazine archives / longform articles
- **Author/creator:** Multiple publications
- **Link/URL:** No direct archive URLs were provided; source context: VirtualElena post and Marc Andreessen’s co-sign
- **Who recommended it:** Marc Andreessen, by explicitly co-signing VirtualElena’s recommendation
- **Key takeaway:** The recommendation is to mine 80s/90s longform because it contains “unparalleled” and “largely un-mined” alpha, and because reading the past deeply is presented as the best way to understand the present [9, 10]
- **Why it matters:** This stood out less as a single title than as a learning method: use archival primary material, not just current commentary, to sharpen judgment about today’s tech world [10, 9]

One clean article endorsement worth bookmarking

Have online worlds become the last free places for children? [11]

- **Content type:** Article
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source materials
- **Link/URL:** <https://psyche.co/ideas/have-online-worlds-become-the-last-free-places-for-children>
- **Who recommended it:** Marc Andreessen
- **Key takeaway:** Andreessen called it “important, and obviously true” [11]
- **Why it matters:** He added almost no extra exposition, but the clarity of the endorsement makes it a clean save for readers tracking what prominent tech investors think is worth reading about online life and childhood [11]

Bottom line

If you only save one item today, save *The Myth of Sisyphus*. It had the clearest explanation of why the resource matters right now, and it translated directly into an operating principle for founders building through AI-driven volatility [1]

Sources

1. Will Everyone Become an AI Builder? Clem Delangue on Hugging Face, Agents, Local AI & Robotics
2. X post by @DavidSacks
3. X post by @DavidSacks
4. X post by @Konstantine
5. X post by @DavidSacks
6. X post by @DavidSacks
7. OpenAI Misses Targets, Codex vs Claude, Elon vs Sam Trial, Big Hyper-scaler Beats, Peptide Craze
8. Sam Altman’s Vision For the Future!
9. X post by @VirtualElena
10. X post by @pmarca
11. X post by @pmarca